

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, December 10, 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 First Class **Arian Brown**, a 2015 Hoffman Estates High School graduate who is now serving in the Illinois National Guard. Private First Class Brown led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions

The Board recognized student-athletes who earned honors in statewide athletic competitions, including girls tennis, girls swimming, and girls cross country. A complete list is available [here](#).

Presentation: Teacher Evaluation

Since 2007, District 211 has convened a Teacher Evaluation Joint Committee to modify and change the teacher evaluation system to meet the requirements of the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) of 2010. The

evaluation revision in 2007 created the pathway that mirrored the expected changes brought forth in the 2010 PERA legislation. The revisions in 2010 and 2012 refined the standards for professional practice.

This past year, the Teacher Evaluation Joint Committee updated the teacher evaluation document to include the required PERA component of student growth. A teacher's summative evaluation now reflects 70% of the teacher's performance on the standards for professional practice and 30% on the ability of students to demonstrate academic growth in the teacher's classroom. Prior to PERA, the teacher was evaluated 100% on the professional practice standards.

The professional practice standards are based on four domains:

- Planning and Preparation
- Classroom Environment
- Instruction
- Professional Responsibility

The student growth component of the evaluation comes from measuring student gains on a specific standard. This is measured and documented by each individual student's academic growth as shown from pre- to post-test. There are two different assessment situations that are used for the student growth measurement. One includes a Type II assessment, which is a common assessment given district-wide – such as the district benchmark assessment (DBA). The second measurement is from a Type III assessment, which is either created by the teacher or the professional learning team (PLT). Both the Type II and III assessments follow the guidelines as set forth by the PERA regulations.

District 211 Teachers' Union Executive Vice President **Anita Lee** and Associate Superintendent for Instruction **Lisa Small**, both members of the Teacher Evaluation Joint Committee, reviewed the PERA compliant teacher evaluation system.

Adoption of 2015 Tax Levy

Following a public hearing, the Board of Education approved the proposed 2015 tax levy as presented. The Board also approved a resolution abating a portion of the taxes levied for the year 2015 to pay debt service on \$9,995,000 School Bonds, Series 2012.

The total 2015 tax levy, including the Debt Service Fund, is \$216,208,514. This is an increase of \$0.1 million or 0.0% over the 2014 total levy extension of \$216,106,227.

Since 2007, the Board has reduced the Debt Service levy by \$28.3 million using existing reserve funds to pay an apportionment of its outstanding bonds. As part of the 2015 levy, continuation of the levy reduction plan was approved which included a \$2 million property tax abatement. This brings the total levy reduction to \$30.3 million since 2007.

Additional information on the 2015 Tax Levy is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [November 12, 2015](#).

2016-2017 Budget Sequence and Development

The Board of Education received information about preliminary planning and development of the 2016-2017 budget. Development of the annual budget for fiscal year 2017 begins following adoption of the 2015 levy, as property tax revenue will be calculated based upon the levy amount adopted at the December 10 meeting.

The information shared with the Board included a 2016-2017 budget calendar, as well as the following parameters and considerations:

- [if !supportLists]- [endif]Maintain a balanced budget in accordance with the School Code (105 ILCS 5/17-1)
- [if !supportLists]- [endif]Allocate costs associated with achieving District academic goals
- [if !supportLists]- [endif]Allocate staffing costs based on enrollment and instructional programs
- [if !supportLists]- [endif]Utilize \$2.0 million of existing Working Cash reserves to reduce the levy in the Debt Service Fund pending approval of the 2015 levy
- [if !supportLists]- [endif]Safeguard a minimum 33.3% fund balance within the Educational Fund and combined operating funds
- [if !supportLists]- [endif]Allocate salary costs based on negotiated contracts
- [if !supportLists]- [endif]Allocate benefit and insurance costs based on projections developed in coordination with the District's consultant, HUB, International
- [if !supportLists]- [endif]Allocate \$2.2 million in the Life Safety Fund for approved projects
- [if !supportLists]- [endif]Inter-fund transfer of \$14.1 million for capital improvement project

Additional information on the 2016-2017 budget sequence and development is available [here](#).

Community Engagement and Strategic Planning

The Board of Education received an update on the Community Engagement and Strategic Planning Initiative. The update included information about the Facilitating Team and Charge Statement, as well as a potential timeline and calendar.

Additional information on Community Engagement and Strategic Planning is available [here](#).

2014-2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of Board of Education Funds

The Board of Education acknowledged receipt of the June 30, 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which includes financial statements, as prepared by High School District 211, and audited by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Illinois School Code and the District's adopted policy require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board encourages every governmental entity, including school districts, to prepare and publish a CAFR. The CAFR serves as the District's official annual financial report and contains introductory information, schedules necessary to demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions, and statistical data. The purpose of

the financial statements is to report on the financial position and operations of the District.

A representative from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP presented a brief review of the audit at the meeting.

The 2014-2015 CAFR is posted on the District 211 website for viewing [here](#).

College Entrance Exam for Juniors

From 2004 through 2014, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) required juniors to participate in the ACT college entrance exam, and funded this expense for every junior in the state. In 2015, ISBE funded the ACT for every junior, but did not require participation. District 211 juniors fully participated in this opportunity in the spring of 2015.

There has been unofficial discussion that ISBE may fund and require the SAT college entrance exam for every junior in the state for the spring of 2016. The SAT has been redesigned and considered significantly different from the previously well-known test. The new, redesigned SAT will be available for the first time this spring.

The uncertainty of the state budget for funding a college entrance exam for juniors, the lack of official support by ISBE for a funded state exam designation, and the maiden run of the new SAT leaves current District 211 juniors at a disadvantage. To assist current District 211 juniors in having the best opportunity to enter in the post-secondary education of their choice, District administration continues to recommend the planning of the ACT (without writing) for all juniors in April 2016, at a cost of \$120,000. Different

revenue sources are being investigated to cover this expenditure. Should ISBE not finalize a commitment to the ACT by January 2016, the Board will be asked to fund the ACT for District 211 juniors.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2016, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.