



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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DISTRICT 97 BOARD MEMBER LIAISON REPORT

This report was created and submitted by board members who serve as liaisons to board committees, administrative committees or community organizations. It is a brief summary of the committee or organization's most recent meeting. It does not serve as or represent official minutes of that meeting.

Name of the committee/organization: OPRF Citizen's Council

Date of the meeting: January 14, 2016

Names of the District 97 board liaisons: Graham Brisben

Names of the District 97 administrative representatives (if applicable): N/A

Brief summary/key outcomes of the meeting: The meeting opened with approval of the prior meetings' minutes, followed by the Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Isoye was not present so Phil Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, delivered the report. His report addressed several topics, including:

- An all-building staff institute day that was held on January 4 on the subject of working with transgender students. The program was presented by the Lurie Children's Hospital transgender youth program.
- The MLK oratory assembly that was planned for the next day in which a freshman student would be reading an original essay.
- The D200 board had approved a final school calendar for the 2016-17 school year. There was some background information presented about why OPRF takes certain holidays – Columbus Day was used as an example (many universities schedule visitation weekends during that time).

The school board report was not presented because member Sarah Spivey was delayed in attending our Citizen's Council meeting due to a special board meeting she was attending on the topic of the pool.

Council chairman Frank Lipo then reported on the progress of the Long Term Facilities Planning Committee, which was still in the process of getting organized but would be holding a brainstorming session on January 26.

Next, Linda Francis of Success for All Youth let the Council attendees know that her organization was looking for additional participants, and in particular African American males from both the high school and middle school grades, for discussion and initiatives around self advocacy and community involvement.

The main section of our agenda was "Guiding Principles for Curriculum and Instruction," presented by Jason Dennis, Assistant Principal for Instruction. Phil Prale joined him in the presentation. The presentation centered on balancing teacher autonomy and accountability/consistency, and also articulation with the sender schools. On that latter point, there was discussion about the Explore test and how that exam combines with other data to guide counselors and students on freshman course selections.

The administrators reported that OPRF was trying to get better consistency across classrooms and grades. Approaches being used included sharing of lessons, improved collaboration, and also a curriculum mapping system utilizing Microsoft SharePoint. Teachers are preparing curriculum maps across divisions (subjects).

The high school also uses TCT's (their term for Professional Learning Communities). The TCT's are responsible for publishing "consistency guides" as a team. Follow up questions from Council members focused on standards, expectations, and accountability for teachers.

The presentation concluded with a highly engaging discussion on the topic of equity. A significant number of Council members expressed an interest in continuing the equity discussion as a centerpiece of a future Council meeting. Chairman Lipo suggested that he would explore that idea plus consider a mid-year re-visit of the planned topics for the remaining Council meetings this year.

Next steps: None.

Questions/feedback for the District 97 board: See above

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, February 11, 2016

Supplemental documentation (e.g., agenda, reports, etc.) from the meeting (attached): None.

Report submitted by (include name and date): Graham Brisben, 2/1/16