

## Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, January 16, 2020, in the Anne Koller Board of Education Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

### Administrative Appointments

Superintendent-Elect **Dr. Lisa Small** is pleased to announce the following administrative appointments:

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Michael Alther** as principal at Hoffman Estates High School, effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Alther has been an assistant principal at Palatine High School since 2004, serving first as 10-month assistant principal for two years and then in 2006 as 12-month assistant principal lead disciplinarian, before being promoted in 2008 to the position he currently holds as 12-month assistant principal for staff development, building and grounds, and student activities. Mr. Alther came to District 211 in 2002 as a business education teacher at Palatine High School. He began his teaching career as a high school business education teacher in Community Unit School District 303 in St. Charles where he taught for seven years before coming to District 211. Mr. Alther earned his bachelor's degree in business education from Illinois State University in 1995, and in 2000, he received his cooperative education certification from Southern Illinois University. Mr. Alther earned his master's degree in educational leadership from Aurora University in 2002 and has since taken coursework towards a doctorate in curriculum and instruction through Aurora University.

Mr. Alther will take over the principalship from **Josh Schmacher**, who after serving as principal at Hoffman Estates High School since 2016, was promoted to assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction at the November 14, 2019 Board meeting, effective July 1, 2020.

The Board also approved the appointment of **Brian Harlan** as principal at Schaumburg High School, effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Harlan began his career in education as a science teacher at Hoffman Estates High School in 2007. He served as the school's dean of students during the 2012-2013 school year, before being named a 10-month assistant principal at Fremd High School in 2013. In 2015, Mr. Harlan returned to Hoffman Estates High School, accepting a 12-month assistant principal position at the school, responsible for student intervention and discipline. The following year, he was appointed to his current position as 12-month assistant principal, overseeing staff development, building and grounds, and student activities. Mr. Harlan earned his bachelor's degree in

geology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2004, and his master's degree in geology from Northern Illinois University in 2007. He earned a second master's degree in school leadership from Concordia University in Chicago in 2012. In 2015, he earned a master's degree in school business from Northern Illinois University and a chief school business official endorsement.

Mr. Harlan's appointment will begin later this spring upon the retirement of current Schaumburg High School Principal **Tim Little**. Mr. Little has served District 211 for 33 years, the past 13 as principal at Schaumburg High School. He joined District 211 in 1987 as a social studies teacher at Hoffman Estates High School, also serving as an assistant coach for boys' and girls' soccer, boys' track, football, and softball. He was the school's yearbook sponsor and sophomore class advisor, as well as assistant advisor for student council and web team. In 2002, he was appointed 10-month assistant principal at the school and promoted to 12-month assistant principal in 2005 before being named principal at Schaumburg High School in 2007. Mr. Little has been recognized three times in the Illinois State Board of Education's *Those Who Excel* Awards Program; first as part of the Hoffman Estates High School Freshman Foundations Team in 2004, then as a member of the school's Academic Initiatives Team in 2006, and finally in the school administrator category in 2010 as principal at Schaumburg High School.

## Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized 11 District 211 students for earning the highest possible composite score on recent college entrance examinations. **Ashay Parikh** and **Elizabeth Zhang** from James B. Conant High School; and **Collin Ariagno, Stella Chung, Gabriel Classon, Gina Kang, Cassandra Seaver, Shreya Seetharam, Max Wexley, Rachel Ye,** and **Andrew Yin** from William Fremd High School were recognized for their achievement on the American College Test (ACT), which is taken by 60% of college-bound students each year, with less than one-tenth of one percent earning a top score. With 139 District 211 students now earning a top score on the ACT over the past 21 years, the complete list of District 211 students recognized for ACT achievements can be found [here](#).

The Board recognized 36 students from Fremd, Conant, and Hoffman Estates High Schools for being named National Merit Scholars. These students were presented the Robert Creek Excellence Award (medallion). The complete list of District 211 National Merit Scholars for 2019-2020 is available [here](#).

Fremd High School Applied Technology Teacher **Michael Karasch** was recognized by the Board for being named a national Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Outstanding Engineering Teacher for 2019-2020. The award recognizes

exemplary teachers demonstrating a strong record of work that aligns with PLTW strategic goals and their commitment to inspiring and empowering students.

The Board recognized Young Hearts for Life for its youth heart screening, thanking the organization for its commitment to offering cardiac screenings to help prevent otherwise undetectable heart conditions to students at no cost to them. District 211 students have received free heart screenings as part of the Young Hearts for Life program since 2016, with nearly 11,000 students screened, and more importantly, 69 students with previously undetected heart conditions identified during that time.

### **Residential Construction Employers Council**

Representatives from the Residential Construction Employers Council addressed the Board of Education regarding the student building construction program.

The Residential Home Builders Alliance and the Residential Construction Employers Counsel have organized donations from local companies to be offered to the District 211 Building Construction course. The donations include worksite coats, boots, hats, food gift cards, and \$3,500 to be used towards the building construction program.

The Board formally [accepted the donations](#) for the building construction program.

### **Public Hearing on Renewal of Third-Party Contract for Behind-the-Wheel Services for Driver Education**

The Board of Education held a public hearing to receive input on the renewal of the third-party contract with Top Driver Acquisition, LLC, for behind-the-wheel services for driver education. Following public comment, the Board authorized the superintendent to renew the agreement for third-party driver education services with Top Driver Acquisition, LLC, extending the contract to provide behind-the-wheel services for driver education training to District 211 students for an additional two year term, including the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. The fee will remain at the current price of \$499 per student.

Additional information is available [here](#).

### **Presentation: Career Development Experiences**

During the four years of high school, District 211 students enroll in a vast number of courses and career development experiences. These experiences range from courses directly linked to industry-recognized certifications, pathway courses for

career skill development, career treks to companies, and summer work internships.

Associate Superintendent for Instruction and Superintendent-Elect **Lisa Small**, Director of Instructional Improvement **Danielle Hauser**, District 211 Internship Coordinator and Fremd High School Career Advisor **Jan Brottman**, and Conant High School Counselor **J.C. Brown** presented the current and future career development opportunities available for District 211 students.

A copy of the presentation is available [here](#).

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [December 12, 2019](#).

### **Winter Curriculum Committee Report**

Curriculum committees, representing each department, meet three times each year to discuss and recommend curriculum changes to the Board of Education. The winter round of curriculum meetings focuses on textbooks and software. This cycle allows textbook budgets to be accurately prepared for the upcoming school year. The recommendation process begins in the fall as committees of teachers review available materials before sharing their recommendations with department chairs. The five department chairs review textbooks and software prior to the potential recommendation by the entire committee.

Course modifications recommended from the Applied Technology and Mathematics departments represent changes for the 2020-2021 school year and are a result of discussions with representatives from Harper College and Northern Illinois University. As post-secondary institutions modify curriculum and course sequences, dual credit sequences taught at the high school level also are modified. Through various programs and partnerships, District 211 has worked to prepare students for their post-high school choices. Courses such as dual credit and Advanced Placement allow students to take college-level coursework while still having the close working relationship with their high school teachers. By earning course hours prior to graduation, the financial burden of college can be greatly reduced for parents and students.

The winter round of curriculum meetings has taken place, with the Board receiving a summary report and approving the recommendations as presented. A complete copy of the summary report that the Board received is available [here](#).

## **Secondary School Cooperative Risk Management Program (SSCRMP)**

The Board of Education received information on the District's involvement with the Secondary School Cooperative Risk Management Program, a risk-sharing insurance pool governed by School Districts 211, 207 (Maine Township), 214 (Wheeling and Elk Grove Townships), and 225 (Northfield Township). The pool provides comprehensive insurance coverage at a lower cost than school districts could obtain individually.

For 2020, SSCRMP will maintain a self-insured retention (shared deductible) of \$1,000,000 for liability claims and a \$350,000 self-insured retention for property claims. SSCRMP continues to successfully manage claims, member equity, and excess loss reserves. Each member district is responsible for paying the initial \$1,000 deductible for its own boiler machinery claims; \$5,000 deductible for errors/omissions; and, \$100,000 for crime claims. Workers' compensation coverage with SSCRMP has a July 1 renewal date and provides for a \$350,000 deductible for individual claims. SSCRMP loss-fund reserves are used to pay claims within the self-insured retention for property or liability claims. A separate loss-fund is maintained for workers' compensation claims.

For the 2020 policy year, SSCRMP has maintained its level of coverage in all categories, except specific categories of general liability which insurers will not cover at prior levels. For 2020, aggregate coverage for traumatic brain injury and sexual abuse claims is \$21,000,000, compared to \$31,000,000 for 2019. Loss control is reflected in the total for loss funding in the 2020 renewal costs. Renewal costs are based upon actual claims data for District 211 during 2019. Overall, the annual renewal cost for High School District 211 will increase by 21.4% from 2019. The increase is primarily due to premium costs for property coverage related to Midwestern weather claims, increased appraised valuation of school buildings, replenishment of pool loss funds related to legal claims costs in prior years, and the addition of services to manage each school district's certificates of insurance.

Based on the loss funding appropriation, property, and specific liability losses allocated to District 211, the 2020 member contributions for the District will be \$1,029,374. This is a 21.2% increase from the 2019 allocation of \$849,654. For the 2020 renewal rates, funds have been allocated in the 2019-2020 budget.

Additional information on SSCRMP is available [here](#).

## **Community Connections Newsletter**

The January 2020 issue of [Community Connections](#), a quarterly newsletter designed to provide additional information about High School District 211 to the communities served, was distributed in mid-January. The 15th edition of *Community Connections* included the following articles: *D211 on national AP*

*honor roll for 3rd straight year; District publishes Popular Annual Financial Report; 3rd annual D211 Career Expo set for February 27; Potential impact of marijuana legalization; School safety drill held at Schaumburg HS; Update: Sale of 62-acre property in Schaumburg; D211 Board names next superintendent of schools; More online options coming soon; Donor's generosity feeds giving; Surveys help improve educational experience; and United States Census 2020.*

Community Connections is emailed to District 211 parents, students, and staff, as well as community members who have provided their contact information. All 15 editions of the newsletter are available on the [District website](#).

### **Establish Time, Place, and Date of Regular Board of Education Meetings**

At its December 12, 2019 meeting, the Board of Education revised the start time of Board meetings to begin its meetings at 6:30 p.m. for the remaining Board meetings during the 2019-2020 school year in order to address closed session matters prior to addressing regular, open-session business at 7:30 p.m. The new approved start time ensures that the Board will return to open session at 7:30 p.m. in order to allow recognitions or public comment to begin at that time. The Board can return to closed session after the open session portion of the meeting takes place, if needed.

For the upcoming Board meetings during the 2020-2021 school year, the Board approved the following schedule for regular Board meetings to begin at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of entering closed session in the G.A. McElroy Administration Center: Thursday, July 16, 2020; Thursday, August 13, 2020; Thursday, September 17, 2020; Thursday, October 15, 2020; Thursday, November 12, 2020; Thursday, December 10, 2020; Thursday, January 21, 2021; Thursday, February 18, 2021; Thursday, March 18, 2021; Thursday, April 8, 2021; Thursday, April 29, 2021; Thursday, May 13, 2021; Thursday, May 27, 2021; and Thursday, June 17, 2021.

### **Bid for Consideration – Buses**

Sealed bids for school buses were opened and evaluated for the purchase of five propane-fueled 71-passenger buses, four propane-fueled 41-passenger special needs/wheelchair lift buses, and six gas engine 35-passenger buses. Fifteen buses will be traded in, and all bids included a trade-in credit.

Bids were sent to four vendors; two were returned. The Board of Education awarded the business for buses to the lowest responsible bidder, Central States Bus Sales, in the amount of \$1,310,340. Due to the manufacturing time required for buses, approval now by the Board will help assure delivery prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Payment for vehicles will be made after delivery in

July 2020, and funds for the vehicles will be included in the 2020-2021 transportation budget.

### **Student User Fees for 2020-2021**

Each year, the Board of Education establishes a general registration fee for the use of textbooks, instructional supplies, driver education behind-the-wheel, student parking, transportation, school breakfast and lunch, and summer school. Student user fees are due in full at the time of registration or at the time that a service is accessed. Students experiencing financial hardship may have full or partial payment provisions or student employment opportunities arranged through the administration. At its December 12, 2019 meeting, the Board reviewed information on student user fees for the current school year.

Illinois School law permits public school districts to charge student user fees for items that are directly consumed or used by students or for a student's participation in curricular or extracurricular activities. Public school districts are not permitted, however, to charge tuition or fees to cover the general cost of the student's education in accordance with the Illinois Constitution. For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, revenue totaling approximately \$6 million is attributable to all student fees. Of the \$6 million in total fees, approximately \$4.5 million is attributed to fees that the Board establishes annually for textbooks, driver education, transportation, parking, school meals, and summer school. The remaining \$1.5 million is due to fees for goods and services that are set by an outside agency or determined annually based upon actual cost. Examples include Advanced Placement testing fees, physical education uniforms, student cafeteria à la carte items, athletic event tickets, or replacement item fees.

#### *Summer School Fees*

The Board approved fees for Summer School 2020, as presented. Summer School fees will remain \$140 per semester for credit courses, and fees for non-credit athletic and activity camps will be \$75 per semester. The cost for invitation programs for incoming freshmen and sophomores will remain \$30 per semester. The fee for competitive varsity baseball and softball will remain at \$175 for the summer. Transportation fees will be \$35 per semester. The Driver Education fee will be \$400 for behind-the-wheel, and for those students enrolled in classroom only, a \$70 fee will be assessed.

The Board voted to continue its discussion of student user fees, including the textbook/instructional supply fee, driver education being-the-wheel fee, transportation fee, and school breakfast and lunch prices, at the February 6, 2020 Budget/Finance Committee meeting. This will be followed by additional consideration of student user fees at its February 13, 2020 Board of Education meeting.

Additional information on student user fees is available [here](#).

## **Proposed Policy Revision**

As part of its ongoing Policy Manual review, the Board of Education reviews proposed policy revisions, proposed policy deletions, and proposed new policies from the Administrative Board Policy Group. The Group is comprised of Board President **Robert LeFevre**, Board Vice President **Anna Klimkowicz**, Associate Superintendent **Lisa Small**, Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**. Proposed policy revisions also are reviewed by legal counsel.

On August 1, 2018, Governor Rauner signed into law HB 4870, otherwise known as Ashley's Law, allowing the use of medical cannabis in Illinois schools with the administration of these products only by a qualified parent or caregiver. The Board of Education approved revisions to the Medical Administration in Schools policy on October 18, 2018.

On August 12, 2019, Governor Pritzker signed into law SB 0455, allowing for the administration of medical cannabis to students by school nurses or administrators, and by student self-administration, effective January 1, 2020. Before school nurses or administrators may administer medical cannabis-infused products, they must complete a training program as outlined by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board of Education conducted its initial review of proposed policy revision [JHCD Medication Administration in Schools](#). 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, February 13, 2020, with closed session beginning at 6:30 p.m. and open session beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.