

To: CCB Members
From: Laura Hardwicke
Date: November 1, 2017
Re: Small Group Suggestions

Based on discussions in small group as well as the larger CCB, a consistent and unified application of norms, discipline, and conduct expectations (for everyone involved in the OPRF community) would go a long way to addressing some of the pervasive and systemic issues. With that, I would like to offer some specific suggestions based on conversations throughout the years in both P4SS and the River Forest D90 Equity Committee.

Student Tardiness Working Group

Beyond the issue of student tardies (which is important in and of itself), a larger unified approach to many CCB issues should be welcomed:

- **Gender Neutral Dress Codes**

[Evanston, IL]

<https://www.pps.net/cms/lib8/OR01913224/Centricity/Domain/219/4.30.013-AD%20Student%20Dress%20Code.pdf>

[Oregon Model Code]

http://www.noworegon.org/uploads/1/2/7/5/12754387/or_now_model_student_dress_code_feb_2016_1.pdf

- **Universal Model Social Conduct**

An abbreviated 5 rules model that everyone adheres to... make eye contact, say hello, etc. etc.

Student and Family Voice and Belonging Group

- **OPRF Parent Group Access to Incoming (or all) Student Family Emails**

For many years, P4SS has requested that OPRF parents and caregivers be allowed to Opt-In to the email lists maintained by the 4 parent groups (APPLE, Applause, Boosters, and P4SS). This could easily be added to the yearly online registration of OPRF

Students. Without such a connection, there is no automatic mechanism for OPRF Parent Groups to connect with incoming parents. Both D97 and D90 provide automatic email opt-in to their PTO parent groups. As a matter of equity and inclusion, creating as many entry points as possible for parents and students should be front and center of OPRF's focus on culture and climate.

- **School-wide Presentations by D200 and OPRF Administration to the OPRF Community.**

D200 and OPRF Administration make monthly presentations to Community Council. No such presentations are made to the OPRF Parent and Family Community at large. Because Community Council is an invitation-only committee, most parents either do not know about Community Council, or do not feel welcome to attend those presentations.

D200 and OPRF Administration should make concerted efforts to host school-wide presentations and/or events *geared to all OPRF parents*. The November 14th Conversation about Race is a great start. Other suggestions include:

- Start the school year off with a “welcome” letter from both the Superintendent and the Principal: 1. Welcoming all families; 2. Any changes at the school this year (Parcc testing, switching to SAT are examples of things that should have been discussed); 3. Welcoming and introducing new staff; and 4. Specific goals for the school year.
- An annual State of the School presentation;
- A presentation on academics (all of the offerings available);
- Continued presentations on culture and climate;
- Presentation on the counseling department and the PSS teams;
- Presentation on all of the academic support services available.

The suggestion of the Faculty Talent Show (or a similar all school event) is a great, all-inclusive event.

- **Increase Coordination between the existing Family Connection Groups**

P4SS has been working for some time to support the efforts of Boosters and APPLE. The existing parent groups should also be used to support and promote the work of Ms. Jackson and OPRF's Family Outreach Program.

- **Utilize the PSS Structure to Facilitate Belonging and Inclusion, Not Just Discipline**

Any parent visiting the OPRF website and accessing the Counseling Department is first introduced to the PSS Teams (even before Counselors). As explained on that page, PSS Teams appear discipline-focused not supportive. They seem to exist to “troubleshoot kids with issues” rather than be a positive presence for ALL OPRF students.

Community Voice and Connections

Both of the Oak Park and River Forest Communities and Elementary School districts (D97 and D90) are working on issues of equity and inclusion. Plugging in with those groups would help solidify OPRF’s connection to young families well before they even attend OPRF.

P4SS has consistently heard that incoming parents are overwhelmed trying to understand the course selection process, the offerings/opportunities that are available to incoming freshman students, and how to “navigate the system” with regards to their own student.