

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, October 20, 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 24 students from Palatine, William Fremd, James B. Conant, Schaumburg, and Hoffman Estates High Schools for being named National Merit Scholars. These students were presented the Robert Creek Excellence Award (medallion). The complete list of District 211 National Merit Scholars is available [here](#).

The Board also recognized Hoffman Estates High School senior **Alfonso Arellano** for being selected as a National Hispanic Scholar as part of the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program. Each year, 5,000 of the 250,000 Hispanic and Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT exam are recognized for achieving the minimum required PSAT/NMSQT selection index score and earning a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher by the middle of their junior year.

Energy Star Recognition

Annually, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Energy (DOE) recognize buildings and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to protecting the environment through energy efficiency. District 211 received notification that Conant, Fremd, and Palatine High Schools have each again earned the EPA's 2016 Energy Star building recognition, joining Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates High Schools which were recognized as achieving this status in spring 2016. District 211 high schools represent five of only 12 schools in Illinois to receive this designation for 2016.

These awards acknowledge District staff for their commitment to achieve continuous improvement in energy performance and further protect the environment through energy efficiency.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Public Hearing – Columbus Day

In accordance with Illinois Public Act 96-640, which allows boards of education to hold school on legal school holidays, the Board of Education held a public hearing to hear testimony on the proposal to potentially hold school on Columbus Day 2018. The Board will be asked at a future meeting to act on the 2018-2019 school calendar.

Presentation: 2016 Tax Levy

The Board of Education viewed a presentation on the 2016 Tax Levy by Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel** and Controller and Treasurer **Barbara Peterson**.

The Board received tax levy information at the meeting, including tax levy background information, 2016 tax levy considerations, a 2016 tax levy recommendation, information on the District's committed reserve funds, financial projection information, and the 2016 tax levy calendar.

For the 2016 levy, the Tax Cap limit of 0.9% (0.7% CPI-U + 0.2% New Property) establishes the allowable increase for the Operating Fund levy. The allowable limit for the Debt Service levy is \$3.2 million, which includes the 5% loss and cost factor automatically applied by Cook County. The maximum allowable levy amount is \$220.4 million, a 1.8% increase over the prior year levy amount.

The recommended 2016 levy amount is an increase of 0.3%, or one-third of the CPI-U amount for the corresponding tax year. This amount reflects the total levy extension that will be assessed by Cook County in the calculation of tax bills. While the recommendation to levy the Operating Funds is an increase of 0.9%, the total levy extension is the combination of the Operating Funds and the Debt Service Fund. Through the use of existing reserves, District 211 has the ability to lower the Debt Service levy through the continued levy abatement strategy. The use of these reserves via levy abatement directly lessens the amount of the total levy and therefore lessens the burden on taxpayers. For the 2016 levy, it is recommended that District 211 utilize its existing reserves to offset the levy by fully abating the Debt Service levy in an amount of approximately \$3.2 million. Since 2007, if the recommended abatement is adopted, District 211 will have reduced the levy from the allowable amount by approximately \$33.5 million through abatement and a continued attempt to decrease the tax burden for the communities served.

At the next regular Board meeting on November 10, 2016, tax levy information will be presented again for further review and discussion. Also at that meeting, the Board will review a resolution to determine the proposed levy amount for 2016. According to the levy calendar, a public hearing on the proposed 2016 levy amount will be held at the December 8, 2016 Board meeting, with adoption of the 2016 levy also scheduled to take place at that meeting. The last day to file the 2016 levy with the Cook County Clerk's office is December 27, 2016.

The tax levy information the Board received is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [September 22, 2016](#).

Request for Policy Exemption

Board Policy File KA: School Community Relations Goals states that door-to-door solicitation of funds, goods, or services by students in the name of the school or school organization for school or charitable organizations will be permitted only upon approval of the Board. Schaumburg High School National Honor Society (NHS) students proposed the collection of non-perishable canned goods for the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry, with the collections being conducted on Monday, October 31, 2016. The Board of Education approved the request for policy exemption to permit Schaumburg High School's NHS solicitation of charity items.

Summer School Enrollment/Cost Analysis

The Board received an update on Summer School 2016. District 211 provided learning opportunities for 11,982 students during Summer School 2016, with 6,891 students participating in classroom experiences during both semesters and 5,091 involved in extracurricular camps.

A highlight of the summer program was the increase in enrollment for the incoming freshman invitational course, Preparation for Algebra 1. For the first time, this course was offered in both a classroom setting and online. In the summer of 2015, 96 incoming freshmen participated in the course, while this past summer, 246 incoming freshmen took the classroom model and another 75 enrolled in the online model.

The Incoming Freshman Academy was offered for the 12th year, while the Sophomore Summer Academy was offered for an 11th year. Student academies are offered to selected students at no cost and are designed to accelerate student learning in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Additional information is available at:

- [2016 Summer School Enrollment and Cost Analysis](#)
- [Project Lead the Way Cost Analysis/Comparison](#)
- [Summer School Cost Analysis](#)

Placement Testing of Incoming Freshmen

The Board received information on this year's placement testing. On October 1, 2016, placement tests were administered to 2,552 of the anticipated 2,788 incoming freshmen. An additional 108 students attended a make-up test session on October 8, 2016. Of the 128 students who were not tested, 30 of the students were withheld from testing per their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Students who were unable to attend either the initial or make-up testing will be scheduled for an individual make-up session. Results of the PSAT 8/9 assessment will be used as part of a comprehensive system that includes recommendations from junior high school teachers to place students in courses for the 2017-2018 school year.

The success of the testing program and subsequent placement process is the result of a coordinated effort involving District 211 transportation, student services, and technology services staff, as well as staff at the junior high schools.

The PSAT 8/9 serves as the first test in District 211's newly adopted SAT Suite of Assessments. Test results will provide clear indicators of current academic strengths and areas for growth. In the spring of their freshman year, these students will take the PSAT 8/9 again, and as sophomores they will take the PSAT 10. Each assessment will help prepare students for the junior year SAT assessment which serves as the State of Illinois' required student achievement exam and will provide a valid college entrance test score.

Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility

The Board of Education received information on District 211's participation in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, federally assisted meal programs that provide qualifying students with access to nutritionally balanced, low-cost, or free meals during the school day. A student with a household income at or below 130% of the poverty level is eligible for free meals; those with income between 131% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals (30¢ for breakfast and 40¢ for lunch as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture).

In District 211, eligibility for meal benefits is reviewed and determined annually based upon the most current qualifying guidelines established by the USDA. The number of students eligible for meal benefits across District 211 has increased by 74% over the past 10 years, with data reported as of September 30, 2016.

For the second year in a row, District 211 has seen a decline in students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals. While the prevalence of low-income students has declined in the District, Palatine High School continues to see a consistent increase in students eligible for meal benefits. Current data shows the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in each school ranges from a low of 14% at Fremd High School to a high of 51% eligibility at Palatine High School.

Eligibility for meal benefits provides students with access to several services during the school day. This includes not only receiving nutritionally-balanced meals twice a day, but additional meal services are provided to qualifying schools for free breakfast and lunch programs for all students attending summer school at Palatine, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools, and an after-school snack program at Palatine High School. Students qualifying for meal benefits may also qualify for academic fee waivers per Illinois School Code and Board of Education Policy JN. Further, Hoffman Estates and Palatine High Schools qualify for additional funding through the Federal Title I grant.

Additional information on free and reduced-price meal eligibility is available [here](#).

Higgins Education Center Evening Services Program

In September 2015, the Evening Services Program began operations at the Higgins Education Center. Managed by Partners for Our Communities (POC), the Evening Services Program serves families with students in either District 211 or District 54, and provide opportunities for these community members to gain skills, seek assistance, and obtain referrals to public agencies.

During its first 12 months of operations, the Evening Services Program has experienced month-to-month increases in the number and types of services provided to the community. Programming largely centers on language acquisition and proficiency, basic health and wellness, educational services, and social services.

A noteworthy new program being launched this fall is *Making Proud Choices*. Sponsored by the Kenneth Young Center, this eight-week series will concentrate on helping female teens learn strategies to safely navigate dating experiences and develop skills to protect their social-emotional well-being.

Additional information on the Evening Services Program is available [here](#).

Community Connections Newsletter – Strategic Plan Update

As articulated in the Strategic Plan, District 211 places a priority on providing updates to the community about programs and events taking place within District schools. The second edition of [Community Connections](#), a quarterly newsletter designed to provide additional information to the community, was distributed during the week of October 10, 2016. The newsletter highlights a community education drug awareness session to be held on October 25 at Fremd High School, the District's one-to-one program, SAT testing, benefits of Advanced Placement coursework, and an invitation to assist families that speak another language by serving in the District's interpreter pool.

Negotiations Chapter Four: Communication Throughout the Bargaining Process

At the May 12, 2016 Board of Education meeting, the Board requested information regarding negotiations practices to be presented at future Board of Education meetings. Information surrounding the legal framework of collective bargaining was presented at the July 21, 2016 Board meeting, information on preparing to bargain and establishing parameters was presented at the August 18, 2016 meeting, and information on bargaining techniques and strategies was presented at the September 22, 2016 meeting. The fourth informational chapter, [Communication Throughout the Bargaining Process](#), was presented to the Board at the meeting. The fifth and final chapter on collective bargaining, as it pertains to educational employees, will be presented at the Board meeting to be held in November.

Proposed Policy Revisions, Deletions, and New Policy

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 **Mucia Burke**, Board Vice President **Robert LeFevre**, Associate Superintendent **Lisa Small**, Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**.

Upon initially reviewing proposed revisions at its September 22, 2016 meeting, the Board of Education approved revisions to Board policy files: [AD District Mission Statement](#); [GCB Professional Staff Contracts and Compensation](#); and [DJC Bidding Requirements](#).

The Board approved proposed policy deletions to Board policy files: [AE Educational Goals](#); [GCE Part-Time Professional Staff](#); and [DJCA Informal Quotations](#) following initial review at the September 22, 2016 meeting.

The Board also approved proposed new Board policy file: [AF High School District 211 Value Statements](#) after initially reviewing at its September 22, 2016 meeting.

District 211 Professional Development Opportunities

The Board of Education received a professional development report for the 2015-2016 school year highlighting staff development opportunities available for District 211 certified staff. A copy of the report is available [here](#).

The Board also approved a professional learning opportunity for in-district credit with "Make it Stick (Book Study)," as proposed.

Request for Foreign Exchange Trips

The Board of Education approved participation in the following 10 foreign exchange trips for the summer of 2017 (Note: District 211 reserves the right to cancel any airline travel that it deems unsafe or not in the best interest of the District):

Munich, Germany – June 19-30, 2017
Conant and Schaumburg High Schools

Madrid and Toledo, Spain; and Paris, France – May 31-June 7, 2017
Conant High School

Beijing, Xi'an, Guilin, Yangshuo, and Shanghai, China – June 4-14, 2017
Fremd and Schaumburg High Schools

Malaga and Madrid, Spain – May 27-June 14, 2017
Fremd High School

Rinteln and Berlin, Germany – May 31-June 21, 2017
Fremd High School

Strasbourg and Paris, France – June 1-16, 2017
Fremd, Conant, Palatine, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools

Antigua, Guatemala – June 3-17, 2017
Palatine and Schaumburg High Schools

Krefeld, Germany – June 3-17, 2017
Palatine High School

Antigua, Guatemala – June 4-12, 2017
Hoffman Estates High School

Madrid and Barcelona, Spain – May 30-June 14, 2017
Hoffman Estates High School

Administrative Appointment

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Diana Mikelski** as director of transportation, effective July 1, 2017. Ms. Mikelski will replace **James Fleischman**, who will retire in June 2017 after serving as director of transportation since July 2015 and working in High School District 211 since 1997. Ms. Mikelski has 24 years of experience in student transportation, including serving as the District 211 assistant to the director of transportation since March 2015. Prior to this, she was the supervisor of transportation for Community Unit School District 118 in Wauconda, Ill., from 2003-

2015. She also served as that district's head driver and router from 1999-2003, and as a school bus driver from 1992-1999. Ms. Mikelski has been certified through the State of Illinois as a school bus driver instructor since 2010.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2016, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.