



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Dr. Carol Kelley  
SUBJECT: PE Waiver Update  
DATE: December 15, 2017

During a special meeting held on June 23, 2017, the Board of Education approved the district's request to submit an application to the state seeking a waiver from the physical education requirements for our elementary schools. This waiver was approved by the state in October, and is scheduled to be in effect from January 2018 until the end of the 2018-19 school year.

Below is an update on the current status of physical education instruction in our elementary schools, as well as my recommendations regarding how we can ensure we are in compliance with state standards moving forward. We would like to set aside time to discuss this issue during the board meeting on December 15, 2017.

## **Current Status**

Below is information about the number of days and amount of time our elementary schools currently offer PE.

### **Beye:**

*K-5 = 2X/week for 30 minutes each*

### **Hatch:**

*K-5 = 1X/week for 60 minutes each*

### **Holmes:**

*K-1 = 2X/week for 30 minutes each*

*2-5 = 1X/week for 60 minutes each*

### **Irving:**

*K-2 = 2X/week for 30 minutes each*

*3-5 = 1X/week for 60 minutes each*

### **Lincoln:**

*K5 = 2X/week for 30 minutes each*

### **Longfellow:**

*K-2 = 2X/week for 30 minutes each*

*3-5 = 1X/week for 60 minutes each*

### **Mann:**

*K-5 = 2X/week for 30 minutes each*

### **Whittier:**

*K-2 = 2X/week for 30 minutes each*

*3-5 = 1X/week for 60 minutes each*

Even with the recent decision by the state to reduce the requirement for physical education from five days to three days per week, our elementary schools would still be out of compliance if we did not have the waiver.

While board members expressed support for our waiver application, they also stated a desire to find a long-term solution for meeting the state requirements that did not rely on or require a waiver renewal. With this in mind, Dr. Amy Warke and Dr. Alicia Evans were charged with researching what resources (e.g. space, staffing, etc.) we would need to meet the state's requirements, and how much those resources would cost. The information they collected/calculated is below.

**Additional staffing:** 4.44 FTE\*\*

**Average compensation (salary + benefits):** \$85,129.06

**Additional space:** \$0\*\*\*

The total cost of the additional staffing would be \$377,973.

*\*\*The staffing figures are based upon input from principals. We asked them to look at the anticipated sections in their buildings for next school year and multiply that number by three (i.e., for offering PE three times per week). We also asked them to account for the contractual planning time.*

*\*\*\*Even though every principal stated they would need additional space, the occupancy size of the gyms at each school would allow multiple classes to co-teach at same time.*

## **Recommendations**

After reflecting on the questions below and considering the needs discussed during our Education Council meeting on December 6, 2017 (notes from the meeting are attached), it is my recommendation at this time is that the district not allocate the money needed to expand PE at the elementary school level. Instead, with the board's support, I would suggest that we reapply for the waiver and seek to refine our Physical Education Activity (PEA) guidelines. Once we strengthen the system and supports that are available for our MTSS services, I believe we will be in a better position to pursue an expansion of PE for our elementary schools.

## **Reflective Questions:**

- *What inequities currently exist?*
- *How are our students and staff situated in this "challenge?"*
- *Who are most impacted and how should the administration engage these individuals?*
- *How should the board engage the community to determine their perception of our current state and the proposal?*
- *Does this proposal increase or decrease educational equity for our students? (Who benefits and who is burdened? What factors of the proposal may produce or perpetuate inequities in our district?)*