

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, February 11, 2016, 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.

Recognition

The Board of Education recognized William Fremd High School student **Naman Agarwal** who recently earned a 36, the highest possible composite score on the American College Test (ACT) exam. On average, less than one percent of all ACT test takers earns a top score. Since 1998, more than 80 District 211 students have achieved a 36 on the ACT. See the complete list [here](#).

Two Fremd High School students earned perfect scores on their Advanced Placement (AP) exams during the spring 2015 testing. **Jiamin Huang** was one of just 22 students in the country to earn a perfect score on the Macroeconomics AP exam and **Kevin Stevens** was one of just 67 students to earn a perfect score on the Computer Science A AP exam. Furthermore, they were among an elite group of only 322 students to earn every possible point on an AP exam. The Board recognized both students for their achievements.

The Board recognized three students who were named to the *Daily Herald* Leadership Team for 2015-2016: **Karly Grapenthin** from Palatine High School, **Ashley Prabakar** from Hoffman Estates High School, and **Nicole Ricken** from Fremd High School. This honor recognizes students who are among the top in leadership through their involvement in school, church, and community organizations.

The Board of Education recognized local businesses that partner with District 211 to provide worksites for students with special needs. Through these partnerships, the District is able to provide students with true-to-life work experiences that help prepare students for their lives after high school. The following businesses received Board recognition:

- Alfred Campanelli YMCA
- Buehler YMCA
- Barnes & Noble
- Countryside Association
- Friendship Village of Schaumburg

- GFS Marketplace of Palatine
- GFS Marketplace of Schaumburg
- Good Shepherd Health & Fitness Center
- Harper College – Food Service Training Program
- Holiday Inn Express of Chicago-Schaumburg
- HomeGoods of Schaumburg
- HomeGoods of Palatine
- IKEA
- Lifetime Fitness
- Nordstrom Rack
- Partners for Our Communities
- Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center
- Richelieu Hardware
- Rosewood Care Center
- Savers
- Subway
- T.J. Maxx of Palatine
- T.J. Maxx of Hoffman Estates
- Underground Autosports
- Willow Creek Care Center

Presentation: Special Education Transition Planning

Special education is highly governed by federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and State regulations. In accordance with mandates under these rules, beginning at age 14-1/2, all students eligible for special education services are required to have a formal transition plan developed as part of their individualized education program (IEP). The transition plan's purpose is to prepare students for life after high school through the development of goals addressing the areas of post-secondary education and/or training, post-secondary employment, and independent living.

As a result of integrated transition planning processes, effective programming, and collaborative partnerships developed to support students, many District 211 students have access to opportunities and experiences that produce meaningful employment and increase their personal independence. The Board viewed a presentation by Associate Superintendent **Mark Kovack**, Director of Special Education **Renée Erickson**, Adult Transitions Program Teacher **Denise Lampen**, and New Endeavor Program Teacher **Rebecca Macatangay**. The presentation described some of the job-training experiences provided to District 211 students.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [January 21, 2016](#).

Acceptance of District 211 Foundation Donation: Coleman Foundation

The District 211 Foundation received a contribution in the amount of \$100,000 with an additional \$65,000 forthcoming in April 2016 from the Coleman Foundation for purchases related to the Business Incubator course. The Coleman Foundation is a private, independent grant-making foundation in Illinois, supporting educational institutions offering entrepreneurship education; organizations providing cancer treatment, education, and support; and agencies providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities in the Chicago area.

The Board formally accepted the donation of \$165,000 from the District 211 Foundation to assist with the implementation of the Business Incubator course. The funding from the Coleman Foundation is designated to support the purchase of classroom furniture, inspirational signage, glass boards, and high-performance dry-erase paint for Incubator classrooms in all five District 211 high schools.

D211 Cares Campaign Report

For over 30 years, High School District 211 employees have participated in an annual charity drive in the fall, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars and helping support countless charitable organizations. In recent years, Combined Charities has been a useful resource for the District's annual giving campaign.

This past November, the District again offered a chance for individual employees to contribute, but utilized a different process. Over the past several years, the majority of District 211 employee pledges and contributions have been for local causes. Based on this trend, this school year District 211 collected and distributed employee donations, with each employee's entire donation going directly to their chosen cause.

This year, High School District 211 employees contributed \$15,885 to the 2015-2016 "D211 Cares" campaign. The top local charitable causes selected by District 211 employees included: *Cougars in Need*, *Hawk's Nest*, *Palatine Family Crisis Fund*, *Ray Mills Fund*, *Saxon Magic Closet*, *Victor Viking Fund*, *District 211 Foundation*, *Excel Beyond 211*, *Partners for Our Communities (POC)*, and *Illinois Special Olympics*.

Community Engagement Update

The Community Engagement Facilitating Team, comprised of 18 community members, two students, two Board of Education members, and five District representatives, has successfully completed the first round of Community Engagement sessions. These sessions were held on Monday, February 1 and Tuesday, February 2 at Fremd High School and Schaumburg High School, respectively. The topic of both sessions focused on the State of the District. Both Community Engagement sessions included the same information and provided opportunities for engagement by all who were present. Attendance at the first two sessions totaled over 350 community members, business owners, and students.

Superintendent Dr. Cates provided an overview of the District's enrollment and trends in student characteristics, the District's comprehensive programming, and a summary of the District's operations and finances for those community members in attendance at the sessions.

After the presentation, community members participated in small group discussion activities with other members at individual tables. The discussion activities included sharing ideas about the successes of District 211, information in the presentation that may have been a surprise, and what concerns individuals had. The second activity asked group members to provide information to describe "What Should a District 211 Graduate Look Like in 2021." The final group activity of the evening gave community members an opportunity to raise questions, issues, and topics for the next three Community Engagement sessions.

At the conclusion of the group activities, spokespersons for each table reported key ideas. All the information and responses generated at each community engagement session will be summarized and provided on the District's Community Engagement website (<http://adc.d211.org/communityengagement>). A verbatim summary of the reports generated by community members at each table at the engagement sessions will be compiled and presented to the Board of Education upon completion of the Community Engagement.

Six more Community Engagement sessions will be held in March, April, and May. Two meetings will be conducted each month, both with the same topic and the same information presentation, along with the same opportunities available for engagement. The schedule is as follows:

- *March 14 at Palatine High School, Topic: Academic Programming*
- *March 15 at Conant High School, Topic: Academic Programming*
- *April 4 at Hoffman Estates High School, Topic: Student Involvement & Wellness*
- *April 5 at Palatine High School, Topic: Student Involvement & Wellness*
- *May 1 at Conant High School, Topic: Finances & Facilities*
- *May 2 at Fremd High School, Topic: Finances & Facilities*

Board of Education Self-Evaluation Agreements

Responsible for governing the school district, the Board of Education works on behalf of the entire community as one entity, with clarity of purpose and a clear direction. The Board operates as a single entity responsible for its governance and processes while refusing to surrender to special interest or partisan political groups.

On April 30 and July 16, 2015, and on January 5, 2016, the Board and the Superintendent met with a representative from the Illinois School Board Association (IASB) for the purpose of self-evaluation and to discuss governance practices of the Board of Education. From these discussions, the Board and Superintendent compiled a list of agreements and expectations by which to work together in order to conduct the work of the Township High School District 211 community.

At the meeting, the Board initially reviewed the draft agreements.

Gender-Based Facilities

The Board of Education discussed gender-based facilities. The Board requested that the Board policy liaisons research additional information on policies and best practices used by other school districts in Illinois and other states. This information will be shared with the Board at one of the April 2016 meetings.

Administrative Appointments

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Eric Wenckowski** as director of athletics and activities, effective July 1, 2016. Mr. Wenckowski is currently director of human resources, a position he has held since 2011. Prior to that, Mr. Wenckowski was a 12-month and a 10-month assistant principal at Fremd High School, and also served as the school's dean of students. He began his District 211 career as a business education teacher at Fremd High School in 2002, while beginning his teaching career at East and West Leyden High Schools in 1995. Throughout his career, Mr. Wenckowski has a total of 17 years coaching high school athletics, including football and wrestling. Mr. Wenckowski earned his bachelor's degree in human resource management from Northern Illinois University in 1991, and his master's degree in education from Roosevelt University in 1996. He earned his type 75 administrative certification from Roosevelt University.

The Board also approved the appointment of **James Britton** as director of human resources, effective July 1, 2016. Since the 2010-2011 school year, Mr. Britton has served as principal at Hoffman Estates High School. Prior to that, Mr. Britton had been a 12-month assistant principal at Hoffman Estates High School, served as director of special education, and was program administrator at District 211 Academy-North. Prior to coming to District 211, he served as a dean and a social worker at Community High School District 218's Summit Learning Center from 2003-2005. Mr. Britton's work experiences also include serving as a mental health professional at CHASI Rice Children's Home and as a research and grant consultant for the Chicago Public Schools. Mr. Britton also previously taught English at Villa Grove High School in Villa Grove, Ill. Mr. Britton earned his bachelor's degree in English with a minor in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1994. He has earned two master's degrees, one in clinical social work from the University of Chicago in 1999, and another in educational leadership and general administration from Chicago State University in 2004. Mr. Britton is currently working to complete his doctorate through Illinois State University.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.