



# Township High School District 211

## Community Connections:

### A Quarterly Update of the Strategic Plan

January 2019

## Sale of District 211's 60-acre Property Set to Close in June

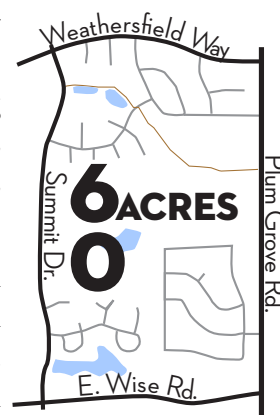


In December 2017, the District 211 Board of Education approved selling 60 acres of undeveloped property located on Summit Drive in Schaumburg, west of Plum Grove Road and north of Wise Road. After receiving several bids on the property, in March 2018, the Board approved the bid submitted by M/I Homes to sell the vacant property for \$20,515,000.

In the initial agreement, the formal building plan approval by the Village of Schaumburg was tentatively scheduled by January 9, 2019. At its December 2018 meeting, the Board approved an amendment to the terms and conditions of the sale of the property, extending the

approval period from January 9, 2019 to April 30, 2019. Additionally, a mandatory closing date prior to June 30, 2019 has been added to the amended terms of the agreement.

The Village of Schaumburg will determine the final approval of any homes to be built on the property. The latest plans from M/I Homes submitted to the Village of Schaumburg can be found at the following link: [http://www.villageofschaumburg.com/residents/district\\_211\\_property\\_updates.htm](http://www.villageofschaumburg.com/residents/district_211_property_updates.htm).



## District 211 Named to National AP Honor Roll

District 211 is one of 373 school districts in the United States and Canada being honored by the College Board with



placement on the 9th Annual Advanced Placement (AP) District Honor Roll. This year marks the fourth year that District 211 has been included on the annual list. To be included on the Annual Honor Roll, the District had to increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher consistently over the past three years. Reaching these goals demonstrates the District's success in developing

motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the rigors of AP testing.

National data from 2018 shows that among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are participating. The first step to getting more students to participate in AP courses is to give them access. District 211 offers AP opportunities in more than 35 courses, and is committed to expanding the opportunity to succeed in AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

# School Safety Drill Held

High School District 211, in close partnership with the Palatine Police Department, conducted a school safety drill at Fremd High School on January 7. The drill was scheduled on a teacher institute day when no students were present.

The safety drill, which is different than annual lockdown drills done at all District 211 schools, was designed to simulate an armed intruder in the school. The drill helped staff members practice lockdown procedures, while also allowing local police officers to practice their response procedures. Conducting this type of drill allows police officers who may not regularly be in the school to become more familiar with the layout of the building.



Prior to the safety drill, parents, staff, and residents living near the school received notice from District 211 that the training event would occur. Additionally, signs were posted along surrounding streets during the training to inform residents that it was underway.

Following the training, law enforcement and staff members discussed various aspects of the day's events. Teachers spoke with officers about best practices for keeping students safe as well as the importance of limiting cell phone usage during a lockdown.

The training was conducted as part of a continuous partnership with local police to further strengthen school safety and was not in response to any threats directed at the school.

## Possible Property Tax Relief Through State Grant

In November, the Board of Education authorized District 211 to apply for the Property Tax Relief Grant offered through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The Property Tax Relief Grant allows school districts to apply for funding through the ISBE that is designed to lower a district's tax levy.



School districts are ranked in order of eligibility according to specific and comprehensive criteria defined by the ISBE. Based on the eligibility rankings, District 211 is not guaranteed to receive funds, but analysis of the list indicates that the District could be in a position to receive some relief

through the grant.

If District 211 is awarded all of its eligible grant funding, it would not increase its levy, and would decrease its total property tax levy for the upcoming 2019 tax year compared to the levy requested the previous year. The "levy" is the total amount of local property taxes collected by the school district. If the requested relief funding is awarded, the District will reduce the amount of property taxes requested from the local taxpayers for next year. The ISBE is expected to notify districts whether they will receive the Property Tax Relief Grant funds as early as January 31, and possibly as late as March 1, 2019.

## Tentative Contract Agreement Reached

Following extensive negotiations, the Board of Education and the Teachers' Union have reached a tentative four-year contract agreement. The Board of Education will consider the terms for full adoption at its meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2019.

The tentative agreement includes base salary increases of 2% for the first two years and increases equaling the CPI rate up to 1.75% and up to 1.5%, respectively, for the third and fourth years. Employees will pay a higher premium amount for health insurance, and the insurance plans most costly to the District will no



longer be available by the end of the contract. Consistent with recently passed legislation, end-of-career salary increases will be reduced by 50% and limited to a maximum of 3% to help reduce future pension liabilities. Employees authorized to pursue graduate education will pay a larger portion of tuition while the District will continue to invest in teachers earning required credentials to teach courses that qualify for both high school and college credit.

The agreement will be in place through June 30, 2022.