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Board of Education Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, October 20, 2022, in the Anne Koller Board of Education Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center. The following is a recap of items acted upon at the meeting.

Ratification of Master Contract with United Support Staff Union

The Board approved a contract with the District 211 United Support Staff Union.

The contract, which takes effect immediately, is a four-year agreement. It provides for annual base salary increases, with no changes to retirement benefits. It also calls for increased health care premiums. The union previously ratified the contract.

Board Video

This month's Board highlight video featured photos from the District's annual College Night, which this year featured more than 150 colleges and drew more than 1,100 students from all grades and their parents and guardians. Watch it [here](#).

Recognitions

Thirty-six students from Palatine, William Fremd, James B. Conant and Schaumburg high schools have been named National Merit Semifinalists based on their scores on the PSAT/NMSQT. These students were recognized with the Robert Creek Award of Excellence, honoring the legacy of longtime Board President Robert Creek.

The students are:

Palatine High School

Vidhi C. Patel

William Fremd High School

Ifra Baig

Anya Bhowmick

Raghav G. Chandrasekar

Andrew M. Di

Calvin T. Franke

Hongtao Hu

Jeewoo Kang

Garv Gautam Khera

Marian R. Krupp

Gavin C. Livergood

Thomas J. Lu
Debdutta Mandal
Sourojit K. Mazumder
Shruti G. Patankar
Vibhav S. Prabhakar
Jason C. Sze
Kacey A. Tokunaga
Megan Wang
Sophia Zhao
Kevin Zhou
Alexander Z. Zhuang

James B. Conant High School

Soham Gupta
Fiona K. Mendoza
Ria R. Patel
Shivshankar Prasad
Sreedevi Prasad
Aarav Raina
Minnah Saif
Ella A. Saputra
Brooke Zhang

Schaumburg High School

Surag Nuthulapaty
Meera Pradeepan
Emma Radons
Nihaal Shetty
Elizabeth Wang

James B. Conant High School Art teacher **Luke Jenner** was named the 2022 High School Art Educator of the Year by the Illinois Art Education Association (IAEA).

Luke started teaching in District 211 eight years ago, dividing his time between Hoffman Estates and Conant high schools. He has taught exclusively at Conant the last five years. Luke teaches graphic design, 3D modeling and video animation, as well as AP Art History and Art in Contemporary Society. He says an art education career means helping students develop important 21st century skills like problem solving and critical thinking as well as creative expression. This is the second consecutive year a Conant educator was recognized by the IAEA. Last year, Department Chair (and District Art Chair) Erin Garrity-Duffey was named Art Education Administrator of the Year.

Marietta Schild had just finished her morning shift as a District 211 bus driver when she helped resuscitate a man suffering a medical emergency. Marietta, who has driven buses for 23 years and been a driver for District 211 the last 5 years, was in a drive-thru lane after her shift when the vehicle in front of her rear-ended another car. Noticing the

man was slumped in his seat, Marietta jumped from her own vehicle, helped pull him out of his car and administered emergency CPR on the individual until help arrived.

Marietta's quick response and willingness to help an individual she did not know are representative of her character. Her actions helped save a stranger's life.

Presentation: 2022 Tax Levy

The Board of Education viewed a [presentation](#) by Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel** and Controller & Treasurer **Barbara Peterson** and received levy information, including tax levy background information, 2022 levy considerations, a 2022 tax levy recommendation, financial projection information and the 2022 tax levy calendar.

For the 2022 levy, the tax cap limit of 5 percent plus new property (estimated at 0.3 percent) establishes the allowable levy limitation of \$251,225,000, which factors in a property tax abatement already approved by the Board in the amount of \$3,600,000. There will be additional considerations for abatements presented in November.

- The following variables support the 2022 levy recommendation:
- Inflation is up 7 percent, with the cost of goods continuing to increase;
- The recommended amount supports continued innovative instruction;
- The District's strategic direction to fund necessary capital improvements is through operations and annual future savings;
- The District's strategic direction is to remain debt-free; and
- The levy supports the long-term financial position of the District.

The District's recommendation for the 2022 levy is a critical component of preserving the District's long-term financial stability while funding its current level of operations, complete necessary capital improvement and life safety projects as determined by the Strategic Plan and retain a level of reserves to safeguard against possible unknowns. Detailed information on the District's future facility needs is presented in the Ten-Year Facility Improvement Plan Update report on the October 21, 2021 Board agenda.

The following levy calendar has been established:

- November 10, 2022 – scheduled Board of Education meeting; determine amount of proposed 2021 levy and authorize publication of public hearing date (this determination must be made not less than 20 days prior to the levy adoption)
- December 1, 2022 - December 2, 2022 – Public hearing notice published
- December 15, 2022 – scheduled Board of Education meeting; public hearing on proposed 2022 levy at 7:30 p.m. and adoption of 2022 levy
- December 27, 2022 – last day to file levy with the Cook County Clerk

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

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes from its [regular meeting](#) on September 22, 2022.

Resolutions Authorizing Intervention in Proceedings Before the State Property Tax Appeal Board

At previous meetings, the Board approved resolutions authorizing intervention in proceedings before the state Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) brought by property owners seeking assessment reductions greater than \$100,000.

The District has received notice that 11 additional property owners are seeking an assessment reduction greater than \$100,000 for the 2021 assessment year.

To protect revenue interests in the assessment appeal process, it is recommended that the District intervene in the appeal process of these additional property owners. Currently, the District has 360 PTAB appeals from property owners that remain unresolved. These unresolved appeals represent 10 taxing periods dating back to 1998.

The Board approved resolutions authorizing intervention in proceedings before the state property tax appeal board that seek assessed valuation reductions in excess of \$100,000 for tax year 2021. The Board also authorized Franczek, as the Board's legal representative, to file Request to Intervene in Appeal Proceeding forms with the appeal board on properties for which the District receives notification of appeal.

The full report is available [here](#).

Bids for Consideration

The Board of Education awarded a bid for roof repairs at all schools to G.E. Riddiford Roofing Inc. for a total of \$2.4 million, and a bid for culinary arts classroom equipment for William Fremd High School to Happ Builders, Inc. for a total of \$1.5 million.

Full information is available [here](#).

Acceptance of Donations

A combined \$4,575 was received from Palatine Township (\$1,125), the Women's Club of Inverness (\$1,000) and the Palatine Jaycees (\$2,450) for eligible students at Palatine High School and William Fremd High School in need of iPad insurance.

Mike Latkovich, National Sales Manager for Huot Manufacturing in St. Paul, Minnesota, donated 12 new industrial-grade workstations and tool storage carts in support of the manufacturing programs at Palatine High School and Schaumburg High School. Various partners were involved in organizing, transporting and delivering the equipment. The new workstations and storage carts, with transportation, are valued at \$21,500.

The Goodman Family Foundation donated \$4,000 to support the Operation Snowball Club at Schaumburg High School.

The Board formally accepted all donations and authorized letters of appreciation.

2022-2023 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Report

Township High School District 211 participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. These federally assisted meal programs provide qualifying students with access to nutritionally balanced, low-cost, or free meals during the school day. Students may qualify for free meal benefits if they are a foster child, homeless or migrant student, recipient of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), qualify for income-eligible Medicaid, or if their household meets income eligibility guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Students qualify for reduced rate meal benefits based on household size and income criteria or income-eligible Medicaid. All meals served under this meal program are federally reimbursed.

Free and reduced-price income eligibility is used to determine access to benefits in addition to the federal meal program. A student with a household income at or below 130% of the poverty level is eligible for free benefits; those with income between 131% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price benefits. For the current 2023 fiscal year, a family of four must have a gross income of less than \$36,075 annually to qualify for free meals or \$51,338 annually to qualify for reduced price meals.

Eligibility for meal benefits is reviewed and determined annually based on guidelines established by the USDA. All households receive annual notification of availability of meal benefits via either U.S. mail or email notification. In addition, applications are also available for electronic submission on the District 211 website. Households 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. Students who are directly certified have been verified as participants in the SNAP, TANF, or income-eligible Medicaid programs or are homeless or foster children.

The number of students eligible for meal benefits has increased 7 percent since October 1, 2021. Per Illinois School Code and Board of Education Policy JN, students qualifying for meal benefits may also qualify for applicable academic fee waivers.

Full information is available [here](#).

Public Act 99-456

At the September 22 Board of Education meeting, the Board requested information on Senate Bill 100 for discussion. Senate Bill 100 went into effect in September 2016 as Public Act 99-456 and redefined several aspects of student discipline and reflected sweeping changes in the use of punitive school discipline practices across the state.

Full information is available [here](#).

Requests for Foreign Exchange Trips – Summer 2023

In 1976, the Board of Education approved the first foreign exchange trip for the District. With the exception of the last three years, the Board has granted yearly permission for students to participate in foreign exchange trips to a variety of countries including Germany, Austria, France, Spain, China, and Costa Rica. For the summer of 2023, the administration is recommending the following foreign exchange trips, unless the state department and/or other federal agencies declare areas unsafe or discourage travel.

All Schools: France

Fremd and Hoffman Estates: Spain

Palatine and Schaumburg: Germany

Palatine/Schaumburg: Costa Rica

Conant and Hoffman Estates: Austria and Germany

The Board approved participation in the trips as proposed.

Full information, including cancellation protocols, is provided [here](#).

Bid Consideration - Buses

The Board of Education awarded a bid for ten 2024 model year, propane-fueled, 71-passenger buses to Central States Bus Sales in the amount of \$1,380,460.

Nine buses will be traded in, and a \$26,500 trade-in credit will be received.

Due to the manufacturing time required for buses, approval at this time helps ensure delivery for the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

BitSight Security Ratings Service

The District's 2022-2023 Information Technology (IT) budget includes a subscription fee of \$30,000 for the BitSight Security Ratings Service. BitSight offers the most widely adopted security ratings solution. It will enable District IT to gain deeper understanding of its security performance in the same way cyber liability carriers evaluate that performance, continuously assess cyber risks within the District digital ecosystem, and provide a basis to make faster, more strategic cyber risk management decisions informed by objective, verifiable and actionable data.

The service leverages externally observable data from sources across the world and real-time analysis of the District's cyber-attack surfaces to evaluate the organization's risk of a data breach. BitSight data is independently confirmed by Verisk (formerly AIR Worldwide) and HIS Markit (S&P Global) as reliable and accurate in summarizing the risk of a cyber security breach and providing actionable information to help District IT prioritize mitigation and prevention decisions; providing valuable visibility into where the greatest risks lie.

The District 211 network infrastructure is critical to daily functioning. By using BitSight, the District will be able to obtain continuous security information across that complex network and develop mitigation and improvements as necessary in this environment.

The Board approved the use of BitSight at an annual cost of \$30,000 for one year.

Full information is available [here](#).

Ten-Year Facilities and Capital Improvement Plan Update

It is the longstanding commitment of the District to provide safe, functional and adaptable facilities that contribute to the educational program and have a positive impact on student achievement. As a component of our financial and operational goals, our long-range capital outlay plan is designed to align with our strategic plan, building utilization improvement and maintenance schedule and serve our educational goals. The District is in year seven of its current 10-year capital improvement plan and is completing projects consistent with its strategic plan. The capital plan is reviewed and updated annually to convey the District's progress and consider possible adjustments necessitated by financial, demographic, technological or energy-related conditions.

The District's strategic initiatives include developing a master facility plan schedule. It also includes completion of the remaining 10-year facility improvement plan projects while remaining debt-free. Through long-range financial planning, the District has planned for completion of all prioritized projects while paying for them through only its annual operating budget and use of reserves. Through numerous communications at Board of Education and Facility and Building Safety committee meetings, the District has provided detailed information demonstrating the plan to fund capital improvement projects and sustain educational programming, while remaining debt free.

The Board reviewed a report summarizing the capital improvement work completed to-date and the progress relative to life safety projects. The report also includes

the capital improvement project timeline scheduled over the next several years.

View the full report [here](#).

Proposed Policy Revisions

Each year the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) conducts an audit of grant expenditures. During the audit, they review grant budgeting, expenditures and policies and procedures relative to grant purchasing. As part of the audit this year, the ISBE provided feedback relative to modifications of Board of Education policies DJC Bidding Requirements, DID Inventories, EHA Identity Protection and JO Student Records.

These policies have been updated pursuant to regulations.

The proposed new policy was reviewed by the Administrative Board Policy Group comprising Board President **Anna Klimkowicz**, Board Member **Mark Cramer**, Assistant

Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Joshua Schumacher**, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services **Kurt Tenopir** and Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel**.

It was presented to the Board for initial review.

The full policies can be reviewed here:

DJC [Bidding Requirements](#)

DID [Inventories](#)

EHA [Identity Protection](#)

JO [Student Records](#)

Illinois Association of School Boards Resolutions 2022

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Delegate Assembly is the policy-making body of the IASB. The Delegate Assembly comprises one voting delegate from each member district. Board President **Anna Klimkowicz** serves as a member of the Resolutions Committee.

This year's proposals include three new resolutions, five amended existing positions, three amended position statements and eleven deleted position statements.

The Board reviewed the proposals.

The summary of information is available [here](#).

The 2022 Resolutions Committee Report is available [here](#).

Next Board Meeting

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be Thursday, November 10, 2022, with closed session beginning at 6:30 p.m. and open session beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.