

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, July 16, 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 Private First Class **Krystal Vezzetti**, a 2014 Schaumburg High School graduate, who is currently serving in the National Guard. Private Vezzetti led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Progress Toward Meeting District Academic Goals in 2014-2015

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, District 211 established academic goals with yearly targets across multiple indicators covering a five-year span. The five-year District academic goals emphasize accelerating academic achievement for all students with a focus on: 1) student learning and growth; 2) high school standards attainment; 3) high school graduation rate; and 4) college and career readiness.

The Board of Education received a [report](#) and a [presentation](#) was made by District administrators summarizing the measures of progress and data specific to the targets toward achieving District goals. Included in the report were District academic goals for the 2015-2016 school year.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [June 11, 2015](#).

Communications Audit Report

At its January 15, 2015 meeting, the Board of Education authorized a communications audit to be conducted by Unicom-Arc, a company specializing in connections between school districts and communities. The goal of the audit is to determine how strategic communications can best support the District and its mission and serve the District's stakeholders.

The Board was presented a comprehensive report prepared by Unicom-Arc, conveying the findings and recommendations resulting from the audit of the District's communications to students, parents, staff, and the community-at-large. The report provides a separate section for each of the components of the audit: focus group sessions, online survey results, materials and document review and evaluation, and professional analysis of the District's and schools' websites, as well as the District's social media presence and a review of information conveyed relative to the tax levy.

Overall, the communications audit report shows a favorable perception of District 211 communications among stakeholder groups. The report highlights strengths and provides suggestions for better communications, planning, and strategy between the District and its community members.

Additional information on the communications audit report is available [here](#), and a copy of the audit report can be accessed [here](#).

Early Morning Work Sessions

The Board of Education approved 12 early morning work sessions (student late start days) during the 2015-2016 school year that allow staff shared time for professional learning teams to conduct their work towards increasing the number of students meeting Critical Learning Standards (CLS) by changing instructional practices that are focused on closing achievement gaps. The format is a continuation of the format used during the past two school years. Each morning work session will be 75 minutes in length on the following Tuesdays: September 8, 2015; September 22, 2015; October 6, 2015; October 20, 2015; November 3, 2015; November 17, 2015; December 8, 2015; February 9, 2016; February 23, 2016; March 8, 2016; April 5, 2016; and April 19, 2016.

Additional information on early morning work sessions is available [here](#).

Community Engagement and Strategic Plan: Request for Proposals

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. Given the varied challenges facing many District 211 students and families, the invaluable benefit of quality educational programming and applied experiences, the District's changing demographics, the nature of current economic conditions, and the positive impact that can result when school districts connect with local businesses, a comprehensive community engagement will provide essential insights, partnerships, and understanding in order to establish and define a strategic plan for the upcoming five-year period. The community engagement and strategic planning sequence will provide an open exchange of information that will serve as a key source to articulate to all constituents and partners (parents, students, staff, local employers, and community members) the following outcomes:

- The vision, mission, priorities, and initiatives that District 211 will strive to accomplish in the coming five years
- A comprehensive plan of financial priorities and indicators aligned with the vision, priorities, and initiatives that will sustain District 211's financial stability, and demonstrate responsible stewardship of the community's resources
- An integrated set of plans and directions within a public statement document that will guide the District's future direction

Additional information on the Requests for Proposals for a community engagement and strategic plan initiative can be found [here](#).

Community School

Over the past several years, the communities within District 211 have seen dramatic shifts in socioeconomics and ethnic/racial diversity. These changes manifest themselves in terms of the student population the District serves. Between 2005-2014, the percentage of Hispanic students within District 211 has increased from 11.1% to 20.7%. During that same time period, the student population qualifying for low-income status has risen from 12.5% to 29.8%. As these demographic shifts occurred, families living within District 211 have been impacted by reductions in State-level supports for physical and mental health services. This collective set of factors has created an unprecedented need for comprehensive community-based supports that help families overcome barriers to leading healthy and productive lives.

Within the northern portion of the District, these needs were responded to by an organization called the Palatine Opportunity Center (POC). Founded in the late 1990s, and through a partnership with Northwest Community Hospital, the POC hosts a variety of service providers who help community members overcome challenges with language, basic health and wellness, and educational and social services.

The barriers facing families in the northern section of the District are also present within the southern portion. Dating back to March 2013, a number of community non-profit organizations, local elected officials, hospitals, and school district representatives began meeting to conceptualize a way to deliver services that could better support a growing population of low-income families and high-need students in Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg.

A needs survey was developed and administered. In total, seven categories were listed on the survey: health care, education, early childhood, learning labs, social services, youth programs, and adult education. Survey results highlighted three categories as being most important in terms of perceived needs: health care (community clinic, nurse, mental health, and wellness prevention), learning labs (computer literacy, job skills seminars, and employment opportunities), and social services (bilingual counseling and social worker services).

During the 2014-2015 school year, plans were solidified for services in the southern portion of the District that paralleled those services in the northern portion. Called the Community School, and located in the new District 211 Higgins Education Center (1030 W. Higgins Road in Hoffman Estates), this program would help families who are directly connected to School Districts 54 and 211 secure needed supports.

Contributing agencies include: Alexian Brothers Healthcare System, Children's Advocacy Center, Community Consolidated School District 54, Harper College, Kenneth Young Center, Northwest Compass, Northwest Suburban United Way, Palatine Opportunity Center, Schaumburg Township, Township High School District 211, Village of Hoffman Estates, Village of Schaumburg, and WINGS.

The Board authorized the superintendent to enter into intergovernmental agreements with these human services agencies and organizations, health care, education, and social services providers that wish to partner with High School District 211 in the Community School within the Higgins Education Center.

Additional information on the Community School is available [here](#).

Comprehensive School Climate Survey

In December 2014, the Board of Education authorized the District to use the Comprehensive School Climate Survey (CSCI) as an alternative to the Illinois State Board of Education mandated 5Essentials Survey to measure the quality of life as it relates to norms and values, interpersonal relationships and social interactions, and organizational processes and structures. These factors can be predictive of students' ability to learn and develop in positive ways. The scientifically developed and researched-based CSCI measures the shared perceptions of the school community among students, school personnel, and parents to reveal the community's perceptions of the school environment.

The CSCI was administered to students, parents, and school personnel between February 11 and March 20, 2015. Survey results and analysis were presented to the Board. The Board authorized the Superintendent to continue use of the Comprehensive School Climate Survey, at a cost up to \$15,650 per year, to survey school climate in District 211 during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years in order to meet the ISBE state mandate.

Additional information, including a summary of survey results and analysis, is available [here](#).

Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization Articles of Agreement for Legal Entity

In August 2009, revisions to Public Acts 96-0769 and 96-0783 were enacted which clarified the structure and authority of special education joint agreements, also known as cooperatives. In December 2009, the Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (N.S.S.E.O.) policy committee began a review of the Articles of Agreement, and in March 2010, revisions reflective of the recommendations of member districts and the committee were approved by the N.S.S.E.O. governing board.

In April 2015, the Illinois State Board of Education issued revised guidance relating to special education cooperative articles of agreement. This revised guidance was intended to assist member districts and cooperatives in determining whether Public Acts 96-0769 and 96-0783, along with recent directives regarding the use of IDEA Part B funds, require amendments to a given cooperative's existing Articles of Agreement. Following receipt of this memorandum, N.S.S.E.O. reviewed this guidance with their legal counsel and has subsequently proposed three minor amendments to the existing Articles of Agreement, specifically Article V – Withdrawal/Dissolution.

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent, for and on behalf of the Board, to take action affirming the proposed changes within the N.S.S.E.O. Articles of Agreement.

Additional information is available [here](#), and a copy of the N.S.S.E.O. Articles of Agreement is available [here](#).

Contractual Agreement for North Cook Young Adult Academy for 2015-2016

In May 1997, pursuant to authorization of the state legislature to develop and implement regional alternative schools for students with severe discipline problems, the District 211 Board of Education approved participation in the North Cook Young Adult Academy (NCYAA). NCYAA is an alternative school program under the Safe Schools Act. It was developed by a consortium of school districts of the North Cook Intermediate Service Center provides academic instruction, drug and alcohol intervention, anger therapy, and vocational and work program experiences for violent and disruptive students who would otherwise be eligible for expulsion and removal from educational services. NCYAA provides a safe and vital component to the District's continuum of services to students who might otherwise have no opportunity to earn credits toward graduation.

The Board of Education approved the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into a contractual agreement between District 211 and the North Cook Intermediate Service Center to allow the transfer of District 211 students with severe discipline problems to the North Cook Young Adult Academy, a regional safe schools program, at a cost of \$310,665.96 for the 2015-2016 academic year. Additional information about NCYAA is available [here](#).

Resolution to Build the Adult Transition Program Facility at Palatine High School

The Adult Transition Program (ATP) provides specific instruction and community-based experiences to help facilitate the independent transition of 18-21 year-old students with cognitive disabilities and other significant transitional needs. Since 2009, District 211 has provided these critical experiences and instruction to this unique student population in programs clustered at Palatine and Hoffman Estates High Schools. Upon the acquisition of the Higgins Education Center, ATP-South at Hoffman Estates High School will be housed at the newly renovated facility.

The current facility housing the ATP-North program at Palatine High School consists of temporary trailers and the upcoming 2015-2016 school year will be the seventh year that the trailers have been deployed to serve these students. A new, free-standing 4,000 square foot facility has been proposed for the ATP-North program on the grounds of Palatine High School. The plan for the proposed ATP-North facility would closely mirror the facility that will be provided at the Higgins Education Center and will provide improved accommodations and will better serve the students in the program for many more years than the existing facility could have provided.

For many years, District 211 has supported a vocational pathway in the arena of building trades and construction. Students in the program build homes expressly for the purpose of providing vocational training experiences. The District recently sold two student-built homes on its property, resulting in proceeds of approximately \$800,000.

The Board of Education approved a resolution to use the proceeds from the sale of the two recently sold student-built homes to fund the construction of the ATP-North facility on the grounds of Palatine High School. An added mutual benefit of the proposal is that the ATP-North facility will be built by the students in the Palatine High School building and construction program.

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

Proposed Policy Revisions/Deletions

As part of its ongoing Policy Manual review, the Board of Education reviews proposed policy revisions, policy deletions, and proposed new policies from the Administrative Board Policy Group. The Group is comprised of Board Vice President **Mucia Burke**, Board Member **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: [IFA Local Wellness Policy](#), [GCAB/CDEH Department Chair](#), and [GEK School Nurse Work Schedule](#). The Board also initially reviewed proposed deletions to Board policy files: [EH Data Management](#), [GBQ Roster of Personnel](#), [GCABA Qualifications for Department Chair](#), and [GHCA Posting of Custodian/Maintenance Vacancies](#). No action was taken at the meeting.

2015-2016 Education Research Development/Legislative Renewal

The Board of Education approved renewal of its membership in ED-RED for the 2015-2016 school year at a fee of \$5,000. Education Research Development (ED-RED) was formed in 1971 as a high school district advocacy organization. ED-RED now serves elementary districts, high school districts, special education cooperatives, and the Intermediate Service Centers. ED-RED has established a dues structure for high school and elementary districts. Elementary districts will be assessed based on student population, and high school districts will be assessed a fixed amount, regardless of student enrollment. Last year, District 211 paid \$4,643.75 for its ED-RED membership.

National School Boards Association National Connection Fees

The Board of Education approved the National Connection fees of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) for a period of one year, beginning October 1, 2015, at a cost of \$5,335. There is no increase in fees from the previous year. District 211 has been a member of NSBA since 1971.

NSBA's National Connection is a partnership of state school boards associations and NSBA, and it offers benefits that will keep school administrators and school board members informed of national education issues. A list of additional benefits for NSBA members is available [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2015, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.