

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, November 12, 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.

Recognitions

The Board recognized High School District 211's "*Those Who Excel*" Award recipients. The Illinois State Board of Education annually sponsors the "*Those Who Excel*" awards to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the state's public and non-public schools. High School District 211 award-winners are (listed alphabetically):

- Schaumburg High School Special Education Teacher **Alina Morelli Baima** (classroom teacher category)
- Palatine High School Principal's Secretary **Joan Costabile** (educational service personnel category)
- Community Member **Cindy Eich** (community volunteer category)
- Conant High School Sophomore English Acceleration Team (team category); Team members include: **Talbott Behnken, Jordan Catapano, Susan Hess, and Paula Hill**
- Palatine High School Principal **Gary Steiger** (school administrator category)
- Hoffman Estates High School Science Teacher **John Ulrich** (early career educator category)
- Fremd High School Psychologist **Jeffrey Williams** (student

support personnel category)

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 High School, Fremd High School, and Palatine High School each earned the EPA's Energy Star building recognition. These three District 211 schools represent three of 14 schools in Illinois, and three of 1,047 schools nationally to receive this designation for 2015.

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](#).

Presentation: Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing

High School District 211's College Major and Career Cluster website (d211careercluster.org) showcases 16 nationally recognized career clusters and specific District 211 coursework students may choose to explore and enhance their skills in a particular area of interest. The Board of Education viewed a [presentation](#) on career pathways from Science, Technology and Engineering, and Manufacturing clusters. Associate Superintendent **Lisa Small** was joined by Conant High School Applied Technology Teacher

Shayna Adelman who explained how students interested in engineering can explore this discipline prior to college through the Project Lead the Way curriculum. Palatine High School Applied Technology Teacher and District Department Chair **Mark Hibner** articulated how advanced manufacturing students, after four years of coursework, have a jump start in the lucrative and wide-open manufacturing industry.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [October 15, 2015](#).

Curriculum Committee Report

The fall round of the 2015-2016 Curriculum Committee meetings has been completed with 16 department meetings taking place. Committees welcomed 12 new department chairs to leadership positions:

New department chairs:

- **Christopher Bays**, Social Studies Department Chair at Palatine High School
- **Alex Bernstein**, ESL Department Chair at Hoffman Estates High School
- **Daniel Gavin**, Special Education Department Chair at Palatine High School
- **Dane Henning**, Special Education Department Chair at Academy-North
- **Seju Jain**, ESL Department Chair at Palatine High School
- **Gordon James**, Art Department Chair at Schaumburg High School
- **Chad Jonas**, Business Education Department Chair at

- Fremd High School
- **Lauren Lombardo**, Special Education Department Chair at Higgins Education Center
 - **Jessica Medinah**, Special Education Department Chair at Fremd High School
 - **Heather Schroeder**, World Language Department Chair at Fremd High School
 - **Ryan Senica**, Physical Education Department Chair at Schaumburg High School
 - **Jason Sherko**, Driver Education Department Chair at Conant High School

The following topics were reviewed at each department's curriculum committee:

- *Interactive and Information Technology Cluster Summer School Course*
- *District 211 College Major and Career Cluster Website*
- *Critical Learning Standards*
- *Type II Assessment Series*
- *Dual Credit Investigation*
- *Incoming Freshman Placement Tests*

The Board of Education approved the Curriculum Committee report and recommendations as presented. A complete copy of the Fall 2015-2016 Curriculum Committee Report is available [here](#).

2015 School Report Cards

School Report Cards provide information about academic performance and characteristics of students, faculty, instructional resources, and finances at the school, district, and state level. Prepared by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Report Cards contain data received from

and about schools at various points throughout the school year. According to Illinois School Code, School Report Cards are to be forwarded to schools from the ISBE annually by October 31 and made available by schools to the public with 30 days. No information in the School Report Card can be modified.

The Board directed the superintendent to make appropriate availability of [2015 School Report Cards](#) by placing them on the District 211 and school websites. Printed copies of Report Cards are no longer available due to the web-based presentation of data.

Additional information on 2015 School Report Cards is available [here](#).

2014-2015 Annual Report

The Board of Education reviewed the [2014-2015 Annual Report](#). The Annual Report, which is produced each year, highlights outstanding students and staff, as well as reviews programs, presents statistics of interest, and summarizes financial information from the last school year.

The Board approved the Annual Report. It will be posted on the District's website for community members and public viewing.

2015 Proposed Tax Levy

The Board of Education received information on the 2015 Tax Levy at its September 17 and October 15, 2015 meetings. Continuing an eight-year trend of decreasing the

tax burden on the community, the proposed levy for 2015 calls for a 0% increase over the 2014 total levy amount, and includes each of the following characteristics:

- A total levy amount of \$216.2 million, equal to the total levy for the preceding year
- A 1% increase in the aggregate/operating levy resulting from an increase of 0.8% attributable to CPI-U and an increase of 0.2% attributable to new property growth
- Use of existing reserve funds to abate (reduce) the Debt Service levy amount by \$2 million (brings the District's total abatement over the past nine years to over \$30 million of direct tax relief to taxpayers)
- A total Debt Service levy amount of \$1.4 million

After further review and discussion, the Board approved the proposed levy amount for 2015. The Board will hold a hearing at its December 10, 2015 meeting to hear public comment on the proposed tax levy, with adoption of the 2015 tax levy following the public hearing.

Additional tax levy information is available [here](#).

Community Engagement and Strategic Planning: Presentation

At its July 16, 2015 meeting, the Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposal to identify firms capable of facilitating a community engagement and strategic planning initiative. The District received proposals from four firms, and the Board heard presentations from Unicom•Arc representatives on its proposal for community engagement and strategic planning at meetings on August 13 and October 15, 2015.

Unicom•Arc's structure and process for community engagement and strategic planning would help provide comprehensive information from local parents, students, business owners, and residents. The "community engagement" initiative would include four components:

- *Community-Wide Engagement Sessions – open to anyone in the community and held numerous times, these meetings would provide an opportunity for a two-way exchange of information*
- *Informal Input Sessions – meetings with specific community groups to gather information and to more completely understand ideas and issues expressed*
- *Electronic Public Opinion Survey – to include general and customized questions, enabling District 211 to compare itself to other school districts across the country while also gathering information on unique areas of interest*
- *Public Opinion Research Telephone Survey – a random 500-call sample telephone survey conducted in local communities to gather input surrounding the District's assets, liabilities, and future areas for improvement*

The timeline for the initiative begins in November 2015, with community engagement sessions being held in February-May 2016, data and input compiled during June 2016, data review by the Board and development of a strategic plan in July and August 2016, and authorization and communication of the strategic plan in September 2016.

The Board approved entering into an agreement with Unicom•Arc to provide professional services to conduct a community engagement and strategic planning initiative at a cost of \$69,500, plus expenses for travel and local accommodations.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Proposed Policy Revisions

As part of its ongoing Policy Manual review, the Board of Education reviews proposed policy revisions 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**.

After initially reviewing proposed revisions to Board policy files [GBL Personnel Records](#) and [JFCG Tobacco Use by Students](#) at its October 15, 2015 meeting, the Board approved the revisions as presented.

Renewal of Lease for North Cook Young Adult Academy

Since May 1997, the Board of Education has approved participation in the North Cook Young Adult Academy (NCYAA), an alternative school program under the Safe Schools Act. In April 2005, the Board approved the sub-lease of 4,700 square feet of space in the District's Academy-North facility, located at 335 E. Illinois Avenue in Palatine, to house the NCYAA program. The facility has provided NCYAA adequate space to serve several at-risk students each school year.

The Board of Education approved the renewal of the lease agreement with NYCAA at a rate of \$7,884 per month from August 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018, with annual increases of five percent for subsequent years. The lease

includes a three-year term with an annual renewal option for an additional five-year period if mutually agreeable by both parties. Should program requirements change for either party, the lease allows the option to cancel with 120 days notice.

Illinois Association of School Boards Resolutions

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Delegate Assembly is the policy-making body of IASB. The Delegate Assembly is comprised of one voting delegate from each member district. Board Member **Lauanna Recker** represents District 211 on the Delegate Assembly and Board Secretary **Anna Klimkowicz** serves as a member of the 2015 Resolutions Committee. At the joint annual conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards/Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials, the Resolutions Committee of IASB will review, discuss, and vote on proposed resolutions submitted by member districts. The results from the proposed resolutions will guide the IASB's position statements and staff in ongoing legislative efforts.

This year, there are four proposed new resolutions:

- 1.) Family Members as Officers on Board of Education
- 2.) Sale of Student Constructed Homes
- 3.) Mandates Costs – No Child Left Behind
- 4.) Charitable Tax Exemption for Hospitals

The Resolution Committee is recommending the adoption of resolutions concerning charitable tax exemption for hospitals and the sale of student constructed homes, and it recommends not adopting either family members as officers on a Board of Education and/or the costs of mandates

associated with No Child Left Behind. The resolutions were presented for Board discussion.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2015, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.