



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools

RE: Oak Park Elementary School District 97/Hanover Research Partnership

DATE: April 21, 2020

During the April 7, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Education, the Superintendent presented an option that would give the District the capability to:

- Design and implement assessment frameworks that are appropriately data-driven and establish indicators of success for initiatives that are grounded in research and best practices, measure the degree to which initiatives are achieving expected/desired outcomes, and inform decisions to modify or initiatives as necessary.
- Develop a public facing assessment framework, consistent with the Equity Policy, that describes key indicators of progress, articulates why they were chosen, and presents them in a manner that enables stakeholders to understand their significance and the significance of the District's performance with respect to these indicators over time.

To accomplish these goals, we recommended a research partnership between District 97 and Hanover due to their breadth of expertise and their core research and data analysis capabilities. Specifically, our recommendation is for the BOE to approve an agreement for the "Custom" level of support, which would have an inaugural membership fee of \$40,000, which is a reduced rate for the district. If approved by the BOE on April 21, their work could begin this spring and their findings can inform our 2020-2021 school year planning. However, the BOE may elect the "Advisory" level of support, which has a cost of \$60,000, as discussed earlier this month.

Given the board's desire to gather community feedback on District 97 data and use this engagement to assist in closing the equity gap, the Advisory level of support would be impactful. In addition to everything the district would be able to access in the Custom membership, the Advisory tier adds a consultative lens, which includes the option for an **on-site focus group facilitation**. Hanover team would come to Oak Park and facilitate focus groups, using the feedback to make recommendations on where to focus our resources, as well as the partnership, moving forward. The district would also receive an additional research advisor, who would host quarterly virtual consultations with our team to discuss progress and help guide internal capacity building outside of project work we're doing. I've included a document highlighting each membership tier below, as well as a sample focus group capstone.

- [Membership Options](#)
- [Focus Group Capstone – Equity and Cultural Competency](#): *Important to note that given our interest, the stakeholders involved in an OP97 focus group could (and likely would) be more community member heavy*

We have included two motions on tonight's agenda. One motion is for the approval of the Custom membership; however, if the BOE would prefer, we have also included a motion for the Advisory membership.

Once the board makes a decision on which they'd prefer and approve, the correct LoA will be sent to the Board President for signature and the partnership will begin on May 1.

