



**SMALL GROUP WORK ACTIVITY VERBATIM**  
**ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION #4**

**Instructions**

Each group should select a **recorder** and a **facilitator/spokesperson**. The **recorder** is responsible for writing the information from the discussion on the worksheet printed on color paper. This worksheet will be collected at the conclusion of tonight.

The **facilitator/spokesperson** should facilitate discussions and keep the group focused to complete the work in the allotted time. At the end of the session, the **facilitator/spokesperson** from each table will be asked to share the group's information.

**Please make sure the information recorded on the group's work activity reflects the *collective thought/decision or general agreement* of everyone at the table, not just the opinion of one or two individuals.**

**ACTIVITY**

**TASK #1: FACILITIES: STRENGTHS • CONCERNS • FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT - STRENGTHS**

*Discuss with members of your group what you feel are the strengths of High School District 211 facilities. What are you proud of?*

**TASK #1: STRENGTHS** - *Discuss with members of your group what you feel are the strengths of High School District 211 facilities. What are you proud of?*

TABLE #	STRENGTHS
<b>#2</b>	1) Clean & well maintained 2) Pool updates are fiscally responsible and not over done. 3) The addition of Higgins Education Center!
<b>#3</b>	1) Clean & well kept 2) Facilities are adapted to meet program needs & provide opportunities for students: i.e. manufacturing program, iPads, technology 3) Athletic facilities w/some concerns regarding scheduling and lack of field houses.
<b>#4</b>	1) Clean & well maintained 2) Safe 3) Progressive - IHSA competitive pools, media center
<b>#7</b>	1) Always in use 2) Up to date - modernized as needed 3) Love Higgins Education Center - good location - great to have kids within district next to HEHS
<b>#8</b>	1) Facilities - New Bathrooms 2) Commitment to Upgrading classrooms 3) Swimming Pools @ all schools, Athletics Fields, Technology Lab/Manufacturing Lab/Maker Space

**TASK #1: STRENGTHS** - Discuss with members of your group what you feel are the strengths of High School District 211 facilities. What are you proud of?

TABLE #	STRENGTHS
<b>#10</b>	1) Very well maintained 2) Created schools with the future in mind 3) Ability to maintain & create with minimal debt 4) Great utilization of technology
<b>Ind</b>	* Higgins Education 1) Quality & Up to date 2) Consistently modernized & improved 3) Challenges, Disabilities & Variety of choice or accommodated
<b>SP</b>	1) Solid financial stability 2) Facilities are updated/promote pride 3) The Special Ed program in state. Construction reflect Univ. setting.

**(TASK #1: CONTINUED)**

**TASK #1: FACILITIES: STRENGTHS • CONCERNS • FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT - CONCERNS**

<b>TASK #1: CONCERNS - <i>What are the greatest concerns about District 211 facilities expressed by members of your group?</i></b>	
<b>TABLE #</b>	<b>CONCERNS</b>
<b>#2</b>	1) Do the building windows opens for safety and circulation? 2) Are all of the facilities being upgraded essential? 3) What is the resale rate of large capital items? Like busses.
<b>#3</b>	1) Facilities to accommodate future trends, ie-trades
<b>#4</b>	1) Age of physical structure 2) Technology & building maintenance 3) Balance between academics & athletics
<b>#7</b>	1) Cost of updating facilities - always needed 2) Getting funding for district from state to do needs of update 3) Security of buildings —taking care of front entrances, (Think Sandy Hook) ACTIVE SECURITY
<b>#8</b>	1) Trying to keep up with North Shore schools 2) WiFi bandwidth 3) Having to wait for school to get upgrade i.e. 5 yr plan for swimming pool
<b>#10</b>	1) What is the facility plan if enrollment were to decrease 2) What assumptions are made in the 10 year student enrollment projections 3) Parking lot flow with parents dropping off students & students driving
<b>Ind</b>	1) Cost of future improvements (major facility) 2) Roofs, mechanicals, Kitchen reno, stadium surfaces 3) Safety
<b>SP</b>	1) Administration. / is solid. 2) State influence is changing the ways schools are funded. 3) Change in funding will obviously cost being passed on to community/hardship will contribute to productivity and effect student participation

**(TASK #1: CONTINUED)**

**TASK #1: FACILITIES: STRENGTHS • CONCERNS • FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT - FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

<b>TASK #1: FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES - <i>What does your group think might be future opportunities for facility improvements in District 211?</i></b>	
<b>TABLE #</b>	<b>FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES</b>
<b>#2</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) A centrally located Field House that all schools can leverage</li><li>2) A facility for trade development</li><li>3) Technology Development Center</li></ol>
<b>#3</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Sustainability - high schools support. Urban farming.</li><li>2) Volunteer opportunities.</li><li>3) SHS does not</li></ol>
<b>#4</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Continue POD's in student services in 3 other buildings to support social, emotional need</li><li>2) Maker's space - STEM based</li><li>3) Technology based programs (physical space)</li></ol>
<b>#7</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Active Security System - video systems</li><li>2) Continued planning for forward-thinking educational needs - technology, business incubator, vocational needs -</li><li>3) Technology updates</li></ol>
<b>#8</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Build bathrooms for stadiums</li><li>2) Energy Alternatives - solar power, geo thermal</li><li>3) District WiFi bandwidth computer system</li></ol>
<b>#10</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Charging facilities for electronic devices</li><li>2) Solar/Green energy alternatives</li><li>3) Staggered start and end times for students to better utilize the facilities</li></ol>
<b>Ind</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Continue new ideas such as Business Incubator Program.</li><li>2) Continue to sustain the quality.</li><li>3)</li></ol>
<b>SP</b>	Left blank.

**TASK #2: WHAT FINANCIAL INFORMATION, IF ANY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE FROM DISTRICT 211?**

**TASK #2: WHAT FINANCIAL INFORMATION?** *Discuss with your group what financial information, if any, you would like to receive from District 211?*

TABLE #	WHAT FINANCIAL INFORMATION?
#2	1) Financial scenarios that represent the risks 2) Transparency and availability of financial costs & revenues 3) How do 211 students compare cost versus ACT/SAT score?
#3	1) Information regarding changes in legislation that affects D211 funding. i.e. SB231. Include proposed action like letter to legislators 2) Quarterly newsletter including financials. 3) Regular updates on future capital improvement projects. Maybe a webcam or photo-journal of progress.
#4	1) Stay transparent. 2) State funding changes. 3) Email, board minutes
#7	1) Cost per pupil vs. quality of education 2) Difference b/w tax levy and district tax receipts.
#8	1) Amount of reserves & fluctuation 2) State of D211 Budget Finances (newsletter)
#10	1) What is the average cost per student in D211 over 10 years? 2) How much do special programs for special needs skew cost per student. 3) More clarity about compensation increases at the end of the careers
Ind	1) Cost per pupil v. High level of education - we are the best 2) Comparisons to other districts.
SP	1) Meeting/Mailing are not effective 2) Meeting at community outreach center 3) Churches to promote attendance all-schools.

**TASK #2: WHAT FINANCIAL INFORMATION - HOW OFTEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION?**

**TASK #2: HOW OFTEN** - *How often would you like to receive information about District 211 finances*

TABLE #	HOW OFTEN?
#2	1) An annual one page financial summary.
#3	1) Quarterly, annual, as needed w/pending legislation
#4	1) Quarterly
#7	1) District 'blogspot' like one at Fremd w/principal - his comes every week
#8	1) Qtrly 2) Yearly to reach property owners
#10	1) Once a year
Ind	1) Bimonthly – Principal Kurt Tenopir is a good example of this
SP	1) Wish to know changes 2) Opportunities for parent to communicate

**TASK #2: WHAT FINANCIAL INFORMATION - HOW OR WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE IT?**

**TASK #2: HOW OR WHERE** - *How or where would your group like to receive financial information from District 211?*

TABLE #	HOW OR WHERE?
#2	1) U.S. Mail to every tax payer
#3	1) E-mail 2) Website
#4	1) Electronic communication
#7	1) How about a letter to district 211 households explaining levy that arrives prior or with tax bills from Cook Co? (simple terms!) 2) Can district email letter from Superintendent to all D211 houses regardless if they have a student in schools? 3) Flyers or direct mailings
#8	1) Online 2) Mailing like Library Township or postcards — direct to website for additional info Simple graphics - highlights on a postcard
#10	1) Posted on website
Ind	Left blank
SP	1) Meeting/Mailing are not effective 2) Meeting at community outreach center 3) Churches to promote attendance all-schools.

### TASK #3: WHAT WOULD YOU IDENTIFY AS THE TOP FINANCIAL PRIORITIES FOR DISTRICT 211?

#### TASK #3: TOP FINANCIAL PRIORITIES?

*Given the current state of District 211 financial standing and pending economic and legislative uncertainties, discuss with your group and list what you think the top financial priorities should be for District 211*

TABLE #	TOP FINANCIAL PRIORITIES?
#2	1) Managing compensation and benefits with due diligence 2) Increase communication = Good, bad & ugly 3) Investigate the consolidation of D15, D54 & D211 into a single Unit District.
#3	1) No cuts! 2) Continue good fiscal management.
#4	1) Immediate notification of state or legislative changes 2) Kitchen upgrades/better usage of cafeterias 3) College & career centers 4) If there are cuts, maintain staff & curriculum 5) Stay debt free!
#7	1) Keep large reserve to deal with state uncertainties 2) Contribute to limit levies 3) Continue to fight the SB231 & such counter-productive legislative reforms 4) Continue to recruit & keep good teachers 5) Recruit a lobbyist to work & deal with Springfield insanity 6) Keep kids up to date with technology - equalizes all kids across the district
#8	1) Continue to operate debt free 2) Continue to build/maintain reserves 3) Keep on top of State law changes on school funding
#10	1) Preparation for reduction in State funding 2) Districts possibly funding pensions 3) Be less dependent on the State
Ind	1) Large enough reserve to assure future needs are met 2) Protect D211 against a poorly managed State budget -6% 3) Quality of teachers 4) Unforeseen expenses 5) Keeping students technologically up to date and advanced
SP	1) Uphold the integrity of the academic programming - teacher:student ratios not compromised 2) Uphold the activities/sports knowing the impact these activities have on student involvement & connecting to school



## OTHER SUGGESTIONS

What other suggestions would your group like to provide to the Facilitating Team as we move forward with this community engagement program? Please list your suggestions in the space provided.

<b>OTHER SUGGESTIONS</b>	
<b>TABLE #</b>	<b>SUGGESTIONS</b>
<b>#2</b>	How can we see the teachers contracts and how they are structured.
<b>#3</b>	Left blank
<b>#4</b>	Left blank
<b>#7</b>	Left blank
<b>#8</b>	Left blank
<b>#10</b>	Left blank
<b>Ind</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inform the community about our successes</li> <li>- Communicate to people that the value of their homes &amp; our community is directly tied to the exceptional educational standards of D211 &amp; therefore our property taxes are an important &amp; integral part of the exceptional education.</li> </ul>
<b>SP</b>	Left blank