

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by: Diana Shea

Date: 1/8/2019

Meeting Length: 2 hours

Meeting Name: Tri Board Meeting on Equity Districts 90, 97 and 200

HEADLINE:

What did the Board decide?

- There were no formal decisions made at this meeting. All Boards expressed an interest in continued collaboration and dialogue around the issue of Equity and Student Outcomes.

What else did the Board discuss or refer to committee?

- The Boards heard a presentation from a school attorney (Teri Engler from Engler Callaway Baasten and Sraga, LLC) on the **legal aspects of data sharing**. They discussed requirements, consent and possible upcoming legislation changes that would ease the requirements.
- **The Boards expressed continued interest** in 1) **aggregating data** across their districts for the purposes of evaluating success of teaching methodologies relative to outcomes by student groups and 2) **easing the transition from 8th to 9th grade by creating opportunities for information sharing** of individual students.
- The Board heard a presentation from a representative from Chapin College regarding the types of studies that could be done with aggregated data. The existing Data Sharing agreement with the Collaboration on Early Childhood Education for passing data to D97 was referenced.
- D200 students, representatives of SAFE ("Student Advocates For Equity") presented a **proposal to build a pilot Racial Equity Class** to be taught to Freshmen and Sophomore classes
- **D97 Board reported** on its progress towards greater equity citing the following improvement areas:
 - multi-tiered systems of support
 - introduction of restorative practices
 - increased co-teaching
 - changes to recruiting and hiring practices
 - more leadership opportunities for teachers of color
 - equal access to the internet through "Internet for All" program

- **D90 Board reported** on its progress towards greater equity by citing several changes across the entire school community:
 - Use of pedagogy that is shown to reduce differential outcomes, specifically project-based learning, universal design for learning
 - Professional development on culturally appropriate trainings for all teachers and staff, including the Board
 - Revised hiring practices 3 years ago that now results in 30% of new hires who are minorities
 - Made their ad hoc Equity Committee a permanent committee on the board.
 - Inclusion Advisory Board – 40 people, community members included. Cultural mission of making sure that everyone feels welcome.
 - School Board meetings are held in Town Hall format with regularity.
- **D200 Board reported** on its progress of the same by identifying the following initiatives:
 - Equity embedded in strategic plan
 - 40 teachers underwent training through CARE
 - Added individual racial equity coaching – gives teachers the opportunity to practice the implementation of specific tools.
 - Changed dress code because it had been inequitably applied towards female students of color
 - Adopted a gender equity policy this year
 - Restorative Justice training program for teachers and staff