



# FACT SHEET >>>

Francis Howell School District would like to address inaccurate information circulating following the July 15 Board of Education meeting. While the District has no interest in a public back-and-forth, we would like to clear up the false claims being made by Senator Bob Onder and other local politicians on social media, via mass email distribution lists, and during a recent legislative committee hearing. Here are the facts.

## FACT

### **ON JULY 15, 2021, THE FHSD BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED TWO ELECTIVE COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

The Board did not approve courses about Critical Race Theory (CRT). They approved two elective courses – Black History and Black Literature – to be offered only at the high school level. The courses do not replace any existing history or literature courses, and they are not required. Students advocated for these options to be added to the curriculum and the Board and District Administration are proud that they will be offered. The District supports the work of the curriculum writing team and our teachers who will be delivering the instruction beginning this fall.

## FACT

### **CURRICULUM IS APPROVED AS PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA DURING OPEN SESSION.**

Senator Onder's claim that the Board violated the Sunshine Law by voting on two proposed elective courses in closed session is absolutely false. Consistent with the typical practice for curriculum approvals, the courses were approved as part of the consent agenda in open session. Prior to the July 15 approval, the courses were discussed at two previous Board meetings. The District also hosted informational webinars to share the content of the courses and get feedback from community members. Any claim that the development or approval of these courses happened behind closed doors as a way to deceive parents and taxpayers is inaccurate.

## FACT

### **ONLY FHSD STAFF MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT ARE ALLOWED TO SPEAK DURING PATRON COMMENTS.**

The District's patron comment policy states that only FHSD staff members and those who live in the FHSD attendance zone are eligible to speak during the patron comment portion of Board of Education meetings. Senator Onder lives in Lake Saint Louis, which is part of the Wentzville School District. The Board has not and will not offer special treatment to nonresidents at the expense of eligible patrons in the speaking queue.

## FACT

### **SPEAKERS ARE CALLED FORWARD IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL.**

The Board of Education allots a total of 30 minutes at each meeting for patron comments. The content of those comments is determined solely by the order of arrival; those who arrive early to secure a spot in line are the first to speak. The District does not attempt to influence the speaking queue or balance the number of supporters or opponents on a particular topic; it is simply first to arrive, first to speak.