

## Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by Mary Haley

Date: February 22, 2018

Meeting Length: 2 hrs. 30 min.

Meeting Name: District 200 School Board

**Headline:** Residents Speak Out about Diversity in Hiring

### Events and Testimony

- More than thirty people addressed the board about the need to hire more teachers of color. Students, parents, OPRFHS graduates and community members gave testimony about why achieving this goal is so important. A frequent point was that students of color need role models and people with whom they can identify. Having teachers who see them as individuals rather than “black kids” was also mentioned as a priority. Improving diversity in the teaching of core subjects exposes all students to a wider variety of viewpoints.
- Matthew Vietzen, Student Council Representative, complimented the efforts made by IMAGINE OPRF to solicit student feedback. He reported on the walk-out by several hundred students in support of gun control measures which have followed the Florida school shootings.

### What did the Board Decide?

- The Board approved the 2018-2019 fee structure with the caveat that the topic will be addressed at a future Board meeting.
- At the suggestion of Craig Iseli, Policy 4:170, Safety, was tabled for further review. While the changes that had been made brought the policy into compliance with the state, Mr. Iseli felt that further review of the policy was necessary following the Florida school shooting. Nate Rouse, principal, supported the suggestion saying that it would reassure the community. The measure passed by a vote of 7-0.

### Future Items

- IGOV will meet in March to look for areas in which District 200’s Strategic Plan will offer opportunities for collaboration and cooperation. In June, IGOV will examine the drain new developments in the villages place on services such as education and safety.