



June 16, 2016

Board Member:

RE: PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Background

Throughout the months of January, February, March, April and May, the District has engaged community members to share information about the District's services and programs and to gather suggestions and feedback surrounding future priorities. The overall community engagement initiative will provide a comprehensive opportunity to gather important information from parents, students, local residents, businesses, municipal partners and staff members. Information gathered during the community engagement initiative will be used to help guide the creation of a multi-year strategic plan for the District in its mission to serve its students and local communities.

In order to conduct an accommodating and effective community engagement initiative of this scope, a facilitating team of community volunteers was convened from across the District. Approximately 25 volunteers have met throughout the past five months in order to prepare materials, establish advertising and outreach campaigns, review presentation materials, offer suggestions for social media messages and arrange the community engagement small group discussions. This citizen-led team of local residents provided quality support throughout the engagement initiative.

Focus Groups

The first of the four components of the comprehensive community engagement initiative took place in January and included input from more than 200 individuals who met in 14 different small focus group discussions. All of the focus group discussions were facilitated by a consultant from outside the District and no District 211 personnel or Facilitating Team members participated in the small focus groups in order to foster open and uninhibited discussion and input. The information obtained from the focus group participants was posted on the District 211 Community Engagement website soon after the sessions took place.

Community Engagement Sessions

Four rounds of open, public community engagement sessions were then conducted by the facilitating team. Following a short presentation, three members of the facilitating team organized the small group activities among the participants at each table and led the discussions during which people shared their ideas and input.

The first round was held on Monday, February 1, 2016 and Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at Fremd High School and Schaumburg High School, respectively; the second round was held on Monday, March 14, 2016 and Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at Palatine High School and Conant High School, respectively; the third round was held on Monday, April 4, 2016 and Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at Hoffman Estates High School and Palatine High School, respectively; and the final round was held on Monday, May 2, 2016 and Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at Conant High School and Fremd High School, respectively.

The topic of the first round sessions focused on the state of the District. The second set of engagement discussions focused on the District's academic program. The third sessions highlighted the importance of student involvement and matters of student wellness. The final public discussion sessions of the community engagement initiative, held on May 2 at Conant High School and on May 3 at Fremd High School, focused on the finances and facilities of District 211. The verbatim responses and executive summaries for each community engagement session were each posted on the District 211 Community Engagement website soon after the sessions were conducted and the information remains accessible.

Surveys

Random telephone surveys began on Friday, May 6, 2016 and the targeted number of 500 participants was reached on Sunday, May 22, 2016. Phone numbers - both landline and cell phone - were collected through registered voter lists from within District 211 boundaries and from current District 211 parent listings. Just fewer than 1600 individuals responded to the online survey, which was accessible through Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

Tonight, results and findings are being presented to the Board of Education by our co-chair facilitators Peter Carlson and Linda Reedy. The information will now be used by the Board of Education and the administration to help guide the creation of a five-year strategic plan.

Daniel E. Cates
Superintendent