

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by Mary Haley

Date: August 22, 2019

Meeting Length: 2 hrs.

Meeting Name: District 200 School Board

Headline: New Freshman Curriculum To Be Implemented in 2021

What Did the Board Discuss: Greg Johnson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the district's plan for restructuring the freshman curriculum. Work on the new curriculum will begin this school year. It will be implemented in the 2021-22 school year. The new curriculum will eliminate honors and college prep levels, replacing those with a single curriculum in English, science, history and world languages. Students will be able to earn honor credits in these classes.

The reasoning behind these changes is to allow all students an opportunity to participate in a more rigorous and challenging curriculum. In part, it is hoped, this will help to eliminate the achievement gap that affects many students of color.

The next two years will give teachers and administration time to do more research on how to implement such a curriculum. Researching teaching and evaluation methods will be a large part of the preparation.

What Else Did the Board Discuss: Beginning with the August meeting, all board meetings will be video recorded with the video being available on the school's website within 48 hrs. of the meeting. The board also discussed an update of the Strategic Plan that aligns with the administrative changes and the increased focus on equity.

What Else to Watch For: The board heard a presentation from members of the newly formed Imagine Foundation. This group will work to raise private funds to help pay for Project 2 of the IMAGINE plan.