

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, October 15, 2015, in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center. The following is a recap of important items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Military Recognition

The Board of Education honored Specialist **Jakub Burzynski**, a 2015 James B. Conant High School graduate, who is currently serving in the Army Reserves. Specialist Burzynski led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions

A District 211 record 39 students from James B. Conant, William Fremd, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, and Schaumburg High Schools were honored by the Board for being named National Merit Scholars. These students were presented the Robert Creek Excellence Award (medallion). The complete list of District 211's National Merit Scholars is available [here](#).

Presentation: 2015 Tax Levy

The Board of Education viewed a [presentation](#) on the 2015 Tax Levy by Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel** and Controller and Treasurer **Barbara Peterson**.

The Board also received tax levy information at the meeting, in addition to the materials it received at the September 17 meeting. The information presented included tax levy background information, Cook County property tax levy information, tax abatement information, the 2015 tax levy calendar, and 2015 levy considerations and CPI projections.

The Board's Budget and Finance Committee has a meeting scheduled on November 4, 2015, to further review levy materials. Additionally, at the next regular Board meeting on November 12, 2015, tax levy information will be presented again for further review and discussion. Also at that meeting, the Board will review a resolution to determine the proposed levy amount for 2015.

The tax levy information the Board received is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [September 17, 2015](#), and a special meeting on [October 7, 2015](#).

Class Size Committee Report

The Board of Education received a [report](#) from the Class Size Committee.

Summer School Enrollment/Cost Analysis

The Board received an update on Summer School 2015. District 211 provided learning opportunities for 13,016 students during Summer School 2015, with 7,334 students participating in classroom experiences during both semesters and 5,682 involved in athletic camps.

A highlight of the summer program was the development and implementation of the first Pathway Exploration course, Interactive and Information Technology 1, designed to introduce students to a variety of essential skills for the Information Technology professional.

The Incoming Freshman Academy was offered for the 11th year, while the Sophomore Summer Academy was offered for a 10th year. Student academies are offered to selected students at no cost and are designed to accelerate student learning in reading, writing, and mathematics.

The Applied Technology Department continued to offer a special program entitled "Project Lead the Way Summer Engineering Academy," which is designed to provide selected young students with an opportunity to participate in a three-week course that explores engineering and architecture concepts. The non-credit course was offered only to students in the summer prior to 8th grade who have shown an interest and have performed well in mathematics and science.

Additional information is available at:

- [2015 Summer School Enrollment and Cost Analysis](#)
- [Project Lead the Way Cost Analysis/Comparison](#)
- [Summer School Cost Analysis](#)

Community Engagement and Strategic Planning: Presentation

At its July 16, 2015 meeting, the Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposal to identify firms capable of

facilitating a community engagement and strategic planning initiative. The District received proposals from four firms. The Board heard a [presentation](#) from representatives of one of the firms, Unicom•Arc, on its proposal for community engagement and strategic planning.

District 211 Professional Development Opportunities

The Board of Education received a professional development report for the 2014-2015 school year highlighting staff development opportunities available for District 211 certified staff. A copy of the report is available [here](#).

The Board also approved the following professional learning opportunities for in-district credit: “Innovative Learning,” “Mindset (Book Study),” “Reflecting on Mirrored Assessments,” “Social and Emotional Learning in the Classroom,” and “Teach Like a Champion 2.0 (Book Study).”

District and School Improvement Plans for 2015-2016

High School District 211 uses the Illinois State Board of Education’s (ISBE) approved school improvement reporting system known as Rising Star. Rising Star is a comprehensive continuous improvement process system that has been fully embedded in the State’s web-based school and district integrated plans on the Illinois Interactive Report Card (IIRC) that serves as the required template for a variety of plans required by both state and federal funding sources, such as Title I, Title III, Race to the Top, and technology implementation plans.

In accordance with ISBE requirements, the current District Improvement Plan and each school’s improvement plan must be submitted to the Board of Education annually. The Board acknowledged receipt and granted approval of the 2015-2016 District Improvement Plan and each School Improvement Plan.

Additional information on the District and School Improvement Plans is available [here](#) and a copy of the District plan is available [here](#). Individual School Improvement Plans are as follows: [Conant High School](#); [Fremd High School](#); [Hoffman Estates High School](#); [Palatine High School](#); and [Schaumburg High School](#).

School Calendars for 2017-2018, Summer 2017 and Summer 2018

The Board of Education approved a school calendar for the 2017-2018 school year. Consistent with school code, the calendar provides for 181 days of instruction and four days of teacher institute. The final calendar will include one additional institute day that has not yet been assigned.

A copy of the approved 2017-2018 school calendar is available [here](#).

The Board also approved summer school calendars for the summer of 2017 and the summer of 2018. Both summer calendars provide for 26 days of instruction.

A copy of the approved summer school calendar for 2017 is available [here](#), and a copy of the approved summer school calendar for 2018 is available [here](#).

Request for Foreign Exchange Trips

The Board of Education approved participation in the following 10 foreign exchange trips for the summer of 2016 (Note: the District reserves the right to cancel any airline travel that it deems unsafe or not in the best interest of District 211):

Conant High School
Strasbourg and Paris, France – June 13-28, 2016

Fremd High School
Strasbourg and Paris, France – June 13-30, 2016

Hoffman Estates High School
Madrid, Spain – June 13-28, 2016
Strasbourg and Paris, France – June 13-28, 2016
Munich, Germany – June 13-28, 2016

Palatine High School
Strasbourg and Paris, France – June 11-26, 2016
Krefeld, Germany – June 11-26, 2016
Amistad, Costa Rica – June 12-19, 2016

Schaumburg High School
Strasbourg and Paris, France – June 13-28, 2016
Escazu, Costa Rica – June 11-21, 2016

Proposed Policy Revisions

As part of its ongoing Policy Manual review, the Board of Education reviews proposed policy revisions and proposed new policies from the Administrative Board Policy Group. The Group is comprised of Board President **Mucia Burke**, Board Vice President **Robert LeFevre**, Associate Superintendent **Lisa Small**, Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**.

The Board initially reviewed proposed revisions to Board policy files: [GBL Personnel Records](#) and [JFCG Tobacco Use by Students](#). No action was taken at the meeting.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.