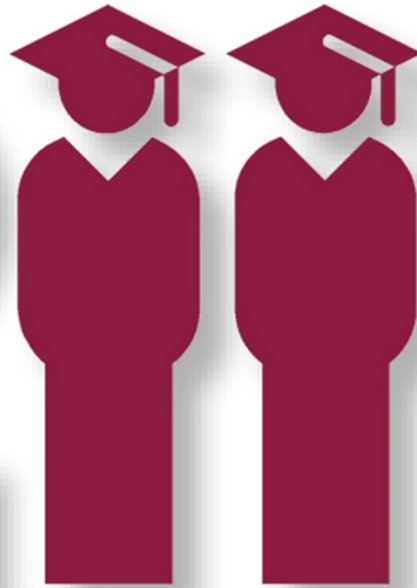


THE

2



OF TOMORROW

The 211 of Tomorrow

Community Members

Parents

Students

Teachers

Staff



Charge From Board of Education

1. Gather **current and accurate perceptions and priorities** reflecting a broad base of community;
2. **Familiarize community** with current programs, services, resources, finances and facilities of the District;
3. Communicate District's **accomplishments and challenges**;
4. Build a **process to strengthen communication and collaboration** with the community to serve the District in the future;
5. Gather community's **priorities for the curricular initiatives** needed to ensure continued high student achievement and readiness;
6. Gather community's **priorities for improving healthy social relations and wellness** among students; and
7. Consider **resources to develop and sustain effective programs** to accomplish these objectives in the intermediate and long term.

Goals of Engagement

- Familiarize community stakeholders with the District's current programs, services, resources, finances and facilities
- Learn community's perceptions and priorities for District 211
- Foster process of communication and collaboration
- Provide information to the Board of Education to assist development of a Strategic Plan to set course for the next five years



Facilitating Team

- Community volunteers representing a variety of backgrounds throughout the District
- Planned and coordinated the Community Engagement Program
- Share same personal investment and community interest in District 211 sustaining its quality



Deep appreciation and thanks to the
Facilitating Team volunteers!

Facilitating Team

Team Roster			
Community Chairs	Peter Carlson	Linda Reedy	Jose Skrobot
Community Members	Curtis Bradley Merydith Brostoff Dave Carver Robert Falardeau Jill Finis Dan Goodman Shantanoo Govilkar Avery Hodges	Susan Kobeski Dipak Kumar Tom Lober Ryan McCoy Debora Quiroz Jose Quiroz Debbie Schmidt Aarushi Shah	
District Representatives	<i>Dan Cates, Superintendent</i> <i>Lisa Small, Associate Superintendent</i> <i>Kathe Lingl, Assistant to the Superintendent</i> <i>Tom Petersen, Community Relations Director</i> <i>Anita Lee, Teachers Union Representative</i>		
School Board Members	Mucia Burke	Anna Klimkowicz	

Community Engagement: Why now?

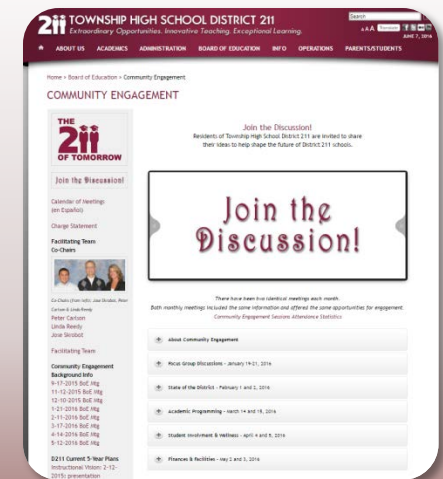
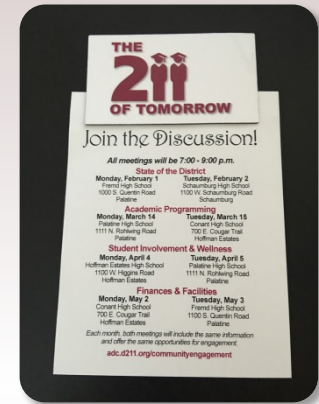


- Board of Education and Administration sought extensive community input for the creation of a Five-Year Strategic Plan
- Numerous years since the last formal Strategic Plan
- Today's world calls for collaboration and exchange surrounding our community's most valued asset:

OUR CHILDREN and OUR STUDENTS

Community Engagement: Reaching Out

- Website & social media postings
- Media outlets & multiple news releases
- Email communications
- Village water bills
- Local Public Access channels
- Posted community flyers
- Announcements at school and sporting events
- Daily school announcements
- Translated announcements & materials



What We Heard: *the convergence of...*

Opinions and ideas gathered through:

- **14 Focus Groups** with **more than 200** participants covering a range of topics
- **8 Community Engagement Sessions** covering four topic areas involving **914 attendees** and **136 active small group discussions**
- **500 random telephone surveys** representing the 211 community
- **1,600 online surveys**

More than 3,000

Personal Engagements



Community Engagement Sessions

High School District 211 Community Engagement Sessions Attendance Breakdown

Category	Session #1	Session #2	Session #3	Session #4	Totals
D211 Parent of a <i>Current</i> Student	159	79	80	32	350
D211 Parent of a <i>Future</i> Student	118	61	48	30	257
D211 Parent of a <i>Former</i> Student	95	28	30	26	179
D211 Alumni	68	24	22	21	135
D211 Staff	89	34	23	32	178
D211 Student	31	14	12	7	64
Community Member	141	63	57	37	298
Business Owner	18	4	7	7	36
Nothing Checked in Any Box	23	15	13	20	71

**Attendees could select more than one category

914 TOTAL ATTENDEES
136 GROUP DISCUSSIONS

What We Heard: Perceptions of D211

- Community offers a great place to live, work and raise a family
- Strong school system protects home values
- The District 211 population is becoming more diverse



What We Heard: Strengths of D211

Community Engagement

- High level of satisfaction with the District in key areas including: curriculum, extra-curricular activities, teacher & staff quality and finances
- Academic programs prepare students for college & career
- High graduation rate is a source of pride



Focus Groups

- District 211 is well respected, innovative, academically strong, and financially sound
- Teachers and administrators are held in high esteem and found to be caring and nurturing in their work with students
- District 211 responds well to the needs of all students in its population

What We Heard: Strengths of D211

Question/Statement	Telephone Survey	Online Survey
Families move into this area because of the reputation of District 211	83% Agree/ Strongly Agree	89% Agree/Strongly Agree
What grade would you give District 211? A, B, C, D, or F	77% A or B	82% A or B
Recruiting and retaining a high quality teaching staff	72% Excellent/good	80% Excellent/good

What We Heard: Challenges facing D211

Community Engagement

- The impact of technology on student focus
- Students' ability to achieve balance between student wellness and academics/involvement demands
- The need to support the increasing homeless population



Focus Groups

- Greater emphasis and awareness should be given to those students who are not college bound or less academically strong
- The diversity of staff members does not reflect the diversity among students. More minority staff members would be of benefit to the District

What We Heard: Challenges facing D211

Question/Statement	Telephone Survey	Online Survey
Focus attention on the life skills that students need to be successful adults	81% High Priority	82% High Priority
Strengthen career programs for non-college bound students	78% High Priority	73% High Priority
The growing diversity of various ethnicities is a huge challenge for District 211	54% Agree	60% Agree

What We Heard: D211 Graduates of Tomorrow

Community Engagement

Desired characteristics identified by 211 of Tomorrow participants include:

- Strong social-emotional skills
- Confident
- Prepared for college and career
- Technology ready
- Critical thinkers
- Aware of physical and mental wellness

Focus Groups

- Strong social skills
- Strong “life” skills including creativity, cooperation, collaboration, perseverance and problem solving
- Technology ready



What We Heard:

D211 Academic Programming

Community Engagement

Curriculum suggestions:

- Build oral and written communication skills
- Provide opportunities to explore various careers, coursework and/or interests
- Incorporate programs and opportunities such as internships
- Recognize and support students who may change their career path

Focus Groups

Curriculum suggestions:

- Build oral and written communication skills
- Incorporate hands-on experiences such as internships
- Develop some ability to speak a second language



What We Heard: D211 Academic Programming

Question/Statement	Telephone Survey	Online Survey
Focus more attention on students who are not performing at grade level	94% Important	87% Important

Curriculum Suggestions:

Place a greater emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math programs	77% Important	82% Important
Provide opportunity for all students to gain college credit before they graduate from a District 211 high school	79% High Priority	62% High Priority
Strengthen career programs for non-college bound students	78% High Priority	73% High Priority
Keeping up-to-date with instructional technology	75% Excellent/good	88% Excellent/good

What We Heard:

D211 Student Involvement & Wellness

Community Engagement

- Continue to provide varied opportunities for extra-curricular participation
- Explore ways to support students in balancing academics & activities
- Allow for flexibility when students participate in multiple sports/ activities
- Assist students in developing “life skills” that are critical for success in the work place and life in general

Focus Groups

- Develop proficiency in “life skills” such as creativity, cooperation, collaboration, perseverance and problem solving



What We Heard:

D211 Student Involvement & Wellness

Question/Statement	Telephone Survey	Online Survey
Schools should try to involve all students in athletics or after school activities	81% Agree	84% Agree
Expand programs that offer social and emotional support for students	86% Important	81% Important
Strengthen programs for ethnic minority students	76% Important	60% Important

What We Heard: D211 Facilities

Community Engagement

- Continue to complete and integrate facilities improvements that are student centered
- Explore ways to improve traffic patterns as well as drop-off/pick-up procedures taking into consideration the impact of student drivers on the traffic flow
- Determine if sufficient space is available to house the varied sports/activities

Focus Groups

- District 211 facilities are well maintained and in excellent condition
- Some participants suggested that the aging facilities fail to meet the needs of today's educational standards
- There is a lack of space for student sports and activities



Academy-
North



Conant
HS



Fremd
HS



Higgins Ed
Center



Hoffman
Estates HS



Palatine
HS



Schaumburg
HS

What We Heard: D211 Facilities

Question/Statement	Telephone Survey	Online Survey
Attend to the District's aging school buildings	70% High Priority	84% High Priority
Keeping up with the repair and maintenance of school buildings	77% Excellent/Good	85% Excellent/Good
Providing safe and secure schools	80% Excellent/Good	84% Excellent/Good



Academy-
North



Conant
HS



Fremd
HS



Higgins Ed
Center



Hoffman
Estates HS



Palatine
HS



Schaumburg
HS

What We Heard:

D211 Financial Considerations

Community Engagement

- Continue with fiscally sound decision making in the face of changing State revenues and policies as well as demographics
- Invest in educational and co-curricular programming to support student involvement and success
- Allocate funds to recruit and retain quality teachers

Focus Groups

- District 211 uses tax dollars efficiently and effectively
- Continue to “spend to ensure student success”



What We Heard:

D211 Financial Considerations

Focus Groups

- Two groups spent time discussing District finances:
 - One group felt that the District had professional and qualified staff attending to its financial matters and was managed effectively, with good credit ratings, established reserve funds, financially stable and in good position to fulfill its mission to provide a high quality education, while also contributing to stable property values and acting in the best interest of students and the community with regard to finances
 - A second group of citizens suggested the District offered less than full transparency regarding finances, a lack of understanding of the budget process, salaries and benefits not in line with comparable districts, and felt District 211 should reduce reserves and spending in order to return a portion of its levy back to taxpayers

What We Heard: D211 Financial Considerations

Question/Statement	Telephone Survey	Online Survey
We get excellent value in education for the taxes we pay to District 211	75% Agree	75% Agree
District 211 spends tax dollars efficiently	62% Agree	63% Agree
The quality of District 211 is the most important factor that affects my property value	76% Agree	70% Agree

What We Heard: D211 Communications

Community Engagement

- Provide communications in a user friendly manner regarding budget information, state funding changes, cost per student and major upcoming projects/expenditures
- Share financial information by website, email and US mail



Focus Groups

- Increase effective communications in educating the full community about financial interests and obligations of the school system
- Explore ways to increase participation and include various nationalities into the “full life of the school community”
- Make materials and communications more accessible to families whose first language is not English

What We Heard: D211 Communications

Question/Statement	Telephone Survey	Online Survey
District 211 has been very effective in communicating with area residents	70% Agree	69% Agree
Generally speaking, how well informed are you about District 211?	66% Somewhat/ very informed	88% Somewhat/ very informed
Communicate with transparency regarding the District's finances	73% High Priority	73% High Priority
Solicit and respond to community input in decision making	68% High Priority	71% High Priority

Conclusions and Priorities for the Future

Community members pleased with quality of District 211

- Academic quality is widely recognized
- Comprehensive opportunities for students to get involved
- Quality of District 211 strongly associated with property values

Academic Programming for Future Graduates

- Academic preparedness for post-secondary choices
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Technology Skills
- Internships and career pathway opportunities
- Writing and communication skills

Conclusions and Priorities for the Future

Challenges

- Ensure social and emotional wellness
- Respond to changing demographics and student needs
- Develop technology skills, but reduce distraction

Finances and Facilities

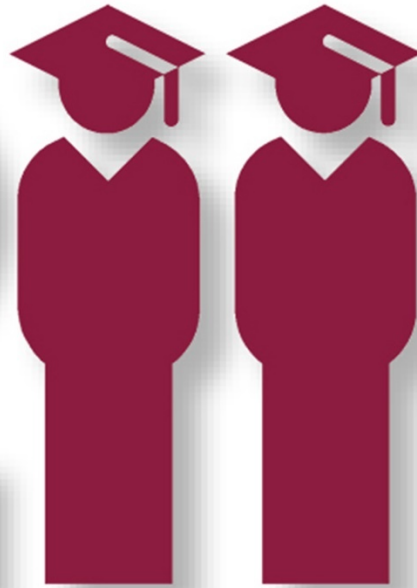
- Continue to operate efficiently
- Examine space available for activities and athletics
- Continue to ensure student safety in all facilities
- Communicate financial information with broad community

Overview and Next Steps

- Facilitating Team spent 5 months gathering information
 - Four different methods inviting input
 - More than 3000 engaged responses
- All information is or will be posted on District website
- Information and input will be used by the Board of Education and District administration in preparing a Strategic Plan document setting the District's direction and priorities for the next 5 years

THE

2



OF TOMORROW