

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, September 19, 2019, in the cafeteria at Palatine High School. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Public Hearing and Adoption of 2019-2020 Budget

Following a public hearing to listen to comments on the tentative 2019-2020 budget, the Board of Education formally adopted the budget as presented.

A copy of the 2019-2020 Budget is available [here](#). Additional information on the 2019-2020 Budget can be found [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [August 15, 2019](#).

Report on New Professional Staff

The Board of Education received a report on professional staff new to District 211 for the 2019-2020 school year. There were 55 new professional staff hired this year; 33 full-time and 22 part-time employees. The new staff includes 37 women and 18 men, with 30 holding bachelor's degrees and 25 holding master's degrees. Thirty-three of the 55 new staff members are beginners, and overall, new hires average 1.46 years of experience. Below is a listing of new staff by school:

New Staff by School

Palatine High School – 13
Conant High School – 11
Schaumburg High School – 9
Hoffman Estates High School – 9
Fremd High School – 8
Higgins Education Center – 3
North Campus – 2

The total certificated staff for the 2019-2020 school year numbers 987, with 920 full-time positions, 38 part-time positions, and 29 reduced-load faculty. Of the 987 staff, 822 are teachers, 105 are social workers/psychologists/speech pathologists/counselors/interns, 10 are media/technology, and 50 are administrators.

Sixth-Day Enrollment

The official enrollment on the sixth day (August 19) of the 2019-2020 school year was 11,689 at the District's five high schools. Enrollment including District 211 North Campus, Higgins Education Center, and off-campus special education placement was 12,010.

Below is a breakdown of each school's enrollment on the sixth day of classes this year:

6th-Day Enrollment Figures

Palatine High School – 2,642
Fremd High School – 2,595
Conant High School – 2,352
Schaumburg High School – 2,143
Hoffman Estates High School – 1,957
Higgins Education Center – 128
District 211 North Campus – 61
NSSEO Kirk – 75
Hersey – 0
Private Facilities – 57
Ombudsman* – 12*
District 211 Total – 12,010

**- accounted for in individual high school enrollments*

Class Size Committee Report

The Board of Education received the [Class Size Committee Report](#).

Salary Compensation Report

Illinois School Code requires the annual reporting and posting of administrator and teacher salaries. School districts also are required to report administrator and teacher salaries and benefits to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). This information includes: name, position, salary, full-time equivalency, vacation days, sick days, personal days, bonuses, annuities, retirement enhancements, and other benefits. Salary information reported includes all payments for duties performed during the school year.

In accordance with Public Act 97-0256, this information must be reported to ISBE by October 1 each year, complementing other financial deadlines and allowing for the reporting of actual salary and benefit information from the prior school year. The salary

and benefit data that must be reported to the ISBE reflects the actual salary and benefits provided to all certificated staff for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

The District 211 [Salary Compensation Report](#) will be sent to ISBE and posted on the District website by October 1, 2019.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Report

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a financial mechanism widely used by municipalities and counties to promote economic development and redevelopment. The use of TIF is intended to generate economic development activity that would not have occurred “but for” the incentives offered. In property tax TIF districts, the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of the properties within the TIF district at the time of creation is established as a baseline, or “frozen” EAV. Tax revenues in each subsequent year that are paid by the businesses in the TIF district are paid as usual to Cook County. However, the distribution of the property taxes paid is split between the taxing body (the District) and the municipality. The District receives property taxes in the amount of the frozen EAV times the tax rate. The amount of property taxes from the incremental growth in EAV over the frozen amount go directly to the municipality and are used to pay for redevelopment costs. Once the redevelopment project is completed and has been paid, the TIF district is dissolved and the increment EAV is added to the tax base accessible to all eligible taxing districts. In Illinois, TIF districts are authorized for a period of up to 23 years, with the possibility of renewal for an additional 12 years.

The Board of Education received a report on [Tax Increment Financing](#) that included information on the 12 active TIF districts within High School District 211’s boundaries.

Superintendent Search Update

At its meeting on June 20, 2019, the Board of Education established a contract with the search firm School Exec Connect to conduct a comprehensive search for the next District 211 superintendent.

In the weeks following, representatives from School Exec Connect conducted a variety of actions to identify qualified candidates for the Board’s consideration. The firm provided a survey and collected 300 responses to identify traits and characteristics desired by students, parents, staff, and community members for the next superintendent. The firm conducted 12 focus group discussions to gather similar input. From this information, the search firm created a leadership profile describing assets sought in the next leader, and serves as the means by which to review applications and refine the list of potential candidates.

The search firm has conducted in-person interviews with a narrowed list of candidates and will present a slate of six potential candidates to the Board in closed session at the meeting. The Board will consider information about each candidate and determine the number of individuals to be interviewed.

Potential dates for the Board to conduct a special closed session meeting for the purpose of interviewing candidates include: October 2, October 7, October 10, October 14, and October 15.

The Board next regularly scheduled meeting is October 17. At the outset of the process, the original schedule projected a target date of October 24 for a special Board meeting for the purpose of announcing the next superintendent, but this date may change at the discretion of the Board.

Proposed New 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**, Associate Superintendent **Mark Kovack**, Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**.

The Board conducted its first review of proposed new policy [JAA Equal Educational Opportunities](#). The policy will be discussed at a special Board meeting on October 10, 2019, and reviewed again by the Board at its regular meeting on October 17, 2019. No vote will be taken on the policy until a later date.

The Board also initially reviewed a proposed revision to Board policy file: [IKE Graduation Requirements](#). No action was taken at the meeting.

Response to Request for Information: Solar Energy Proposal

The Board of Education's Strategic Plan prioritizes development of energy efficiencies throughout the District as a component of its long-term facility improvement plan. Each year, the District identifies areas of greater efficiency in its facilities and implements them through replacement of equipment, upgrades to LED lighting, building automation system controls, operational practices, and through the use of alternative energy sources.

The Higgins Education Center was completely renovated and opened in 2015 as the site for Academy-South, Adult Transitions Program-South, and New Endeavors Program. During the renovation, the 26,000-square foot building was outfitted with LED light fixtures and building automation controls. In an effort to continue evaluating

efficiency for the building, the District conducted a request for information for the additional of solar panels on the roof.

Proposals were received from three companies, and the Board authorized the installation of a solar energy system at the Higgins Education Center by GRNE Solar in the amount of \$50,000. In addition, the District will apply for applicable solar energy renewable credits and ComEd rebates.

Additional information on the solar energy proposal is available [here](#).

Resolution: Transactions Involving Treasury Securities

Prior to June 1998, all matters of treasury for High School District 211 and Schaumburg School District 54 were handled by the Schaumburg Township Board of School Trustees. This Board was dissolved by voter election in 1998, and all assets of the Board transferred to the two districts as appropriate. Since then, District 211 has handled its own matters of treasury through the District's business office.

Recently, past treasurer of the Schaumburg Township Board of School Trustees was contacted about a U.S. Treasury Security in the amount of \$3,500 in the name of the Board was located as unclaimed property. In order to recover this investment, District 211 must show evidence of the dissolution of the Board and grant authority to an appropriate party to act on its behalf.

The Board of Education approved a resolution authorizing District 211 Controller & Treasurer Barbara Peterson to act in all transactions relating to US Treasury Securities held in the name of Township High School District 211 and/or in the name of Schaumburg Township Board of School Trustees. After filing the appropriate paperwork, the District expects to recover the funds in approximately 60 days. Additional information, as well as a copy of the resolution, is available [here](#).

2019 Tax Levy Introduction

The Board of Education received tax levy information, as well as the 2019 Tax Levy Calendar. For the 2019-2020 school year, property tax revenues will comprise over 84% of District 211's total revenue.

Each year, Cook County taxing agencies, including District 211, prepare a tax levy. All Cook County taxing districts operate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), commonly referred to as the "Tax Cap." The Tax Cap limits the rate at which a taxing body may increase its levy from the prior year's levy amount. The limitation at which this portion of the total levy may increase is established by the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) from the previous calendar year, plus any increases in new property growth for the current calendar year. The Tax Cap does not establish a

limit or a cap on the amount by which an individual property owner's tax obligations may change.

A school district may also levy for debt repayment as calculated and approved at the time of bond issuance. School districts subject to PTELL are limited on their debt service levy extension amount, and it is referred to as the debt service extension base. This was set in 1994 for all tax-capped school districts and increases by the lesser of CPI-U or 5% annually. For District 211, the current debt service extension base is approximately \$14 million, which is the maximum that the District may levy annually for debt repayment. District 211 is currently operating debt free, and does not plan to file for a debt service levy.

The total tax levy is comprised of two parts: 1) the aggregate extension of the tax capped funds, and 2) the extension of the non-capped debt service fund. The aggregate extension is the levy for all funds subject to PTELL, and includes the Educational, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund and Social Security, Working Cash, and Life/Safety Funds.

The CPI-U rate of 1.9% determined by the federal government as of December 2018 will be used in conjunction with the increase in new property as the limiting amount for the current, 2019 aggregate levy extension. Therefore, the combined levy increase for the Educational, Operations & Maintenance, Illinois Municipal Retirements and Social Security, Working Cash, Transportation, and Life/Safety Funds for the 2019 levy may not exceed 1.9%, plus any new property growth over the prior year's levy amount.

New property growth for the 2019 levy will be generated by two main components – new property development within District boundaries and expiration of the Dundee Road Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district that was established in 1995. It is anticipated that for the 2019 levy, the District will be eligible to receive new property growth of close to 1%, comprised of 0.4% from new property development and the remaining 0.6% from the expiration of the TIF. It is important to note that if District 211 does not levy for new property development in the year in which the new property is added to the tax rolls, the District is not eligible to capture this added growth of revenue at any point in the future.

For the upcoming levy cycle, the 2019 levy will be receipted by District 211 in calendar year 2020, which will span two budget years. The first installment of tax revenue will be receipted in the spring of the current 2019-2020 budget year (recorded as early taxes in the budget) and the second installment receipted in the fall of the following 2020-2021 budget year (recorded as current taxes in the budget). Because taxing districts do not file their 2019 levy until December 2019, Cook County taxes property owners at 55% of the 2018 levy amount on their first installment tax bills in February 2020. Second installment tax bills in fall 2020 are then adjusted to reflect the actual 2019 levy amount filed by each taxing body. Therefore, the 2019 levy amount will impact the 2020-2021 annual budget.

It is difficult to predict the impact that a taxing body's levy will have on an individual property tax bill. There are several key components that determine how property taxes are calculated in Cook County:

1. the individual property value as determined by the County Assessor's office;
2. an equalization factor that is generated by the Illinois Department of Revenue to bring values in Cook County in line with those across the remainder of the state;
3. the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV), or sum of all equalized assessed property values within the taxing district's boundaries;
4. the actual levy amount filed by each taxing district; and
5. exemptions

Of these components, only the levy amount is controlled by each individual taxing body. All other factors are relative of property assessments for individual properties and the collective amount for the area and equalization rates established by Cook County. As these values change, individual property tax bills are impacted, and often produce disproportionate increases that are not reflective of the limited increase that a taxing body may levy. If all factors were to remain constant, tax bills would only increase at the weighted average rate that taxing bodies increase their levy amounts.

Cook County has a triennial reassessment cycle that reassesses property values every third year. Re-assessments for commercial, residential, and industrial properties include the appraisal and re-determined market values for properties. The triennial assessment year for the North Cook County area is 2019. During the reassessment year, the Cook County Assessor's office reassesses the value of properties in a similar geographic area. Changes in the assessed valuation (property values) as a result of the reassessment process affected the calculation of individual property tax bills that were distributed in 2019, and will again be used in calculating property tax bills distributed in 2020.

Despite varying levels of change in property owners' tax obligations, District 211 will continue to be limited to an aggregate extension that does not exceed the sum of 1.9% CPI-U, plus new property growth.

It is very difficult to predict whether the tax bill for an individual Cook County property owner will increase or decrease in any given year due to the complex interactions of many moving parts in the county's property tax system. District 211's influence on a tax bill is limited to the levy filed with Cook County, and the maximum increase to any individual taxpayer attributable to District 211 is the amount of CPI-U, or 1.9%, and any increase above this amount is due to factors not controlled by District 211.

Since the implementation of the Tax Cap in 1994, District 211 has levied based upon considerations of the financial need of instructional programs and operational costs in order to generate sufficient revenue to meet operating costs and support instructional programming. PTELL limits the increase of the aggregate extension to 5% or the percentage of increase in the Consumer Price Index for the previous year, whichever is

lower. The CPI-U for 2018 was 1.9%, so the following restrictions will be in place for the 2019 levy:

- 1.9% limit on the 2019 tax extension over the 2018 amount, plus the 2018 levy abatement (tax cap);
- The prior year equalized assessed valuation (EAV); and
- No levy for non-capped funds.

At the next District Budget and Finance Committee meeting on October 3, 2019, and the next Board of Education meeting on October 17, 2019, additional 2019 levy information will be presented for discussion and consideration. Should the committee seek further information, an additional Budget and Finance Committee meeting will be held on November 6, 2019, to further review the 2019 levy. The Board will be presented with a proposed levy amount at its November 14, 2019 meeting.

Additional tax levy information, including the 2019 Tax Levy Calendar, is available [here](#).

AT&T Settlement and Release Agreement

Early in 2018, High School District 211 and AT&T negotiated a new contract for services that included an increase in circuit capacity and pricing based on the bandwidth used rather than a fixed dollar amount per month. The savings to the District is substantial, estimated at \$150,000 per year, depending on the actual utilization. The contract effective date was July 1, 2018. Unfortunately, AT&T was unable to activate the new circuit until February 2019 and continued to bill the District under the terms of the old contract. In December 2018, AT&T agreed that the District would suspend all related payments until the new circuit was in place, and the new circuits were brought online in February 2019.

In order to rectify the billing discrepancy relayed to the delay in execution of the new circuit and the rate adjustment, the Board of Education authorized the superintendent to approve a settlement and release agreement with AT&T in the amount of \$165,000.

Resolution Authorizing the Sale of School District Property Located at 12N475 Berner Drive in Elgin

At its August 15, 2019 meeting, the Board of Education approved a resolution authorizing the sale of real estate by a licensed Realtor, and a motion authorizing Cindy Eich of Remax at Home to continue as the listing agent for the home located at 12N475 Berner Drive in Elgin.

Mrs. Eich will be employed by a new real estate firm, effective in the coming weeks, changing companies from Remax at Home to Baird and Warner. The Board adopted a resolution as presented and engaged Cindy Eich as the listing agent for the sale of the District-owned residential property located at 12N475 Berner Drive in Elgin.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Potential Topics for Future Discussion

The Board requested that the Policy Committee review Board Policy BDDH/KD Public Participation at Board Meetings, and make recommendations for revisions.

Budget & Finance Committee

At its August 15, 2019 meeting, the Board of Education asked for a schedule for upcoming Budget & Finance Committee meetings. Here is the tentative meeting schedule for 2019-2020 (all meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m., and be held at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center):

- Thursday, October 3, 2019 – Topic: 2019 Levy and IMRF
- Wednesday, November 6, 2019 – Topic: 2019 Levy
- Thursday, January 9, 2020 – Topic: Student Fees
- Thursday, March 5, 2020 – Topic: Facility Planning/Tentative Budget for Non-Operating Funds
- Thursday, April 9, 2020 – Topic: Financial Projection
- Thursday, June 4, 2020 – Topic: Tentative Budget for Select Operating Funds

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2019, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.