

# ***Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200***

*201 North Scoville Avenue • Oak Park, IL 60302-2296*

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Steve Isoye  
DATE: February 25, 2016  
RE: Update on status of pool project

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## **BACKGROUND**

A working group of board members and administrators (Jeff Weissglass, Fred Arkin, Steve Isoye, Tod Altenburg, and Karin Sullivan) has been meeting regularly to determine next steps regarding the pool project. The group has focused on developing more extensive and user-friendly communications detailing the options that have been considered to date, creating opportunities for community input and conversation through public engagement meetings, and exploring the feasibility of alternative projects.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The working group met with Legat Architects' Patrick Brosnan and Rob Wroble to review all the site options that have been considered to date and collaborated on a brief document with this history. The document also has been published as a web page ([click here](#)) and includes footnotes/links to specific meeting minutes and pool documents that contain detailed information. The entire pool section of the website has been refreshed to make it as user-friendly as possible for those who are new to the issue ([click here](#)).

Legat has been asked to reexamine and prepare drawings for additional options that might achieve a middle ground between (1) renovate the current pools within the existing footprint, and (2) implement the currently approved plan. As we have discussed extensively, renovating would cost the least but would eliminate competitive aquatics and reduce PE capacity. The current plan would preserve programming but would cost significantly more and remove the parking garage. Based on community feedback we believe it is critical to revisit whether a middle ground exists. Legat also is gathering estimated costs for the options they prepare.

The working group has met with community-engagement consultant Marcia Sutter, who has worked with several local school districts on facilities issues, to discuss a plan for gathering community input on pool options. Given the high level of interest in and concern about the pool project, having an outside party coordinate the engagement process is essential. The tentative plan is to hold several community meetings in April, to allow adequate time to promote them as broadly as possible. We also plan to seek input from students.

Finally, to keep the most highly engaged stakeholder groups informed, update meetings were held early in the week between working group members and representatives for, respectively, faculty/staff, the petitioner group, and the community aquatics group.

## **NEXT STEPS**

This is for information only.