

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, April 10, 2014, 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 of Education recognized award winners in statewide flag and debate competitions, including state flag champions Palatine High School and state debate champions Schaumburg High School. A complete listing of state award winners recognized by the Board is available [here](#).

Nineteen students from James B. Conant, William Fremd, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, and Schaumburg High Schools were honored by the Board for being named 2013-2014 National Merit Scholars. These students were presented the Robert Creek Excellence Award (medallion). The complete list of District 211's National Merit Scholars is available [here](#).

The Board also honored Conant High School art student **Kristina Bozhanova** for her work designing the graphic to accompany the new District 211 brand statement, *“Extraordinary Opportunities. Innovative Teaching. Exceptional Learning.”*

Presentation: Full Expansion of the One-to-One Electronic Device Program

Dating back to its meeting on April 26, 2012, the Board of Education approved a proposal to provide approximately 1,400 students with an individual electronic device as part of a pilot one-to-one program to be implemented during the 2012-2013 school year. The one-to-one pilot program was envisioned to demonstrate the potential for technology to empower a select group of teachers to redefine the nature of their instruction. The proposed benefits included increases in the development of skills that students would need to be successful in life after graduation from high school. These skills included collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity. By providing each student in a classroom with a powerful iPad tool, both teachers and students would have the capacity to access information, share and exchange ideas, seek additional resources, receive more immediate feedback and guidance, and utilize more creative means of devising and communicating their ideas compared to the conventional classroom.

The Board was presented the initial results of the program on January 17, 2013 and again on February 14, 2013. Teachers and students alike reported improvements in students' organization, increased creativity to make meaningful connections across classroom content, the ability for teachers and students to collaborate more closely, more frequent and efficient connections between students and teachers, the opportunity for more genuine critical thinking challenges and the capacity to develop communication skills that extended far beyond the classroom to the farthest reaches of the internet. Teachers involved in the one-to-one program commonly described how their students' learning experiences were richer than they had been in the conventional classroom prior to the access to the individual electronic devices.

Based upon the reports and demonstrations provided, the Board supported a proposal to provide approximately 7,000 students with an individual electronic device for the 2013-2014 school year. This initiative provided over half of all students within Township High School District 211 an iPad device and it empowered 140 teachers with the opportunity to transform learning in their classrooms.

The Board was presented information about the impact of the program through the first semester of this school year. Fremd High School Principal/Associate Superintendent-Elect **Lisa Small** and Schaumburg High School Principal **Tim Little** led the presentation, along with Palatine High School Science Teacher **Charles Filipek**, Conant High School Mathematics Teacher **Stephen Kurfess**, and Palatine High School English Teacher **Elizabeth Sheehan**. Information also was provided about how the District continues to support one-to-one teachers and to prepare faculty in the future for a world in which technology plays a larger and more integrated role in instruction and skills students will need.

Following the presentation, the Board approved the recommendation for full implementation of the one-to-one program in the fall of 2014, providing an iPad device to every student attending one of the District's seven schools. The Board authorized execution of a three-year lease with Apple to purchase 6,380 devices with an annual payment of \$1,025,686.02.

Additional information on the one-to-one program update is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [March 20, 2014](#).

Illinois High School Association Renewal of Membership for 2014-2015

The Board of Education authorized membership in the Illinois High School Association for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 for each district school and designated each principal as an IHSA delegate.

Capital Outlay/Improvement Recommendations for 2014-2015

The Board of Education approved the Educational Fund capital outlay recommendations as presented for the amount of \$3.95 million, including a transfer of \$2.2 million to the Debt Service Fund, as well as the Operations/Maintenance Fund capital outlay/site improvement recommendations for the amount of \$3.0 million, Transportation Fund capital outlay recommendations for \$750,000, Capital Projects Fund recommendations for the amount of \$18.45 million, and Life Safety Fund capital outlay recommendations for the amount of \$6.16 million. The District administration is authorized to seek bids for the Board's consideration.

The Board also approved the expenditure of \$621,000 of unanticipated funds received due to the early release of revenues from a Tax Increment Funding district. The District administration is authorized to seek bids for the purchase of technology and operations/maintenance items during the

current fiscal year.

For the 2014-2015 school year, a total of \$32.3 million for capital improvements, equipment, iPad leases, bus replacements and life safety projects was approved. As presented at the March 20, 2014 meeting, several major capital building projects are planned for the 2014-2015 school year including wireless access expansion; main office remodel at Conant High School; pool expansion and remodel at Conant High School, Fremd High School and Hoffman Estates High School; relocation of alternative education programs; auditorium lighting and sound upgrades at Palatine and Schaumburg High Schools; media center upgrades at Schaumburg High School; and life safety work at Fremd and Conant High Schools. Although the proposed amount for capital outlay is an increase above the current year's expenditures, the amount reflects the District's long-term planning to fund the proposed capital improvements while continuing to operate within a balanced budget in operating funds.

Additional information on capital outlay/improvement recommendations approved is available [here](#).

Infinite Campus Messenger Emergency Notification System

A comprehensive emergency notification and communication system provides the District with the ability to deliver thousands of messages simultaneously by email, text, and/or phone call for multiple purposes, including emergency and school closing information. In order to ensure that parents, students, and staff receive the information being communicated, an effective notification system integrates all

of the available student, parent, and personnel information data into a single, aligned system. The system must be capable of accessing all available telephone numbers, cell phone numbers and email addresses. The single and best source for all of these numbers and email addresses is the District 211 student information database, known as Infinite Campus. Records and any revisions are automatically uploaded to the system and updated with new information on a daily basis.

For the past seven years, the District has utilized a communication system provided by Global Connect, and the current contract will end June 30, 2014. Since the time the contract was established with Global Connect, the District implemented the Infinite Campus student information system. A detailed analysis was conducted of both the Infinite Campus and Global Connect notification systems, and upon final review, the Infinite Campus Messenger system possesses more capacity and integration with current data.

The Board of Education approved the purchase and implementation of the Infinite Campus Messenger System at a cost of \$31,185, and authorized the District to renew yearly costs for the messaging system for as long as it uses the Infinite Campus student information system.

Additional information is available [here](#).

School Calendar for 2014-2015

At the January 17, 2013 meeting, the Board of Education adopted a calendar for the 2014-2015 school year, with teacher institute days on August 19, 2014, and January 16,

2015, and two institute days to be determined at a later date.

At last night's meeting, the Board approved August 20, 2014, and November 3, 2014 as teacher institute days. Further, the Board approved September 11, 2014; October 22, 2014; November 7, 2014; February 20, 2015; May 22, 2015; and May 29, 2015 as shortened days for inservice training of certified staff and special events.

Proposed Policy Revisions/New Policy

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 Vice President **Mucia Burke**, Board Member **Robert LeFevre**, Assistant Superintendent **Theresa Busch**, Assistant Superintendent **Samantha Dolen**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**.

Revisions are being recommended to Board policy file: [IFA Local Wellness Policy](#). The proposed revision updates language that is required. The food service department is being audited by the State in mid-April. The Board approved the policy revisions as presented.

The Board also initially reviewed proposed policy revisions to Board policy file: [JEDA Truancy](#), as well as new policy [Teen Dating Violence](#). No action was taken at the meeting.

Board of Education Meeting Schedule

In compliance with Illinois School Code, the Board of

Education established its schedule for regular meetings for fiscal year 2015. The following regular Board meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center: Thursday, July 17, 2014; Thursday, August 14, 2014; Thursday, September 18, 2014; Thursday, October 16, 2014; Thursday, November 13, 2014; Thursday, December 11, 2014; Thursday, January 15, 2015; Thursday, February 12, 2015; Thursday, March 19, 2015; Thursday, April 9, 2015; Thursday, April 30, 2015; Thursday, May 14, 2015; Thursday, May 28, 2015; and Thursday, June 11, 2015.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2014, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.