



OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL — DISTRICT 200 COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

www.oprfhs.org

This insert is a collaboration between districts 97 and 200 to highlight the critical work of our schools and help conserve fiscal resources.

Imagine OPRF to Recommend Long-Term Facilities Plan

OPRF High School is considering making the biggest changes to its campus in 50 years. As one of the most important institutions in our community, and one that affects everyone who lives and works here, OPRF and its future matter to us all. Read on to learn more!

Background

To evaluate the high school's facilities needs, the District 200 Board of Education approved creating a community-based committee called the Imagine OPRF Work Group. The 40 members (30 from the community, 10 from faculty and staff) spent six months investigating the high school facilities; gathering feedback from surveys and focus groups of 1,600-plus students and staff members; holding four community engagement sessions; touring peer facilities; and conducting a wealth of additional research.

Findings

Major facilities needs can be clustered around several themes, including:

- **Student learning spaces:** A majority of classrooms inhibit student-centered, collaborative learning due to size, location, configuration, and lack of natural light.
- **Technology integration:** Aging infrastructure mitigates the benefits of each student having a school-provided Chromebook. Various learning spaces lack

technology and equipment to prepare for today's college and career environments.

- **Equity:** Facilities and classrooms that do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act limit student access. Size, location, and configuration of classrooms do not support the needs of students in special education.
- **Connection and community:** Insufficient space for students to gather, collaborate, and study creates a feeling of being unwelcome. Lack of approved, secure common areas after school causes students to find places to hide while waiting for evening activities or transportation.
- **Efficiency:** Overall building organization is inefficient due to piecemeal construction and assignment of classroom, work, and storage spaces over more than a century.

What happens next?

On June 26, 2018 (after press time), the board held a public meeting to begin discussions with Imagine about potential recommendations. Another public board meeting will be scheduled in late summer for Imagine to present a menu of options for facilities components that will include cost estimates. Imagine plans to present the board with recommendations and costs for a long-term facilities master

plan sometime in the fall.

What will it cost?

Imagine does not yet have cost estimates. That is by design. Imagine is undertaking a programmatic planning process where the team assesses all facilities needs, looks at conceptual ways of addressing those needs, and only then begins costing out and prioritizing specific elements of those concepts. This does not mean the project has no financial limits. It means that at this stage we don't ignore real challenges because of assumptions that they would be too expensive to address.

Construction of master plan components would likely be completed in several projects spread out over at least 10 years. In turn, costs would also be spread out over a similar time frame.

Learn more! Visit ImagineOPRF.org.



Congratulations to the Class of 2018! Overall, the 848 graduates earned \$10.2 million in merit-based scholarships, and included a record-breaking 33 recipients of the Scholarship Cup (OPRF's version of valedictorian).

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DISTRICT 97 NEWS

www.op97.org

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D97 Board, OPTA Reach Agreement on New Contract

In June, the Board of Education and Oak Park Teachers' Association (OPTA) reached an agreement on a new teacher contract that will run through the 2021-22 school year. Below are several of the key outcomes of this contract.

Compensation

- Salary increases will be based on CPI, with the floor for these increases set at 1.5 percent and the ceiling for these increases set at 3.5 percent.
- There will be an opportunity for salary increases on an annual basis instead of in the fifth year of employment.
- Provisions from the previous contract will be maintained, including the implementation of an alternate salary schedule with five recognition areas and the elimination of increases for any teacher who receives a summative evaluation of unsatisfactory or needs improvement.

Instructional Time

- The length of the school day for our elementary buildings will increase by five minutes on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (from 2:55 p.m. to 3 p.m.) and 35 minutes on Wednesday (1:55 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.). This equates to nearly an hour of additional

instructional time per week.

- Two Institute Days will be replaced with two days of student contact.

Leaves of Absence

- The funding and management of the sick leave bank will be shifted from the board to the teachers. This will save the district approximately \$200,000 per year.
- Teachers will have the opportunity to apply for short- or long-term leave – i.e., they can choose from 15 paid parental leave days or a contribution from the district that will be put toward the cost of insurance during parental leave.

Retirement

- The sunset of the 4x6 retirement option (four consecutive years with a 6 percent increase to salary base) and the creation of a 403(b) plan that were featured in the previous contract will be maintained.
- Teachers will be eligible to receive non-matching 403(b) contributions in each of the last four years before they retire. Teachers with 10 or more years of service to the district who have declared for retirement will be eligible for \$3,000 per year, while teachers with 25 or more years of service who have declared for retirement will be

eligible for \$4,000 per year.

Insurance

- There will be a transition from a system where the board paid for the first 7 percent of any annual increases to one where there is a set percentage based on the type of plan (e.g., PPO, HMO, etc.). This will enable both the board and teachers to benefit from decreases in insurance premiums, and may result in savings for the district.

Professional Development and Planning Time

- There will be an allotment of 60 minutes of collective planning time that will help support the work being done by grade level and department teams.

You can access additional information about the new contract on the district's website (www.op97.org).

Follow District 97 on YouTube!



Visit the District 97 YouTube channel for videos about school programs and district initiatives. The channel can be found at <http://goo.gl/4Bf23V>.

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