

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, June 11, 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 **Stephan Bonilla**, a 2015 Hoffman Estates High School graduate, who is currently serving in the National Guard. Private Bonilla led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized students who earned honors in statewide athletic competitions, including Badminton, Boys Gymnastics, and Girls Track & Field from William Fremd High School; Boys and Girls Track & Field from Palatine High School; Boys Track & Field from James B. Conant High School; Boys and Girls Track & Field from Schaumburg High School; and Girls Track & Field from Hoffman Estates High School. A complete list of state award winners recognized is available [here](#).

The Board recognized Fremd High School applied technology students **Samuel Robar** and **Curtis Robinson** for winning Illinois' 30th Annual Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Competition. These two students worked as a team to diagnose and repair "bugs" that were placed in an automobile to simulate real-world problems.

The Board recognized Conant High School student **Ryoka Lulu Matsuno** who earned first place in the 2015 Congressional Art Competition. Her original artwork, entitled "Tokyo," will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. over the next year.

Students named to the 2014-2015 *Daily Herald* Academic Team were recognized by the Board of Education. High School District 211 had five students selected to the 10-member team: **Kevin Chang**, Conant High School; **Haenah Kim**, Hoffman Estates High School; **Soumyaa Mazumder** and **Jennie Yang**, Fremd High School; and **Melissa Tran**, Schaumburg High School.

The Board recognized Conant High School student **Lisa Yang** for achieving a score of 36 on the American College Test (ACT), the highest possible composite score. On average, less than one percent of all test-takers earns a top score. Since 1998, Lisa is the 79th District 211 student to record a score of 36 on the ACT exam. The complete list is available [here](#).

Hoffman Estates High School Science Teacher **Tanya Katovich** was honored by the Board for receiving the 2015 Davidson Award, an honor presented annually by the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois and the Illinois Chemical Education Foundation to the outstanding chemistry teacher in the state. Mrs. Katovich is the fifth District 211 teacher to receive this award, as previous recipients included Palatine High School's **Kenneth Spengler** (1995), Fremd High School's **Michael Bachrodt** (1999) and **Karl Craddock** (2009), and Schaumburg High School's **Susan Bober** (2011).

Public Hearing: Request for Waiver

The Illinois School Code limits the fee that a board of education may charge students who enroll in a school's driver education program to a maximum of \$50. Due to the significantly higher expense of the driver education program in District 211, the \$50 fee does not offset the cost of maintaining this quality program, due to the low teacher-to-student ratio in the behind-the-wheel segment of the program. Legislation was passed in 1995 that allows waivers or modifications of State Board of Education rules or modifications of Illinois School Code mandates. A waiver of the mandate regarding the driver education fee limitation would allow the District to charge a suitable fee to help offset the cost of this program.

Following a public hearing to hear comment on a waiver of the driver education fee, the Board of Education approved the Application for Waiver or Modification of School Board Rules and/or School Code Mandates to charge \$350 for the behind-the-wheel portion of driver education, and directed the superintendent to submit the application to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Additional information on the waiver of School Code for driver education is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [May 14, 2015](#).

Resolution: Prevailing Rate of Wages

The Prevailing Wage Act requires state contractors and subcontractors to pay laborers, workers, and mechanics employed on all State and Local public works projects no less than the general prevailing rate of wages of a similar character in the county where the work is performed.

The Board of Education voted three votes in favor of adopting the prevailing wage resolution and three votes against adopting the prevailing wage resolution and the motion did not pass.

The school district is required to abide by the prevailing wage rates and will adhere to state law by paying the prevailing rate wages and fulfilling this requirement from its contractors.

Additional information on the Prevailing Rate of Wages Resolution is available [here](#).

Annual Review of Safety Plans, Protocols, Procedures, and School Safety Drills

Public Act 94-0600 requires school districts to submit a report to the Regional Office of Education indicating that an annual meeting was held to review safety plans, protocols, procedures, and school safety drills. The Public Act also requires school districts to invite all emergency response units to this yearly meeting in order to evaluate the school's emergency response plans and to document and file results of the evaluation with the Regional Superintendent's office. A Minimum Component Checklist developed by the Illinois State Board of Education is used to guide the review.

Administration at each District 211 school conducted a minimum of the following required safety drills: three school evacuation (fire) drills, one bus evacuation drill, and one severe weather/shelter in place (tornado) drill. Administration also coordinated two law enforcement (lockdown) drills at each of the seven schools, which is beyond the single drill that is required. All of these safety drills involved both staff members and students.

Yearly meetings to review safety drills conducted by staff members in each of the seven facilities were completed in full collaboration with representatives from both police and fire departments of each municipality in which schools are located.

The 2014-2015 school year was the sixth year the District implemented the standardized, comprehensive emergency procedures and response protocols. Representatives from both the fire and police departments from each village serving the District were closely involved with District personnel in developing the response plan. District 211 continues to benefit from a collaborative and effective relationship with local police and fire departments.

The Board of Education reviewed and accepted the Annual Review of Safety Plans, Protocols, Procedures, and School Safety Drills Report, and authorized the Superintendent to complete and submit the required paperwork to the Suburban Cook County Regional Office of Education or other office as designated.

Workers' Compensation Insurance Program

The Board of Education received information on the District's workers' compensation insurance program. State law requires employers to provide workers' compensation insurance for all employees. Workers' compensation insurance provides salary and medical benefits to employees who become sick or injured in the course of their employment. The District 211 Board of Education provides employees with workers' compensation benefits through a modified self-insured program structure with the Secondary School Cooperative Risk Management Program (SSCRMP).

Since 2007, District 211 has benefited from the SSCRMP workers' compensation structure by accessing comprehensive claims administration and loss control services, with a self-insured retention (or deductible) per occurrence of \$350,000 per claim. This structure allows SSCRMP member districts (High School Districts 207, 211, 214, and 225) access to an additional pool layer of workers' compensation coverage of \$250,000, and SSCRMP excess insurance provides for specific stop-loss coverage for claims in excess of \$600,000.

The SSCRMP workers' compensation structure has provided comprehensive program services in a cost-effective manner. For 2015-2016, District 211's cost allocation for workers' compensation insurance under SSCRMP will increase 0.72% from \$262,711 to \$264,599. The renewal allocation will be included in the 2015-2016 budget.

Additional information on the workers' compensation insurance program is available [here](#).

Post Bond Issuance Compliance Report

In December 2012 and January 2013, the District closed on the sale of General Obligation Life Safety Bonds. As part of the new bond covenants, the District is required to monitor certain tax compliance obligations related to the tax-exempt status of the bonds.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has an active audit program and regularly audits tax-exempt bond issues. As part of these audits, the IRS generally demands extensive records concerning post issuance use of the bond proceeds and all bond documents. Adopting, maintaining and complying with bond record keeping policies will ensure that District 211's bonds are in compliance with federal tax and securities laws.

The Board of Education received a [report](#) with a summary demonstrating the District's compliance with all bond covenants and expectations to date.

District 211 Foundation Update

The Board of Education received an update on the High School District 211 Foundation. Since its reorganization, the Foundation has awarded more than \$634,000 in scholarships, including over 50 scholarships this past school year totaling over \$74,000, to deserving District 211 students. Foundation trustees also have implemented and funded over \$150,000 in “Innovation Grants,” awarded to District 211 teachers, counselors, staff, and administrators. Innovation Grants are intended to assist staff members in developing ideas and practices, and are awarded for innovative projects or programs that are not normally funded from within the regular school budget, yet have direct impact on student learning. In June 2014, 33 Innovation Grants were awarded, totaling nearly \$27,000. The next round of grants for the 2015-2016 school year is in process, and the Foundation will be notifying grant recipients and descriptions of winning grants will be posted to the Foundation website within the next few weeks.

Last September, the Foundation sponsored the second-annual Fun(d) 5K Run/Walk. The event was considered a success by creating community awareness of the Foundation and raising funds to support Foundation-sponsored programs directly benefitting District 211 students. The third-annual Fun(d) 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, 2015, starting at Palatine High School. Registration is available [here](#).

This past year, the Foundation sponsored the third-annual Realtors Against Homelessness (RAH) event in November. This joint fundraising event with area Realtors raised more than \$25,000 to help provide necessities for homeless students in District 211. The fourth-annual RAH event will be held November 5, 2015 at Chandler’s Chophouse in Schaumburg.

In January, the District 211 Foundation held its inaugural appreciation event for those who have been supportive of the Foundation, either through donation of their time or money. In addition to those who have given to the Foundation, the event featured some of those who have benefitted from the Foundation’s work, including grant recipients, student scholarship recipients, and worthwhile student experiences. A specific date has not been determined for the follow-up event.

Recently, the Foundation has concentrated its efforts into fundraising in support of the District’s new Business Incubator program. This program, being offered for the first time during the 2015-2016 school year, will provide students who have an entrepreneurial vision with the unique opportunity to learn necessary components to take a business idea and follow it to fruition. The Foundation has raised more than \$100,000 to help provide 21st century classrooms, with collaborative, media-rich workspaces for the program.

Department of Food & Nutrition Services Update: Year-End Review

The Board of Education received information about District 211’s Food & Nutrition Services Department. The priority of the department continues to be the health and

well-being of all students, and the department's success for the 2014-2015 school year is attributed to quality meal preparation, food cost management, inventory control, staff training, and students' acceptance of new meal options. Throughout the region and in other areas of the country, the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act presented significant challenges to many school districts that participated in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. However, the District 211 Food & Nutrition Services Department re-envisioned its meal preparation and reshaped its existing program into one that would meet the new guidelines and attract student participation. These efforts resulted in a year of increased access to meals for students, greater nutrition composition of meals, and increased revenue attributed to a higher level of federal reimbursement.

Additional information on the department's review is available [here](#).

Site Lease Amendment – TowerCo

The Board of Education approved the site lease amendment with TowerCo for the northwest stadium light pole at Fremd High School for a period up to 20 years. The Board had previously approved a site lease agreement with AT&T at Fremd High School on February 13, 2014, and since that time, AT&T had re-assigned the site lease agreement to TowerCo, a third-party company. With the re-assignment, TowerCo had requested to add one additional cellular carrier on the northwest light standards, with the potential to have up to four carriers total on the same light pole. The additional carrier will provide an added monthly rental of \$1,000, bringing the total monthly revenue to \$3,250.

Additional information on the site lease amendment with TowerCo is available [here](#).

Site Lease Agreement – Eco-Site, Inc.

The Board of Education approved the site lease agreement with Eco-Site, Inc., for the southwest stadium light pole at Palatine High School for a period up to 25 years. Eco-Site has agreed to pay High School District 211 a total of \$845,600 for a 25-year site lease agreement at the school. Initial terms of the lease will be 10 years, with options to renew for up to three additional five-year terms. Eco-Site is in the process of securing approval from the Village of Palatine to construct the proposed tower and antennas.

Additional information on the site lease agreement with Eco-Site is available [here](#).

Medicaid Reimbursement

High School District 211 is eligible for Medicaid reimbursement in two categories:

- 1.) School-Based Services: This program reimburses school districts for direct services provided to Medicaid-eligible students who are in special education (examples of approved services include speech/language therapy, nursing services, psychology services, and social work services).
- 2.) Administrative Outreach Services: This program reimburses school districts for outreach services provided to “at-risk” students before they are placed in special education (examples of eligible staff services include identification and referral to Medicaid, interagency coordination, public awareness and information, and health provider networking).

Since 2003, District 211 has utilized the consulting services of Go Solutions Group, Inc. to provide guidance pertaining to Medicaid reimbursement regulations and to file the District’s reimbursement claims. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, the Illinois State Board of Education assigned all school districts’ administrative outreach claims to Fairbanks, LLC. As a result, it is only necessary for District 211 to pursue a contract with a company to oversee reimbursement for the school-based services program.

The Board of Education approved a two-year contract with Go Solutions Group, Inc., for school-based services for the period between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017. Go Solutions Group, Inc., charges a fee of 95¢ per submitted claim and the District receives the remainder of any reimbursement. Over the first three quarters of the current fiscal year, District 211 received \$115,000 in reimbursement for school-based services.

IASB Annual Membership – 2015-2016

The Board of Education renewed its membership in the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) for 2015-2016, approving payment of \$21,674 in annual dues. Membership dues are based upon three variables: Base Charge + (Weighted Factor x Operating Expense), with the base charge and weighted factor dependent on the enrollment in the district (by calculation, dues will only increase if enrollment increases beyond its range or if the district’s operating expenses go up; and IASB limits dues increases by capping the increase each year). Membership dues for 2014-2015 were \$21,374.

IASB provides services for its membership such as policy services, in-district and regional workshops, access to the IASB website, FAQs and guidelines on open meetings, lobbying and consultations with staff, materials to assist new school 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 are members of IASB.

2015-2017 Student Building Construction Program

The Board of Education approved the construction of houses during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years on two district-owned lots. Further, the Board approved the following amounts to be budgeted for these projects over the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 fiscal years: construction costs for Palatine and Fremd High Schools in the amount of \$360,000, 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 \$485,000, plus an established contingency and consulting service fund of \$40,000.

Additional information on the Student Building Construction Program is available [here](#).

Athletic and Activity Software Recommendation

The Board of Education authorized District 211 to enter into a 12-1/2 month contract with “rSchoolToday” for Athletic, Activity, and Building Rental scheduling, registration and website hosting, effective immediately for an annual fee of \$9,860 plus set-up and training fees in the amount of \$9,005.

Additional information on the athletic and activity software is available [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2015, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.