

Please do not reply to this email

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, January 21, 2021, via online video-conference in order to protect public health and to be in compliance with state directives to avoid large public gatherings. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized students from William Fremd, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools who had earned honors in the state Business Professionals of America (BPA) competition. A list of the students recognized is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [December 10, 2020](#).

2020-2021 School Year Update

Superintendent **Lisa Small** presented the Board of Education with an update on the 2020-2021 school year. A copy of her report is available [here](#).

The Board of Education approved a motion to disregard the Cook County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 travel guidance, and instead, follow the Illinois Department of Public Health's COVID-19 travel guidance. Procedural information will be forthcoming.

District 211 Equity Team Update

The Board of Education received an update on Equity Team meetings. The Equity Team continues to meet in four committees to work on Phase 2: Research and Community Input. The research component includes analyzing current practices and procedures in District 211 through a lens of equity. When completed, the District 211 Equity Team will combine its collective research with the community input gathered during the Equity and Cultural Audit to develop its equity plan.

At its December 10, 2020 meeting, the Board approved the collaboration with Chicago-based Bea Young & Associates to conduct Phase 1 of the Equity and Cultural Audit. This includes interviews with the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and school principals, as well as facilitating racially homogeneous student and parent focus groups at each school. These focus groups will begin meeting via Zoom the week of January 25, 2021 and will be completed by the end of March 2021. Students and parents from each high school will be offered an opportunity to participate in a focus group, and if a large number of students or parents indicate interest, volunteers will be randomly chosen one week prior to each scheduled focus group. At the conclusion of the focus groups, Bea Young & Associates will provide a report.

Secondary School Cooperative Risk Management and Workers' Compensation Insurance Programs

The Board of Education 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), 214 (Wheeling and Elk Grove Townships), and 225 (Northfield Township), and will include District 212 (Leyden Township) beginning January 2021. The pool provides comprehensive insurance coverage at a lower cost than school districts could obtain individually.

For 2021, 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, excluding hail and wind claims that have a \$1,000,000 self-insured retention limit. 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, auto damage, pollution, and property claims; and \$10,000 for cyber claims.

For the 2021 policy year, SSCRMP has maintained its level of coverage in all categories compared to 2020, with the exception of foreign coverage, as foreign exchange and travel will not occur during the calendar year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Loss control is reflected in the total for loss funding in the 2021 renewal costs. Renewal costs are based upon actual claims data for District 211 during 2020. Overall, the annual renewal cost for District 211 will decrease by 4.3% over the prior year primarily as the result of favorable claims experience in 2020.

Based on the loss funding appropriation, property, and specific liability losses allocated to District 211, the 2021 member contributions for the District will be \$1,157,336. This is a 4.3% decrease from the 2020 allocation of \$1,209,820. For the 2021 renewal rates, funds have been allocated in the 2020-2021 budget.

State law required employers to provide workers' compensation insurance for all employees, and provides salary and medical benefits to employees who become sick or injured in the course of their employment. The Board provides employees with workers' compensation benefits through a modified self-insurance program structure with SSCRMP comprised of member Districts 211, 207, 214, and 225 (Leyden District 212 will not join the SSCRMP workers' compensation program for the current renewal). Beginning with the 2020-2021 workers' compensation renewal, the period of renewal will now align with that of the property and liability coverage with an effective date of January 1 (in June 2020, the Board reviewed workers' compensation insurance rates for the period of July 1 through December 31, 2020).

Workers' compensation coverage with SSCRMP 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.

The SSCRMP workers' compensation structure has provided comprehensive program services in a cost-effective manner. For the 2021 plan year, District 211's cost allocation for workers' compensation insurance under SSCRMP will increase from \$287,472 to \$291,564, or by 1.42%. The increase cost allocation is primarily due to funding for the SSCRMP layer of reinsurance services that was required to replenish the layer from prior year claims experience and increased claims administrative costs.

Additional information on SSCRMP and workers' compensation is available [here](#).

2020 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 CPI-U is the measurement of change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services over a period of time. For calendar year 2020, the rate of CPI-U increased by an amount of 1.4% over the prior year.

All Cook County taxing districts operate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), commonly referred to as the "Tax Cap." The Tax Cap limits the rate at which a taxing body may increase its levy from the prior year's levy amount, and the limitation at which this portion of the total levy may increase is established by the change in the CPI-U from the previous calendar year. The CPI-U rate of 1.4% will be the limiting rate for the 2021 levy which will not be approved until December 2021.

The CPI-U rate is used to determine assumptions in the District's five-year financial forecast, with an updated forecast model being presented at the

February 4, 2021 Budget & Finance Committee meeting and the February 18, 2021 Board meeting. The updated financial projection data will be used to further discussion of a possible 2020 levy abatement. Should the Board approve a levy abatement for the 2020 levy, it must be filed with the Cook County Clerk by March 31, 2021.

Additional information is available [here](#).

2021 Summer School Student User Fees

Each year, the Board of Education establishes student user fees for textbooks and instructional supplies, the driver education behind-the-wheel course, student parking, transportation, school breakfast and lunch, and summer school. At its December 10, 2020 meeting, the Board reviewed introductory information on student user fees for the current school year and information on recommended fees for 2021 summer school. Recommendations for 2021-2022 student user fees and 2022 summer school will be discussed at the February 4, 2021 Budget & Finance Committee meeting and the February 18, 2021 Board meeting.

Summer school provides students learning experiences in a variety of academic, athletic, activity, and special education courses. No changes have been made to the summer school fee structure for academic courses, special education, physical education, freshman invitational math program, or transportation since the 2003-2004 school year. Project Excel fees have remained constant since 2006. Student activity and athletic camps were set at \$75 per semester beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. The Driver Education summer behind-the-wheel fee was last increased during the 2019-2020 school year to be consistent with the fee that is assessed during the regular school year.

The learning model that will be used for summer school has not been determined and will continue to be assessed as the date draws closer. Considerations for the learning model will likely follow similar, if not the same, guidelines that are used for the current school year including following guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) while measuring local COVID metrics. Additional information on the learning model(s) for summer school will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

The District anticipates providing students with an array of instructional and extracurricular activities as in the past, regardless of the learning model. It was recommended that summer school 2021 continue to maintain offerings that provide opportunities for student growth while also reducing fees to families for the 2021 summer session.

The Board approved the 2021 summer school fees as presented. Additional information, including the approved summer school fees, is available [here](#).

Winter Curriculum Committee Report

Three times each year, department chairs from each academic department, along with school principals and the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, meet to focus on both the content of the curriculum and the instructional methods used to deliver the content. The Winter Curriculum Committee meetings focus on textbook adoptions and software approvals in order to coincide with the development of the District- and school-based budget for the following academic year.

In addition to textbook and software approvals, the Curriculum Committee discusses core components of the curriculum, including new course proposals, the updating of course critical learning standards, and adherence to curricular guidance provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Additionally, each department provides curricular updates and instructional highlights from the fall semester and reports on equity within the curriculum.

During the Winter 2020 Curriculum Committee meetings, each department reviewed updates to the District 211 Supplementary Book Approval Process, and upon approval, the Superintendent will recommend to the Board of Education the adoption of books found to be acceptable.

Each department also shared effective instructional methods implemented during both the Hybrid and Remote learning scenarios. Overall, each academic department reported innovative methods of engaging students in Zoom breakout rooms, interactive discussion and group problem-solving, and the increased use of student choice in projects and assignments.

Beginning with the Fall Curriculum Committee meetings, each academic department was asked to host structured conversations regarding equity within both the curriculum content and instructional methods utilized. These initial conversations centered on the representation of diverse groups in textbooks, instructional materials, and classroom conversations. Additionally, departments discussed culturally responsive instructional methods in relation to classroom activities and assignments. Department chairs were asked to share information relative to the initial conversations in their departments. Equity within the curriculum content will continue as a standing agenda item for discussion at upcoming curriculum meetings and will enhance the conversations related to equity within the curriculum at upcoming department meetings and institute days.

District 211 utilizes a multi-step software approval process that mirrors the textbook and supplementary book approval process. Assistant Superintendent **Joshua Schumacher** presented information about the software approval process relative to new legislation called the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA). This legislation takes effect July 1, 2021 and provides additional

guarantees that student data is protected when it is potentially collected by educational technology companies.

Beginning next year, the Illinois School Report Card will include college and career readiness indicators established by the ISBE. These indicators include metrics for the number of students who take part in career development experiences, earn industry credentials, complete a dual credit pathway course or program of study, maintain consistent employment for 12 months, and/or complete community service hours. Additional factors include a student's GPA, SAT score, attendance rate during junior and senior years, and math and English language arts coursework completion. Students who meet the requirements will either be considered a "Distinguished Scholar" or "College and Career Ready." Each academic department in District 211 has a direct connection to at least one component of the college and career readiness indicators and will continue to work to ensure that students meet the components necessary for this summative designation indicator.

The Board received a [summary report](#) of the Winter Curriculum Committee meetings, and approved the recommendations as presented.

Energy Advisor Agreement for Electricity and Natural Gas Procurement

The Illinois General Assembly enacted laws to provide a market structure for electricity and natural gas purchases. The legislation allows consumers the opportunity to choose an energy supplier based on favorable rates and terms. In June 2021, District 211 will complete its five-year agreement with Constellation Energy Services for the supply of electricity and its six-year agreement for natural gas.

District administration evaluated several energy procurement methods and recommended proceeding with an Energy Advisor to procure electricity and natural gas services in order to evaluate rates for service contracts of energy delivery, contract for service evaluation and conduct a live auction for services.

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to execute a contract with Nania Energy Advisors for the purpose of conducting a Request for Proposal (RFP) and an energy auction for electricity and natural gas services for District 211 for the period beginning July 1, 2021. Utilizing the RFP and auction process, net savings over current rates of 2-4% are observed on average by Nania Energy Advisors clients. Nania Energy Advisors will not assess a fee for its services to the District, but would assess a 1% fee to the supplier following award of contracted services.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Education Framework Service

Following other states that have passed student data privacy laws, on August 23, 2019, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed into law significant amendments to Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA, Public Act 1010-516). Effective July 1, 2021, all Illinois public school districts must comply with SOPPA's legislative requirements regarding handling of student data when using educational technology.

Obtaining and maintaining SOPPA compliance requires a variety of new and complex tasks by the District's technology team. The Board of Education reviewed a subscription to the Education Framework service at a cost of \$24,776.50 per year, with a three-year agreement, to assist in SOPPA compliance, and following discussion, will consider other options at a future meeting.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Administrative Appointment

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Kurtis Tenopir** as assistant superintendent for administrative services, effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Tenopir has served as the principal of Fremd High School since 2014. He began his career in District 211 as a 12-month assistant principal at Fremd High School in 2011. Prior to coming to District 211, Mr. Tenopir was an assistant principal for instruction at Deerfield High School from 2008 to 2011 and an assistant principal at Belvidere High School from 2005 to 2008. Mr. Tenopir began his teaching career in 1998 as an English teacher at Grand Island High School (Nebraska) before moving onto Belvidere High School as an English teacher in 2001. Mr. Tenopir received his bachelor's degree in English education from Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Neb. in 1998. He went on to earn his master's degree in educational administration with an administrative endorsement from Northern Illinois University in 2005. In 2007, he received his superintendent's endorsement from Northern Illinois University.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2021, 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.

Please do not reply to this email