

Oak Park River Forest High School Board
March 21, 2017
Mary Haley, Observer

Present: Jeff Weissglass- President, Jackie Moore-Vice-President, Tom Cofsky, Steve Gevinson, Sara Dixon Spivy, Jennifer Cassell and Fred Arkin

Mr. Weissglass called the meeting to order at 7:36.

Public Comments: Two topics dominated the public comments. Four people spoke about the need to improve the tennis courts, citing their deteriorating conditions and the resulting injuries. Five people spoke about the ongoing revision of the district's sexual misconduct policy. The use of the federal resources blueprint and the inclusion of more experts on the administrative council were suggested.

Consent Items: All items were passed unanimously.

Action Items: Item A, the Approval of Welcoming Community Safe Zone Resolution, was passed unanimously. The board discussed the FTE (Full Time Employees) requests for 2017-2018. The special education department has grown as students previously educated off campus will return to campus for the next school year and as the number of students requiring special education support has increased. FTE numbers are within the range suggested by state guidelines. The administration will continue to gather data showing the outcomes of literary coaching, teachers' release times and other programs which impact FTE. The measure passed 6-1 with Tom Cofsky saying the district needs to keep tabs on the cost per student.

The board unanimously approved the 2017-2018 stipend requests following a discussion of how decisions are made regarding the formation of new clubs, how existing clubs are sustained and how student participation in off campus activities is measured.

There was a lengthy discussion about including maintenance to the tennis courts in the summer 2018 capital improvements. All members felt that the charge of \$132,000 by Legat Architects to draw up plans for the project was out of line. In addition, board members questioned spending money on the courts at this time when the issue of the pool location is undecided. The board agreed to revisit this issue next month, requesting that the administration try to renegotiate the architects' fees and to gather information about the safety issues with the existing courts.

Discussion Items: Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Officer, updated the board on the detailed plan for what will be done if one or both of the pools becomes unusable. He has contacted Triton College, but there has been no response as of yet. Phil Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, has been talking with representatives from the Oak Park Park District about a community responsibility to teach swimming. There are also discussions about reducing the curriculum requirements for swimming. Jackie Moore suggested that decisions about which students would be required to take swimming should be based on demonstrated proficiency rather than grade level.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56.