

December 5, 2019

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday, December 5, 2019, in the North Cafeteria of the high school.

Call to Order

Vice President Dixon Spivy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. A roll call indicated the following members were present: Tom Cofsky, Gina Harris, Craig Iseli (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), Ralph Martire, and Sara Dixon Spivy. Also at the table were Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent;

Visitors

District 97 Board of Education members: Broy, Liebl, Breymaier and Moore Absent: Spurlock, Kearney and Kim Also Present: Village Board members, Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb, Trustees Simone Boutet, Arti WalkerPeddakotla, Susan Buchanan and Village Clerk Vicki Scaman, District 97 Board Secretary Sheryl Marinier.

Public Comments

None

A Community-Wide Look At Early Childhood, 2019

John Borrero introduced the Collaboration for Early Childhood team and board members. He explained that the goal this year was to review the data and make it real. David Weindling from the Collaboration for Early Childhood reported on the FY2019 Year-end Financial Statement, noting that the audit was completed recently with no findings. He reported that the organization is in access of targeted reserves, putting them in a good financial position. He shared that the Collaboration did not need to accept all the monies promised by the three governing bodies. He noted that a few of the line items have not been paid yet, so they are currently showing no expenses. He reported a higher than anticipated expense in development personnel, and reported that the organization did well with grants and fund raising this year. He reported that the targeted reserve balance is at least three months of reserves, or about \$1,500,000, and that the Collaboration is considering relocation to a new office space. He reported that the organization wanted to hire a Development Director, but in the interim, they have contracted the position. They are looking for someone who can also do marketing and related tasks. Borrero reported that the Collaboration was a bit ambitious when they started the home visiting program. It is taking them longer than they had planned to get the program up to speed. He shared that the organization voluntarily follows the federal guidelines and has been successful.

No Small Matter Clip And Discussion

Rachael Pikelyn, Producer of No Small Matter, reported that she lives in Oak Park, and was surprised at the early childhood offerings in town. She explained that the programs offered short hours, or were full to capacity.

She introduced the film, "No Small Matter", explaining that the film was in production for about five years, and makes a case for the importance of the first five years. A handout was shared that highlighted the clips that were shared from the movie. She explained that families in Oak Park need to make less than \$24,000 a year to get free services. She noted that childcare chips away at a family's income. She introduced the second clip as focusing on what are the effects on the child? The third clip focused on developing brain and toxic stress. Borrero offered to share the link to the full film with anyone who expressed interest.

Collaboration For Early Childhood Work In Oak Park And River Forest Mr. Borrero shared a brief history of the Collaborations work. He explained that the organization has a new focus – cultural changes. They will be considering what effects cultural changes might have on a child’s life span. Borrero invited everyone to follow the Collaboration on social media. He explained that the team wants to make this alive and real, and future topics would include:

- Grandparents
- Authentic assessment
- Summer enrichment
- Expectant mothers
- Fatherhood leadership
- Early childhood mental health
- Resources around child health

Mr. Borrero reported that the Collaboration has a growing fatherhood group that reports on 11 indicators. There are parent and intentional parent programs. He reported that the Collaboration sits on the advisory board for Success for All Youth. This partnership allows for collaboration with the high school and for data sharing. Mr. Borrero reported that there are 4,000 children under the age of five years old in Oak Park. Because the Collaboration has relationships with other programs, it can intervene when a child is having difficulties managing their behavior in a classroom, and has data that could be reported. Interest was expressed in seeing that data, suggesting that it might be helpful to District 97. Mr. Borrero told the boards that although the number of referrals is trending downward, there are other systems for referrals, such as referrals made between partners. Interest was expressed in knowing how the schools can support the program financially, and how the boards can help in getting outreach to the families. Interest was expressed in identifying actionable items that the boards can work on. Interest was expressed in knowing what the Collaboration is not offering that it should be and including that information in future reports. Mr. Borrero noted that he is holding regular meetings with District 97 to work toward a way to identify younger children in the homes of current District 97 students. It was suggested that the narrative being shared with the families make it clear that the services are offered at no charge to the families. Borrero expressed the need to make sure that families understand that the Collaborations voice is for all children, not just those in financial need. He explained that the Collaboration is in a very unique position, knowing the community before the public schools, and suggested that the Collaboration could provide coaching to the teachers. He shared that the Collaboration currently offers trainings to the District 97 teachers, and suggested that there is room for a cross section of District 200 teachers as well.

Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Jackie Moore
President

Craig Iseli
Secretary