

From the community: Marie Murphy Students tackle Board of Education Roles at Mock Board Meeting



Marie Murphy student government participants engage in mentoring with Avoca Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, Wilmette Asst. Village Manager, Michael Braiman, and Head of Adult Services at the Wilmette Library, Betsy Giorgi. (Posted by harriss4, Community Contributor)

By **Community Contributor harriss4**

FEBRUARY 22, 2017, 1:19 PM

Wilmette, IL --February 16, 2017-- 10 students from Marie Murphy school met to conduct a mock Board of Education Meeting in the Wilmette Village Hall taking on the various roles to comprise a quorum of the Avoca School District 37 Board of Education. This event is the culmination of a six-week program sponsored by the Wilmette League of Women Voters called the Student and Government Leaders Program. The entire mock meeting was broadcast live on Wilmette Community Television Channel 6. You can view the video on the Village of Wilmette website or by following this link:

http://wilmette.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=581

In preparation for this event, eleven eighth grade students have been studying the workings of local government, examining the issues facing the community and learning how to conduct a public board meeting.

They have been mentored by the Avoca District 37 Board of Education, Administration and staff and were given access to Board documents and materials to prepare their positions on the key decisions the district is facing. The students chose to discuss the future of the Avoca Center, which has been an active agenda item for Avoca this past school year. Kenny Dolin, acting as the Superintendent of Avoca 37, gave a report to the Board very similar to the one that current district Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, and Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, gave to the community on October 26, 2016. The students engaged in thorough discussion about Avoca Center and voted to sell the parcel.

This is a fantastic program for students to become engaged and passionate about government locally and beyond. It is evident from the support offered that the parents, teaching staff, administration and Board of Education members recognize the importance of instilling the value of community service in the students at Avoca School District 37. Staff liaison, Nancy Stewart, has been facilitating this program at Marie Murphy School for 4 years. Ms. Stewart indicated that this particular group of students are highly ambitious and conducted themselves admirably. Current Avoca School Board Member, Joel Raynes, reflected after the students presentation that he wished all school boards would consider issues as thoughtfully as the Avoca students did. This year's student government participants are as follows:

Board President: Emma Taylor

Board Secretary: Simone Salles

Board Members: Aaron Lariosa, Isaac Thurston, Josephine Yoshitani, Mekiel Saqibuddin, Demitra Daskalkis

Superintendent: Kenny Dolin

Business Manager: Brian Lee

Director of Pupil Services: Dorothy Adams

Principal: William Lim

Avoca School District 37 is dedicated to fostering a vast array of opportunities for students to explore their individual interests and talents and looks forward to seizing experiences like the Student and Government Leaders Program to aid in developing conscientious, active citizens in their communities.

Marie Murphy School is a 6-8 grade school and is part of Avoca School District 37 which serves portions of Chicago's North Shore suburban communities of Wilmette, Winnetka, Glenview and Northfield and is part of New Trier Township.

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