

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by Mary Haley

Date: May 24, 2018

Meeting Length: 3hrs. 15 min.

Meeting Name: District 200 School Board

Headline: Board Approves Policy Language and Procedures on Equity for LGBTQ Students: Community Members Express Support

Events and Testimony

- During the Public Comment portion of the meeting about 15 people spoke in support of the new policy and procedures on gender equity that the board was scheduled to vote on during the meeting. Sharon Hardin, president of the Faculty Senate, expressed the support of the faculty for the new policy and procedures. Several people did voice concern over the policy, feeling it did not take into consideration the need and opinions of non- transgender students.

What Did the Board Decide

- The board unanimously passed Policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities. It includes specific language regarding treating students according to their gender identities, not their gender assigned at birth. The entire policy and procedures can be found in a letter from Superintendent Dr. Pruitt-Adams at <http://www.oprfhs.org>.
- The board unanimously approved the recommendations of the Culture, Climate, and Behavior Committee. Key points of the recommendations include: Ensure that OPRF's culture and climate is safe and welcoming for all students and that student discipline rates are not predictable by race; Have a dress code that supports students' self-expression and treats all students equitably; Recruit and retain diverse staff and offer additional support to make employees feel welcome and included. The complete report is available in the board packet at <http://www.oprfhs.org>.

What Did the Board Discuss

- The board heard a report from Mark Jolicoeur, an architect from Perkins +Will, who has been assisting the IMAGINE OPRF on the process for developing a master plan. On June 26, 2018, two master plan concepts will be presented to the board and to the committee for evaluation, feedback and prioritization of needs. Based on that, the firm will refine

the concepts and begin to determine costs of each component. Jolifoeur hopes to have the master plan completed by Oct/Nov, 2018.