

## Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, July 18, 2019, in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

### Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized three High School District 211 students who were named 2018-2019 Golden Apple Scholars by the Golden Apple Foundation: **Madison Aykroid** and **Laura Vesco** from James B. Conant High School; and **Jessica Streepy** from Palatine High School. Each of these students are interested in entering the teaching profession. In return for the extensive professional, personal, and financial support Golden Apple Scholars receive, they must attend an Illinois college or university that participates in the program, and agree to teach for five years in an Illinois school of need upon graduation. These students truly represent the “best and brightest young men and women in Illinois.”

Recent Hoffman Estates High School graduate **Stefan Knappik** was recognized by the Board for his quick actions in lending support in a life-saving situation, following an automobile accident he witnessed on his way home from the school prom in late May.

### Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [June 20, 2019](#).

### Student Accident Insurance for 2019-2020

As a service to parents who wish to supplement their medical insurance coverage, District 211 provides access to student accident insurance. Under the terms of the student insurance program, parents and students are given the option to purchase accident insurance at a reasonable cost. The District makes information available to parents through mailings and the District website, but is not involved in the administration of the program.

District 211 sought proposals from four providers, with Zevitz-Redfield & Associates, Inc. providing the best proposal with the lowest costs and greatest level of coverage. Zevitz-Redfield & Associates markets student accident

insurance for Gerber Insurance Company and has provided student accident insurance for District 211 for the past 18 years.

The Board of Education approved the distribution of student accident insurance information and forms prepared by Zevitz-Redfield & Associates, Inc. and Gerber Insurance Company.

Additional information on student accident insurance is available [here](#).

## **5Essentials School Climate Survey**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) requires school districts to administer an annual school climate survey soliciting input and feedback from teachers, students, and parents. For the past two years, the ISBE has directed school districts to utilize the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, conducted by the University of Chicago and designed to drive school improvement initiatives, to meet this requirement.

The 2018-2019 Illinois 5Essentials Survey was administered from December 15, 2018 through March 15, 2019, and District 211 achieved an overall 97% response rate on the climate survey. Additionally, 23% of the District's parents completed the survey. Comprehensive reports detailing each school's survey outcomes were released to the public on June 30, 2019. Each school's full report can only be viewed online at <https://www.5-essentials.org/illinois/5e/2019/>.

The Board of Education received [summary information](#) on the 5Essentials School Climate Survey, including each school's overall performance rating and performance labels, as well as areas of strength, areas of growth, and areas for future growth.

Parent input was not reflected in the official survey reports that populate the annual school report card. Rather, parent input helps school leaders understand parental perceptions of the school. Two notable points from the 5Essentials Survey is that 91% of parents are satisfied with the education their child is receiving, and approximately three quarters of all parents feel that teachers do their best to help students learn and have children's best interest in mind.

Additional review of the 5Essentials Survey results will be conducted by schools using groups such as the principal's parent advisory board and the principal's student advisory board to help consider ways to best meet the needs of school communities. Schools will use survey data to create meaningful efforts designed to improve the quality of school climate for all students, parents, and school staff.

## **Graduation Dates for the Class of 2020**

In order to allow parents and families time to plan, graduation dates for the Class of 2020 were presented to the Board.

Class of 2020

Hoffman Estates High School ..... *Thursday, May 14, 2020*  
*6:00 p.m., at Willow Creek Auditorium*

Combined Ceremonies ..... *Thursday, May 14, 2020*  
*7:00 p.m., at Hoffman Estates High School*  
*(Alternative High School, District 211 Academy-South, District 211 North Campus)*

Palatine High School..... *Sunday, May 17, 2020*  
*2:00 p.m., at Palatine High School*

James B. Conant High School ..... *Monday, May 18, 2020*  
*7:30 p.m., at Sears Centre*

William Fremd High School..... *Tuesday, May 19, 2020*  
*7:30 p.m., at Sears Centre*

Schaumburg High School ..... *Wednesday, May 20, 2020*  
*7:30 p.m., at Sears Centre*

**Parent Open House Date**

The Board of Education received information on the Parent Open House date and times for District 211 schools. Open Houses will be held on Thursday, August 29, 2019, at the following times:

- District 211 North Campus: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Higgins Education Center: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- James B. Conant High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- William Fremd High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Hoffman Estates High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Palatine High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Schaumburg High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Clarification Regarding Closed Session Discussion of Pending Litigation for Property Sale**

The Board of Education provided [information](#) clarifying its closed session discussion of pending litigation for the sale of its 62 acres of property located at East Wise Road and South Summit Drive in Schaumburg.

### **Community Connections Newsletter – Strategic Plan Update**

The 13th edition of [Community Connections](#), a quarterly newsletter designed to provide additional information about High School District 211 to the communities served, was distributed in mid-July. As communicated in the 2016 Strategic Plan, the District places a priority on providing updates to the community about programs and events taking place within the District. The 13th edition of Community Connections featured the following articles: *Summer School allows students to expand school community; District 211 Food & Nutrition Services provides thousands of summer meals; Summer internships provide students great work experience; School safety and main entrance security; District 211 continues transportation upgrades; Business degree in three; Year-end financial position summary; Update: 62-acre sale approved by Board.*

*Community Connections* is emailed to District 211 parents, students, and staff, as well as community members who have provided their contact information. All 13 editions of the newsletter are [available on the District website](#).

### **Superintendent Search Process**

Upon the pending retirement of the current District 211 superintendent, effective June 2020, the Board of Education considered initial information from two superintendent search firms. Following review and discussion of information presented at its June 20, 2019 meeting, the Board requested that the superintendent work directly with the search firm of *School Exec Connect* to prepare a contract between the two parties.

Representatives from *School Exec Connect* presented a proposed sequence and framework for the superintendent search that included focus groups and a public survey as a means to create a profile of the characteristics sought in the next superintendent. Following the discussion, the Board approved engaging the superintendent search firm *School Exec Connect* at a cost not to exceed \$17,900, plus expenses.

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

### **2019-2021 Student Building Construction Program**

High School District 211 has offered an academic Building Construction program

for its students for more than three decades that has provided students with the foundational skills necessary to enter an area of architecture, construction, or building trades post-graduation. Since 2001, the program has served nine communities through the development and sale of more than 40 homes. The District is dedicated to the pursuit of college and career pathways for its students. The Building Construction Program is an integral part of the Architectural and Construction Pathway and can be paired with the instructional opportunities offered through several of the technical dual credit or District academic courses to best prepare students for their future.

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, the District's CAD classes have been engaged in competitions to design homes for the 2015-2017, 2017-2019, and 2019-2021 projects. Starting with the 2019-2021 projects, students in interior design classes in the Family & Consumer Science department will play a role in the design aspects of the newly constructed homes.

In support of the program, the District has purchased lots as potential sites for homes to be constructed in local and surrounding communities over the past several years. The Board of Education approved construction of houses during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years on two District-owned lots. Further, the following amounts are budgeted for these projects over the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal years: construction costs for Palatine and Fremd High Schools in the amount of \$500,000, plus an established contingency and consulting service fund of \$40,000; and construction costs for Hoffman Estates, Conant, and Schaumburg High Schools in the amount of \$500,000, plus an established contingency and consulting service fund of \$40,000.

Additional information is available [here](#).

## **Intervention on Property Tax Objection Complaints**

Taxpayers are entitled to review their annual property tax assessment with the county assessor and file a complaint before the Board of Review for a formal statutory review. The Board of Review is a public body given statutory authority to review and make revisions to the assessments of parcels by increasing or decreasing the assessment. Currently, there are two options available for property tax owners who disagree with the Board of Review's decision: appeal in writing to the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) that will determine the correct assessment based on equity and the weight of evidence; and appeal directly to the Cook County Circuit Court by filing a tax objection complaint (TOC), providing clear and convincing evidence.

Adjustments to property tax assessments by the Assessor and Board of Review occur prior to the calculation of tax rates and result in a redistribution of the total tax collection. This process results in properties paying an accurate amount of

property taxes and local taxing bodies receiving the property taxes levied. Property assessments adjusted by PTAB and through TOCs after tax bills are calculated result in a loss of revenue for taxing bodies. Successful property tax appeals are typically awarded several tax years in arrears and result in an unpredictable loss of revenue to taxing bodies. Over the past 20-plus years, District 211 has taken a proactive approach to intervene in cases in order to preserve revenues for its operations.

Property tax refunds can have a significant impact on a taxing body when revenue received in prior years is refunded out of current year collections. Since the 2010-2011 fiscal year, District 211 has averaged \$6.2 million per year in total property tax refunds. The volume of refunds over the past three years has averaged significantly higher, totaling \$7.8 million per year, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, the District received notice of \$6.8 million in total real estate refunds. These refunds are comprised of numerous categories of adjustments issued by the County, with the primary sources being refunds issued through PTAB, TOC, and certificates of error. These three areas of refunds equate to approximately three quarters of the District's total refunds.

Since the 1998 tax year, the District 211 Board of Education has approved 967 resolutions authorizing intervention proceedings before the State Property Tax Appeal Board for commercial and industrial property owners seeking assessed valuation reductions in excess of \$100,000. During this period, as a result of PTAB interventions, the District has averted \$20.2 million in potential losses, representing the difference between the potential refund payable and the actual settlement assessment for the property less the cost of intervention fees. Of the 967 interventions, in 116 of the cases, appellants withdrew their appeal based on the District's intervention.

In the past several years, an increased volume of tax objection complaints have been recorded in Cook County, particularly from larger property owners. These TOCs are considered lawsuits in the Circuit Court of Cook County, as opposed to filing with PTAB.

The State's Attorney Office handles the entire caseload for the Cook County Treasurer, and there are not separate attorneys on behalf of individual taxing districts. Only over the past 10 years have taxing bodies been permitted to intervene in TOCs, even though these cases have historically been the largest source of refunds of property taxes.

The Board authorized the law firm of Franczek P.C. to represent District 211 in all Tax Objection Complaint proceedings in Cook County Circuit Court as directed and overseen by the superintendent or his designee. Costs associated with TOC intervention will include court costs, legal services, and independent appraisal services as needed.

Additional information is available [here](#).

### **Illinois Association of School Boards Annual Membership – 2019-2020**

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) provides services for its membership such as policy services, in-district and regional workshops, the IASB website, FAQs and guidelines on open meetings, lobbying and consultations with staff, materials to assist new board members, reduced fee-for-service programs, and the annual conference. In addition, division meetings provide opportunities for professional development, networking, peer recognition, and participation in association governance. Currently, 846 school districts (99% participation rate) are members of the IASB.

The Board of Education approved renewal of its membership in IASB for 2019-2020 and authorized the Superintendent to pay the annual dues of \$23,274. Membership dues are based on three variables: Base Charge + (Weighted Factor x Operating Expense). The base charge and weighted factor are dependent on the District's enrollment. Membership dues for IASB for 2018-2019 were \$22,274.

### **2019-2020 Education Research Development/Legislative Renewal**

Education Research Development (ED-RED) was formed in 1971 as a suburban high school advocacy organization. Over the years, ED-RED has evolved and developed into a strong and united voice that advocates for the particular needs of suburban school districts, including high school districts, elementary districts, special education cooperatives, and intermediate service centers.

ED-RED's goals are to research, develop, and initiate legislation that is advantageous to member districts; to actively advocate for or against legislation affecting member districts; to engage school districts in the legislative process; to communicate proactively with member districts; and to develop and nurture collaborative relationships with state agencies, advocacy groups, state legislators and legislative staffs, and other organizations to accomplish mutual objectives.

The Board of Education approved renewal of its membership in ED-RED for 2019-2020 at a fee of \$5,000. ED-RED has established a dues structure for elementary and high school districts. Elementary districts are assessed on a student population, while high school districts are assessed a fixed amount, regardless of student enrollment. District 211's membership fee has been \$5000 each year since the 2015-2016 school year.

### **National School Boards Association National Connection Fees**

The Board of Education approved the National Connection fees of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) for the period of one year, beginning October 1, 2019, through December 31, 2020, at a cost of \$6,668.75. The NSBA is moving the billing cycle to January, beginning with this renewal. Last year's cost for the 12-month period was \$5,335; however, there is no increase in the monthly cost from last 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 15, 2019, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.