

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, January 16, 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 Fremd High School girl swimmers **Erica King, Grace Kneller, Loretta Stelnicki,** and **Saki Takumiya** who placed 9th in the 400-yard freestyle relay at the state meet.

The Board recognized three District 211 students who were named to the Daily Herald's Leadership Team for 2013-2014: **Allison Oakes** and **Nicholas Vucovich** from Fremd High School, and **Kshama Shah** from James B. Conant High School. This honor recognizes students who are among the top in leadership through their involvement in school, church, and community organizations.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [December 12, 2013](#).

Placement Testing of Incoming Freshmen

The Board received information on this year's placement testing. On December 7, 2013, placement tests were administered to 2,855 of the anticipated 3,030 incoming freshmen. An additional 72 students attended a make-up test session on December 14, 2013. Of the 103 students who were not tested, 41 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 Explore test, together with recommendations of junior high school teachers, will be used to place students in courses for the 2014-2015 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.

Secondary School Cooperative Risk Management Program (SSCRMP)

The Board of Education received information on the District's involvement with Secondary School Cooperative Risk Management Program, a risk-sharing insurance pool comprised of School Districts 211, 207 (Maine Township), 214 (Wheeling and Elk Grove Townships), and 225 (Northfield Township) of which District 211 has been a member since 1989. The pool provides comprehensive insurance coverage at a lower cost than school districts could obtain individually.

For 2014, SSCRMP will maintain a self-insured retention (shared deductible) of \$1,000,000 for liability claims and a \$250,000 self-insured retention for property claims. SSCRMP continues to successfully manage claims, member equity, and excess loss reserves. Each member district is responsible for paying the initial \$1,000 deductible for its own boiler machinery claims; \$5,000 deductible for errors/omissions; and, \$100,000 for crime claims. Workers' compensation coverage with SSCRMP has a July 1 renewal date and provides for a \$350,000 deductible for individual claims. SSCRMP loss-fund reserves are used to pay claims within the self-insured retention for property or liability claims. A separate loss-fund is maintained for workers' compensation claims.

Based on the loss funding appropriation, property, and specific liability losses allocated to District 211, the 2014 member contributions for the District will be \$797,818. This is a 14.1% increase from the 2013 allocation of \$699,191. The 2013-2014 budget includes an appropriation of \$836,000 for property/liability insurance costs in the Operations/Maintenance and Transportation Funds.

Additional information on SSCRMP is available [here](#).

Student Fee Waivers and Low-Income Students

The Board of Education received information on student fee waivers and low-income students, including free and reduced-price meal eligibility, the District 211 fee waiver policy, and student fees.

High School District 211 participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs which allow qualifying students to receive free or reduced-price meals during the school day. A student with a household income at or below 130% of the poverty level is eligible for free meals, and those with income between 131% to 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals. All households are mailed applications for meal benefits each July and are required to submit a new application each school year to determine the approved level for meal benefits. Households also may automatically qualify for free meal benefits through a direct certification process that occurs between the Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The number of students eligible for meal benefits in District 211 has increased by 161% over the past 10 years. While all of the District's schools have experienced growing

trends of free or reduced eligible students over the decade, the dispersion of low-income students is not consistent from school to school. Current data shows that District 211 schools range from 12.7% to 46% eligibility.

Per Board Policy JN, student fees will be waived for services based on a student's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals provided under the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Student fees are described as any monetary charge collected as a prerequisite for the student's participation in any curricular or extracurricular program. Eligibility for free or reduced-price meals is the sole criterion for such waiver of fees.

Student fees in District 211 have remained constant in most areas over the past several years, with the exception of food service breakfast and lunch prices, which have been increased according to guidelines established in the Healthy Hunger Free Kid's Act of 2010. Student fees are separated into two groups: curricular or extracurricular school fees and elective fees for items or activities not required within the school.

Each year, the District reviews student fees and brings a recommendation to the Board on rates for the upcoming school year. Because the District has experienced a significant increase in the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals and fee waivers, combined with the District's current strong financial position and interest to avoid a fee revenue shift to students not eligible for fee waivers, student user fees have remained constant.

Additional information on student fee waivers and low-income students is available [here](#).

Student User Fees for 2014-2015

The Board of Education established student fees for the 2014-2015 school year. This is the eighth consecutive year that District 211 fees, with the exception of school lunch prices, have not increased.

The textbook/instructional supply fee for the 2014-2015 school year will remain \$160.00.

The driver education behind-the-wheel fee for 2014-2015 will remain \$350.00.

The student parking user fee will remain \$65.00 per semester for 2014-2015.

The bus transportation fee for next year for students whose residence is within 1.5 miles of school will remain \$170.00 and is due in full by July 11, 2014. There is no bus transportation fee for those students who reside beyond 1.5 miles from school. A late registration fee of \$35.00 will be added to all payments received after July 11, 2014.

The Board approved fees for Summer School 2014. Summer School fees will remain \$140 per semester for credit courses, and fees for non-credit physical education and activity camps will remain \$70 per session. The cost for invitation programs for incoming freshmen and sophomores will remain \$30. The fee for competitive varsity baseball and softball will remain \$175 for the summer. Transportation fees will be \$35 per semester. The Driver Education fee will be \$350 for behind the wheel, and for those students enrolled in classroom only, a \$70 fee will be assessed.

Additional information on student user fees is available [here](#).

School Breakfast and Lunch Prices for 2014-2015

The price for the standard breakfast will remain \$1.45 per meal for students and \$1.70 per meal for adults. The price for students who qualify for reduced-price meals will remain 30¢ per breakfast and 40¢ per lunch (with milk). The Board approved a fourth-tiered standard lunch price point, with lunch prices increasing to \$2.35, \$2.50, \$2.65, and \$2.80 per meal (with milk) for students, and \$3.20 per meal (excluding beverage) for adults.

Additional information on school breakfast and lunch prices is available [here](#).

School Calendar for 2015-2016

The Board of Education approved a school calendar for the 2015-2016 school year. Consistent with school code, the calendar provides for 181 days of instruction and four days of teacher institute. For the year 2015-2016, the school year will begin with a teacher institute day on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, and the first day of classes for all students on Wednesday, August 26, 2015. The last day of classes will be Friday, June 10, 2016.

A copy of the approved school calendar is available [here](#).

Administrative Appointments

Superintendent-Elect **Daniel Cates** is pleased to announce the following administrative appointments:

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Julie Nowak** as principal at James B. Conant High School, effective July 1, 2014. Mrs. Nowak is currently director of special education for District 211, a position she has held since 2008. Mrs. Nowak served as the assistant director of special education from 2007-2008, as the special education department chair at Palatine High School from 2001-2007, and as a special education teacher at Hoffman Estates High School from 1994-2001. Prior to coming to

District 211, Mrs. Nowak was a special education teacher at Jacobs High School in Algonquin from 1993-1994. In 2001, Mrs. Nowak received a Those Who Excel award from the Illinois State Board of Education. Mrs. Nowak received her bachelor's degree in education from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree in educational administration from National Louis University.

Mrs. Nowak will take over the principalship from **Tim Cannon**, who will retire at the end of the school year after 32 years of service in High School District 211. Mr. Cannon joined High School District 211 in 1982 as an English teacher and boys basketball and soccer coach at Hoffman Estates High School. He was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education with a "Those Who Excel" award in the classroom teacher category in 1999. In 2001, he was named 10-month assistant principal at HEHS, and then promoted to 12-month assistant principal in 2002. In 2005, Mr. Cannon assumed the duties of principal at Conant High School. He was again recognized this year with a Those Who Excel award in the administrator category. Mr. Cannon has been a life-long advocate for students in each of his roles. His curricular expertise and dedication to improving literacy across all curricular areas have benefited students and staff members alike.

The Board approved the appointment of **Kurtis Tenopir** as principal at William Fremd High School, effective July 1, 2014. Mr. Tenopir began his tenure in District 211 as a 12-month assistant principal at Fremd High School in 2011. Before coming to District 211, Mr. Tenopir gained administrative experience as an assistant principal for instruction at Deerfield High School from 2008-2011 and as an assistant principal at Belvidere High School from 2005-2008. Mr. Tenopir began his teaching career as an English teacher at Grand Island High School in Grand Island, Neb., in 1998 before moving to Belvidere High School, where he served as an English teacher from 2001-2005. Mr. Tenopir received his bachelor's degree in English education from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1998. He went on to receive a master's degree in educational administration with a Type 75 certificate from Northern Illinois University in 2005. In 2007, Mr. Tenopir received a superintendent's endorsement on his Type 75 certificate from Northern Illinois University. Mr. Tenopir is currently working on his doctoral dissertation.

Mr. Tenopir will take over the responsibilities of principal at Fremd High School from **Lisa Small**, who was named associate superintendent for instruction at the December 12 Board meeting, effective July 1, 2014.

The Board approved the appointment of **Matthew Hildebrand** as District 211's director of administrative services, effective July 1, 2014. Mr. Hildebrand is currently the 12-month assistant principal responsible for buildings and grounds at Schaumburg High School, a position he has held since 2010. He has been a member of the Schaumburg High School administration team since 2005, starting as dean of students. He served as a 10-month assistant principal from 2006-2007, and he served as the 12-month assistant principal in the discipline office from 2007-2010 before being appointed to his current position. Mr. Hildebrand began his teaching career as a part-time fine arts

teacher at Hoffman Estates High School in 2001 before moving the following year to Schaumburg High School as a full-time fine arts teacher. Mr. Hildebrand received his bachelor's degree in Studio Art from Clarke College. He received a master's degree in Education from Olivet Nazarene University, and a second master's degree in Educational Administration from Illinois State University.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2014, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.