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Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, January 19, 2023, in the Anne Koller Board of Education Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Administrative Appointments

Mr. Dane Henning was appointed 12-month assistant principal at James B. Conant High School beginning July 1, 2023. He currently is a 10-month assistant principal at Conant, a position he has held since the 2020-2021 school year. Dane began his teaching career in 2011 as a special education teacher at Academy North. During the 2015-2016 school year, he served as a department chair at Academy North before becoming the administrator at our Alternative Learning Academy the next year, a position he held until his current role. He has a bachelor's degree in Sport Management from the University of Illinois and master's degrees in special education from National-Louis University and Educational Leadership from Roosevelt University.

Mr. Thomas Barlow was appointed 12-month assistant principal at Hoffman Estates High School beginning July 1, 2023. He currently is Assistant Principal for Building Control at Thornton Fractional South High School, a position he has held since the beginning of this school year. Thomas began his education career in 2007 as a special education teacher at Morton High School in Morton, Indiana. In 2015, he became a dean of students there before accepting the same position at Glenbard West High School in 2019. During the 2021-2022 school year, he served as principal of Directions, an alternative school in Glenbard District 87. Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of Southern Indiana. He completed his master's degree in Special Education at Indiana University Northwest and also earned a second master's degree in Educational Administration from Indiana University Northwest.

Presentation: Communications Update

District 211 is committed to preparing students for their future. We strive to build the following skills in each of our future graduates: academic growth, college and career readiness, student involvement, global competitive skills and wellness. These skills form the foundation of our District 211 Strategic Plan, which outlines the priorities, goals, strategies and targets to drive innovative progress over the next five years. The Plan was developed by a Steering Committee comprising staff, parents, students, community members and Board of Education members. It covers ten key priorities with goals and subsequent indicators, strategies and targets for each. **Kurt Tenopir**, assistant superintendent for administrative services and **Erin Holmes**, director of communications, will present on the District's progress toward and new initiatives reflective of the Communications goal of the District 211 Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan Update on Communications can be found [here](#).
The presentation viewed by the Board can be viewed [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from regular meeting [December 15, 2022](#).

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

At previous meetings, the Board of Education approved resolutions authorizing intervention in proceedings before the state property tax appeal board brought by property owners seeking assessment reductions greater than \$100,000. The District has received notice that a property owner is 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 this property owner. Currently, the District has 191 PTAB appeals from property owners that remain unresolved. The Board of Education approved the resolution authorizing intervention in proceedings before the state property tax appeal board that seeks an assessed valuation reduction in excess of \$100,000 for property tax year 2021 and authorized Franczek, as the Board of Education's legal representative, to file Request to Intervene in Appeal Proceeding forms with the property tax appeal board on the property for which the District receives notification of appeal.

Full information is [here](#).

Acceptance of Donations

The Board formally accepted donations of \$1,500 from Fifth Third Securities for the Cougars in Need program at James B. Conant High School; \$4,274.95 from parishioners of St. Thomas of Villanova in support of the Ray Mills Fund at Palatine High School; and \$2,750 from Residential Construction Employers Council for the Palatine High School building construction program.

Secondary School Cooperative Risk Management and Workers' Compensation Insurance Programs

The Board received information on the District's involvement with the Secondary School Cooperative Risk Management Program, a risk-sharing insurance pool governed by School Districts 211, 207 (Maine Township), 212 (Leyden Township), 214 (Wheeling and Elk Grove Townships), and 225 (Northfield Township). The pool provides comprehensive insurance coverage at a lower cost than school districts could obtain individually.

Additional information is available [here](#).

2022 Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers

Each January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the prior calendar year. The CPIU is the measurement of change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services over a period of time. For calendar year 2022, the rate of CPI-U increased by an amount of 6.5% over the prior year. A ten-year summary of historical CPI-U rates was provided to the Board for review, as well as information on how the CPI-U factors into the Tax Cap and levy amount limitations. Information is available [here](#).

Use of ESSER Funding in District 211

Since the COVID-19 emergency school closure in March 2020, the United States Congress has passed three stimulus bills with the aim of providing funds to the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief (ESSER) fund. Portions of this are designed to assist states that are expected to distribute at least 90% of the money to local education agencies (LEAs) based on their proportional share of funding received from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title-IA. District 211 is considered a local education agency and thus has and will receive ESSER funding into the 2024-2025 school year. To date, three different versions of ESSER funding have been approved by the federal government. These include the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act; the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act; and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. These so-called stimulus bills seek to provide additional funding to states and school districts in order to successfully support students as we recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board received information on expenses covered in District 211 so far by ESSER funds, information on a public survey regarding how money should be used, and a budget for future ESSER fund use. Information from the report to the Board can be viewed [here](#).

2023-2024 Student User Fees and 2024 Summer School Fees

Each year, the Board establishes student user fees for the use of textbooks, instructional supplies, driver education behind-the-wheel, student parking, transportation, school breakfast and lunch, and summer school. At its December 15, 2022 meeting, the Board of Education reviewed introductory information on student user fees for the current school year. This time, the Board received student user fee recommendations for the 2023-2024 school year and 2024 summer school. Student fees are due in full at the time of registration or at the time that a service is accessed. Students experiencing financial hardship may have full or partial payment provisions or student employment opportunities arranged through the administration.

The Board agreed to again waive the \$170 fee for textbooks and technology supplies for all students, as it has done for the three prior school years. The Board also agreed to maintain 1) the behind-the-wheel driver education cost at \$00 for the regular school year, pending approval by the General Assembly; 2) the student parking user fee at \$75 per semester; 3) the under 1.5-mile transportation fee at \$200 per year; and 4) the late registration fee for transportation at \$35. Additionally, the Board set the price of a standard school breakfast at \$1.85 and set the

lunch prices at \$2.60, \$3.10 and \$3.35 for students. Reduced-price costs will be 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch, consistent with the prior year. All include milk.

The 2024 summer school fees were approved as presented.

Full information and fee information is available [here](#).

Policy Review: DJC Bidding Requirements

Board of Education policy DJC Bidding Requirements was approved for revisions at the November 10, 2022 Board meeting. At the time, the draft submitted for review did not reflect previous revisions approved by the Board at its June 17, 2021 Board meeting. The policy recommended for approval incorporates the actions taken by the Board at its meetings on June 17, 2021 and November 10, 2022 and formalizes the corrected version of the policy.

The Board modified the policy as proposed.

The policy revisions can be viewed [here](#).

Resolution – Grant of Easement to Commonwealth Edison Co.

Commonwealth Edison Co. (ComEd) has requested a small extension of 20 feet to an existing easement of property along Schaumburg Road at Schaumburg High School at the southwest corner of the property. The easement request is for hosting an above-ground enclosure.. ComEd will maintain and landscape the area to block the view of the enclosure. The enclosure provides utility access to Schaumburg High School and the Schaumburg Public Safety Building. Granting the easement will not adversely affect the school district's use of the property and has no financial cost to the District. The attached resolution has been reviewed and approved by legal counsel. The Board adopted the [resolution](#) to grant the easement.

Proposed Policy Revisions

The Board reviewed three proposed policy revisions for the first time.

During the Fall 2021 session, the Illinois legislation passed House Bill 0169 (PA 102-406), which updates legislation regarding student absences from school due to religious holidays. This modifies the school code (105 ILCS 5/26) to allow excused absences for observing a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because the student's religion forbids secular activity on a particular day. Also during the Fall 2021 session, the Illinois legislation passed Public Act 102-0339, which amends the Illinois School Code and specifies that the use of physical restraint, time out and isolated time out are limited. During the Spring 2022 session, the Illinois legislation passed Public Act 102-798, which updates the length of time a school board must hold an organizational meeting after the election authority certifies election results. This modifies the school code (105 ILCS 5/10-16) to lengthen the timeline from 28 days to 40 days.

The proposed new policies have been 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 Director of Administrative Services **Matt Hildebrand**.

Policy JEF Released Time for Religious Observance can be viewed [here](#).
Policy JGA Corporal Punishment and Use of Physical Force can be viewed [here](#).
Policy BCA Board of Education Organizational Meeting can be viewed [here](#).

Purchase of Property for Student-Built Houses

The District's building construction program offers career development skills for students interested in gaining experiences in building trades. Students enrolled in the program construct houses in or near their District boundaries; the houses are then listed for sale. Building construction houses are built over a two-year timeframe. Currently, the building construction projects include a house being constructed on Michigan Avenue in Palatine, which is being built by students from Palatine and Fremd High Schools, and on Gloria Drive in Elgin, which is being built by students from Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg and Conant High Schools. The Michigan Avenue home project began in the 2021-2022 school year and is expected to be listed for sale this spring. The Gloria Drive home project began this spring and is anticipated to be listed for sale late spring 2024.

The Board approved the purchase of two additional properties located within the District 211 boundaries in the Palatine High School attendance area and are located on Louise Lane in Palatine (lots #2 and #3).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held Thursday, February 16, 2023, 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.