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Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, November 14, 2019, in the cafeteria at William Fremd High School. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:

- [Special Meeting October 2, 2019](#)
- [Special Meeting October 3, 2019](#)
- [Special Meeting October 7, 2019](#)
- [Special Meeting October 10, 2019](#)
- [Special Meeting October 14, 2019](#)
- [Special Meeting October 15, 2019](#)
- [Regular Meeting October 17, 2019](#)
- [Special Meeting October 24, 2019](#)

2019 School Report Cards

School Report Cards provide information about academic performance and characteristics of students, faculty, instructional resources, and finances at the school, district, and state level. Prepared by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Report Cards contain data received from and about schools at various points throughout the school year. According to Illinois School Code, School Report Cards are to be forwarded to schools from the ISBE annually by October 31 and made available by schools to the public within 30 days. Once the Report Card is issued by the ISBE, no information in the School Report Card can be modified. The ISBE released the 2018-2019 School Report Cards to the public on October 30, 2019.

The Board directed the superintendent post the 2018-2019 School Report Cards to the District and school websites. In addition to the complete online Report Cards, at-a-glance versions (two-page printable PDFs) of School Report Cards also are available on the District and school websites.

Additional information on 2018-2019 School Report Cards is available [here](#), while District 211 and School Report Cards are available [here](#), via the District 211 website.

Fall Curriculum Committee Report 2019-2020

Regular reviews and improvements to the District's curricula formally occur within three yearly Curriculum Committee meetings conducted for each department in District 211. Each committee has 11 members, including the department chair and principal from each school, along with the associate superintendent for instruction. Committees hold meetings focusing on curriculum discussions and items for approval, as needed by department. After recommendation by the committee and superintendent, the core components of the curriculum are presented to the Board of Education for approval.

This fall, the following department chairs were welcomed to their new roles: Palatine High School Guidance Department Chair **Nicole Capalbo**, Fremd High School Guidance Department Chair **Antonette Minniti**, and Schaumburg High School Special Education Department Chair **Dan Lanser**. Also, a pilot initiative supported with Title I funds for Palatine High School was discussed across World Language, English as a Second Language, Mathematics, and Wellness Departments. Palatine High School supports the District's largest number of students with emerging English language skills. Faculty members identified a pattern of students whose literacy needs were beyond only acquiring language skills in English. The PHS English Literacy Center initiative provides English, mathematics, Spanish, and wellness courses for students in a supportive, bilingual environment. Students placed in this program have had access to limited or interrupted educational opportunities prior to enrollment at Palatine High School. The goal of the program is to meet the needs of these students academically and socially as they become accustomed to a consistent, formal school setting. The content of the courses is flexible in terms of students progressing through the standards for students to be accelerated into mainstream courses as soon as possible.

The Board approved the [Fall Curriculum Committee Report](#) and recommendations as presented.

Placement Testing of Incoming Freshmen

The Board received information on this year's incoming freshmen placement testing. On October 19, 2019, placement exams were administered to 2,623 of the anticipated 2,845 incoming freshmen in the high school graduating class of 2024. An additional 130 students attended a make-up test session on October 26, 2019. As a result of both testing sessions, 97% of all anticipated incoming freshmen have completed the assessment, which is used in combination with recommendations from eighth-grade teachers, to determine placement into ninth-grade English, mathematics, and science courses.

Of the 92 students who did not participate in testing, 16 of these students were withheld from testing due to provisions within their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Each high school works individually with remaining students who miss testing sessions to account for the students' academic achievement as a factor influencing ninth-grade core course placement.

The success of the testing program and subsequent placement process is the result of a coordinated effort involving District 211 transportation, student services, and technology services staff, as well as staff at the junior high schools.

Illinois High School Association Letter of Appreciation

The Board of Education received a copy of a [letter of appreciation](#) from Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Assistant Executive Director Susan Knoblauch, expressing thanks to Conant, Fremd, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, and Schaumburg High Schools' principals, athletic departments, and tennis coaches for hosting the 2019 IHSA Girls Tennis State Tournament.

Proposed Policy and Policy Revisions

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**.

After initial review at the September 19, 2019 meeting, followed by additional review at an October 10, 2019 special meeting and the October 17, 2019 regular meeting, the Board of Education approved proposed policy [JAA Equal Educational Opportunities](#), and directed the superintendent to make appropriate distribution.

The Board also approved proposed policy revisions for Board policy files [BDDH/KD Public Participation at Board Meetings](#) and [BDDDB Agenda Format](#). The Board initially reviewed proposed revisions to both of these policies at its October 17, 2019 meeting.

2019 Proposed Tax Levy and Truth in Taxation Resolution

The levy and extension process is set in state statute (35 ILCS 200/18) and outlines the specific purposes for which taxes can be levied and limitations on the

amount that taxing districts may levy. The major limitation placed on a taxing district's ability to raise revenue through property taxation is commonly referred to as the "Tax Cap." The Tax Cap (the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law) is intended to limit a taxing district's total operating fund levy amount to the increase in the Consumer Price Index, plus the addition of new property growth. The Cook County Clerk is responsible for applying tax caps to taxing districts in Cook County.

For the 2019 levy, the Tax Cap law will allow an increase of CPI-U (Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers) of 1.9%, plus the addition new construction, estimated at 1.1%. New construction includes improvements or additions that increased the assessed value of property and the expiration of a 23-year-old Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district during the levy year. The 1.9% rate of CPI-U is the levy limit applied to all properties. New property is an amount that reflects new properties added to the tax roll, and only the property owners of the new property pay taxes on the amount levied for new property. The increase that may be levied by District 211 upon existing properties is restricted to a ceiling amount set by the CPI-U limitation, or 1.9%.

A portion of property taxes remains unpaid each year. In order to comply with the statute and set rates that will provide each taxing district with the amount levied, the Cook County Clerk adds an amount for "loss collection" to the levy amount. This amount includes a 3% loss and cost factor to the District's operating levies and 5% to debt service levies.

The District files its levy each year but does not collect the amount of property taxes that it requests through the levy process. Property tax refunds from current and prior year tax years are lost from the District's current year tax collections annually, and the District is not able to recover this loss of revenue. Over the past three years, District 211 has lost more than \$25 million in property tax refunds, averaging more than \$8 million each year. Most recently, in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, District 211 lost over \$6.7 million in total refunds which were lost from levy revenue for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The District cannot recover this lost revenue.

The 2018 levy included a one-time levy abatement of \$2 million as a result of the District being awarded a Property Tax Relief Grant (PTRG) in the amount of \$1.3 million. Under the conditions of the PTRG, there was a one-year hold harmless provision by which the Cook County Clerk will add the amount of the 2018 levy abatement to the District's levy extension baseline for the purpose of calculating the 2019 levy limitation under PTELL. District 211 has communicated the impact of losing the one-year hold harmless provision to local legislators, proposing legislative relief that would continue the hold harmless provision and would allow the District to provide further relief to the community.

For the 2019 levy, the Tax Cap limit of 1.9%, plus new property (estimated at 1.1%) establishes the limited increase for the Aggregate Operating Extension of Capped Funds levy relative to last year's initial levy extension, prior to the levy abatement. Since the District has no Debt Service levy, the recommended levy amount is \$235.9 million, or a 3.0% increase of the prior year levy amount. Because the legislature has not passed the District's proposal to extend the hold harmless clause, when factoring in last year's approved tax levy abatement of \$2 million, the new levy amount will be a 3.9% increase over the District's final levy extension last year.

Levying the aggregate extension of capped funds at an amount less than the established limit under the Tax Cap law inhibits the District from collecting revenue to support its needs, and further, leads to a loss that will continue to compound year-over-year and will impact student programs. The following variables support the recommendation for a 1.9% + 1.1% new property increase of the aggregate of capped funds:

- the recommended amount supports the expenditure plan for the following year(s) through contractual provisions, anticipated supplies and services, and prioritized facility improvement projects;
- the recommended amount supports the continuation of instructional programs for students;
- the impact of levying less than the allowable amount in these funds has a compounding and permanent effect year-over-year;
- the District's strategic direction to fund necessary capital improvements is through operational fund and annual future savings;
- the District's strategic direction is to remain debt free; and
- the future financial position of the District for future Boards of Education would be compromised.

The recommendation for the 2019 levy is a critical component of preserving the District's long-term financial stability while being able to fund its current level of operations, complete necessary capital improvement and life safety projects, and retain a level of reserves to safeguard against possible unknowns. A change in the 2019 levy recommendation could negatively impact the District's stable financial position and ability to fulfill all of its commitments as defined in the Strategic Plan. Should economic conditions be favorable toward the long-range financial position of the District, the Board can consider a levy abatement in February or March of 2020.

Of the District's existing reserves, sizeable amounts have been committed to funding the remainder of the capital improvement projects outlined in the current five-year and future 10-year capital improvement plan. For the 2020-2021 school year, planned capital improvement projects recommended for funding through reserves include continued renovation of locker rooms and restrooms, as well as replacement of stadium turf and track.

The 2019 levy recommendation is considered for both the upcoming 2020-2021 budget year, as well as for its impact of the District's financial position over a five-year period.

The Truth in Taxation Act requires the Board of Education to determine a proposed levy amount at least 20 days prior to final adoption. If the proposed levy amount of the combined operation funds (excluding the Debt Service levy) exceeds 105% of the amount extended the previous year, then a public hearing must be held prior to levy adoption, although taxing bodies may elect to hold a public hearing for levy amounts less than 105% of the prior year's extension. District 211 has provided, and will continue to provide, a public hearing although not obligated to do so under the Act. The final levy amount must be adopted and filed with the Cook County Clerk before the last Tuesday in December. For 2019, the levy must be filed by December 31.

Based on these requirements, the following levy calendar was been established:

- **November 14, 2019** – Determine amount of proposed 2019 levy at Board of Education meeting. This determination must be made not less than 20 days prior to the levy adoption.
- **November 28, 2019 - December 5, 2019** – Prescribed form of notice of public hearing must be published no more than 14 nor less than seven days prior to the public hearing.
- **December 12, 2019** – Public hearing on proposed levy at scheduled Board of Education meeting.
- **December 31, 2019** – Last day to file 2019 levy with Cook County Clerk.

The Board approved the resolution that sets forth the amount of \$235,932,000 as the proposed 2019 levy for Township High School District 211 and directed publication of a notice of public hearing on the proposed levy at its meeting on December 12, 2019.

Additional information on the 2019 proposed tax levy is available [here](#).

Illinois Association of School Boards Resolutions 2019

After initially reviewing a report with proposed slate of resolutions at its October 17, 2019 meeting, the Board discussed the resolutions again prior to its representative delegate casting a vote on behalf of the Board at the upcoming Delegate Assembly at the annual IASB conference on November 23, 2019.

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Delegate Assembly is the policy-making body of IASB. The Delegate Assembly is comprised of one voting delegate from each member district. High School District 211 Board of Education

Vice President **Anna Klimkowicz** serves as a member of the 2019 Resolutions Committee. At the joint annual conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards/Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials, the Delegate Assembly of IASB will review, discuss, and vote on proposed resolutions submitted by member districts. District 211 Board Member **Steven Rosenblum** will represent District 211 as the voting voice for the Board. The results from the proposed resolutions will guide IASB's position statements and staff in ongoing legislative efforts.

This year, there are 12 proposed new resolutions and five amended position statements.

New Resolutions

1. Student Safety (submitted by Mercer County School District 404)
2. Business Enterprises – Minority Owned (submitted by Champaign Unit School District 4)
3. Student Safety Grant Program (submitted by Wheeling Community Consolidated Unit School District 224)
4. School District Police Force (submitted by Peoria School District 150)
5. Background Checks – Substitute Teachers (submitted by Carrollton Community Unit School District 1)
6. School Safety – Traffic Zones (submitted by Community High School District 99)
7. School Board Elections – Seating of New Board Members (submitted by Blue Ridge Community Unit School District 18)
8. School Board Elections – Swearing In (submitted by Lincoln Elementary School District 156)
9. School Board Elections – Terms (submitted by Peoria School District 150)
10. School Board Member Compensation (submitted by Peoria School District 150)
11. Charter School – Renewal of Charters (submitted by Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50)
12. Charter Schools – At-Risk Students (submitted by Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50)

Amended Position Statements

1. Position Statement 5.05 – Prevailing Wage Act (submitted by West Prairie Community Unit School District 103)
2. Position Statement 1.01 – Educational Programs (submitted by **Township High School District 211**)
3. Position Statement 2.27 – State Authorized Charter School Funding (submitted by Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50)
4. Position Statement 2.04 – Funding Special Education Programs (submitted by Community Consolidated School District 168)
5. Position Statement 20.4 – Funding Special Education Programs (submitted by Grayslake Community High School District 127; co-sponsors: Gavin School

District 37, Lincolnshire-Prairie View District 103, Fox Lake Grade School District 114, Millburn Community Consolidated School District 24, and Deerfield Public School District 109)

Additional information is available [here](#), along with a copy of the [2019 Resolutions Committee Report](#).

Administrative Appointment

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

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Joshua Schumacher** as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, effective July 1, 2020. Since 2016, Mr. Schumacher has served as principal at Hoffman Estates High School. Prior to this, he was a 12-month assistant principal at the school from 2014-2016, serving as activities director and overseeing building and grounds, as well as professional development for staff. Mr. Schumacher was an assistant principal at Hoffman Estates High School with responsibilities in the discipline office from 2011 to 2014. He served as dean of students at the school during the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Schumacher began his teaching career as a biology and physical science teacher at Hoffman Estates High School in 2003. He was the Hawks' boys swimming head coach from 2003-2011 and the girls swimming head coach from 2004-2010. He also was the assistant sponsor for student council from 2005-2011. Mr. Schumacher is a nationally certified teacher through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and also was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education with a "Those Who Excel" award in 2014 as part of the Hoffman Estates High School SOAR Core Committee. Mr. Schumacher earned his bachelor's degree in biological science from Illinois State University, and his master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Olivet Nazarene University. He earned a second master's degree in educational administration from Northern Illinois University, and is currently working on his doctorate in teaching and learning through Illinois State University.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2019, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.

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