

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by Mary Haley

Date: January 25, 2018 Meeting Length: 2 hrs.

Meeting Name: District 200 School Board

Headline: Board Gets Update on IMAGINE OPRFHS and Strategic Plan

Events and Testimony

- Lynn Kamenitsa and Mike Poirier, co-chairs of IMAGINE OPRFHS, reported that the date gathering portion of the group's work is winding up. 280 staff members and 428 students responded to surveys the group sent out, and meetings with 8 student groups were held. More community meetings are planned for Feb. 27, April 16 and May 21, and board members were encouraged to attend these sessions. Work group members visited area high schools that have recently completed facility renovations. Schools included Deerfield, Lake Forest and New Trier. In related testimony, Matthew Vietzen, the Student Council Liaison, reported that students are concerned that equity be a factor in developing facility plans. He pointed out, for example, that AP classes are frequently assigned nicer classrooms than regular education classes. The board expressed its satisfaction with the work done so far.
- Members of the DLT (District Leadership Team) reported on the status of its finalized action steps to carry out the goals of the Strategic Plan. Details of the progress made and barriers to achieving progress were presented to the board in a Power Point format. The entire presentation can be seen on the district's website, <http://www.oprfhs.org/board-of-education/Agendas-Minutes-Packets.cfm>.
- Board members encouraged the DLT to implement restorative justice practices as soon as possible, even if all the research in the field is not completed. If necessary, the district will learn from any mistakes made. This is a top priority for the board.