

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by Mary Haley

Date: October 24, 2019

Meeting Length: 2 hrs.

Meeting Name: District 200 School Board

Headline: Sneak Peak at School Design and Energy Report

Mike Carioscio, Chief Operations Officer, gave the board and audience a sneak peak of the design for the new cafeteria/resource center. It's part of the first phase of the long-term facilities project. Building will start in June 2020 and should be completed in August 2022. The design by FGM Architects incorporates a new cafeteria, a student resource center and classrooms/learning spaces. The cafeteria overlooks the playing fields and includes outdoor space. While modern in materials and use of space, Carioscio pointed out that the design includes some features reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie School aesthetic. The design allows for the building to be more compartmentalized so that sections can be closed off outside of the school day. This will allow for more community use of the building while saving on utilities and security. Plans are being made for relocation of lunchroom facilities and other areas impacted by the move.

The district is also making the change to 100% renewable energy. In three years, that is projected to realize a 24% savings in energy costs.

What Did the Board Discuss: The board discussed the proposed changes in the freshmen curriculum. Five meetings were held to hear community input. Information was shared about how a rigorous curriculum will be maintained. Faculty is creating an earned honors rubric for each discipline. The pilot program will be unveiled in April 2020. It was suggested that the feeder schools be included to create a more seamless program.

What Did the Board Vote On: The board voted unanimously to vote against Resolutions 1 and 3 at the Illinois Association of School Boards Convention meeting to be held in late November. The resolutions deal with supporting legislation allowing teachers to be armed and to create grants to fund school security officer training. The board had received some feedback from students asking it to vote against the resolutions.