

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, November 11, 2021, in the Ann 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.

Veteran's Day Recognitions

In honor of Veteran's Day, which was celebrated across District 211 schools in various ways, Superintendent Lisa Small honored Board of Education Member **Mark Cramer** and Public Relations Specialist **Patrick DeGeorge**, both veterans, for their service.

Those in the audience who served in the armed forces also were recognized.

Recognitions

William Fremd High School senior **Thomas Lu** earned a score of 36 on the American College Test (ACT), the highest possible composite score. The ACT comprises tests in English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning. On average, of the 1.9 million college-bound students who take the ACT annually, fewer than two-tenths of one percent earn a perfect score. Over the past 23 years, District 211 has had 146 students achieve a top score of 36 on the ACT exam. Read the full list of recipients [here](#).

Conant High School Mathematics sophomore **Nicolas Simon** placed fifth in the IHSA State Golf Finals this month. He also was MSL Boys Golf Conference Champion, the IHSA Regional Tournament Champion, and the champion of the Wheeling Tournament. More information is available [here](#).

Public Hearing - Request for Waiver

The Board of Education held an open hearing to discuss the filing of a waiver of the \$50 limit on drivers education fees.

2021 School Report Cards

School Report Cards were developed by the State of Illinois to provide information about academic performance and characteristics of students, faculty, instructional resources and finances at the school, district and state level. Report Cards are prepared by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) based on data received from schools throughout the State at various points of the school year. According to Illinois School Code, School Report Cards are to be forwarded to the schools from the ISBE by October 31 and made public within 30

days. Once the Report Card is issued by the ISBE, no information on the Report Card can be modified. The ISBE released an initial version of the 2020-2021 School Report Card on October 29, 2021.

This initial version was missing much of the academic accountability data as the collection and analysis has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information can be found [here](#).

The State Report Cards for each school can be found on District 211's website [here](#).

Placement Testing of Incoming Freshmen

District 211 administered placement tests to 2,667 of the anticipated 2,953 incoming freshmen in the high school graduating class of 2026 on Saturday, October 16. An additional 98 students attended a make-up testing session on Wednesday, October 20. Overall, 94 percent of anticipated incoming freshmen have completed the assessment. Results are used in combination with recommendations from eighth-grade teachers to determine students' placement into ninth-grade English, math and science courses.

Each high school will work individually with students who missed the testing sessions to account for the students' academic achievement as a factor influencing ninth-grade core course placement. The success of the placement testing program is the result of a coordinated effort involving District 211 transportation, student services and technology services staff, as well as many staff members at the local junior high schools.

More information can be found [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its Special Meeting on [October 5, 2021](#) as well as its regular meeting on [October 21, 2021](#).

Proposed Levy Resolution

The Board of Education approved a resolution establishing the proposed 2021 levy at \$245,015,000. The Board also directed that a public hearing on the proposed levy be held at its December 9, 2021 meeting.

At a previous meeting, the Board viewed a [presentation](#) by Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel** and Controller & Treasurer **Barbara Peterson** and received tax levy information -- including background details, 2021 levy

considerations, a 2021 tax levy recommendation, financial projection information and the 2021 levy calendar.

For the 2021 levy, the tax cap limit of 1.4% plus new property (estimated at 0.2%) establishes the allowable increase for the Aggregate Operating Extension of Capped Funds levy. Since there is no need for a Debt Service levy, the tax cap levy limitation is \$245.0 million. Of the 1.6% levy limitation amount, 1.4% is attributed to existing property tax owners and 0.2% is attributed to new property growth within District boundaries.

The following variables support the recommendation for the 2021 levy:

- the recommended amount supports the continuation of instructional programs for students;
- 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 for current and future Boards of Education.

The District's recommendation for the 2021 levy is a critical component of preserving the District's long-term financial stability while being able to fund its current level of operations, complete necessary capital improvement and life safety projects, and retain a level of reserves to safeguard against possible unknowns.

Full information can be found [here](#).

New Policy - Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

The Board of education approved the adoption of new Board Policy [JHCE: Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention](#).

Policy Revisions

The Board of Education postponed its votes on Board Policies [IIAA: Selection of Instructional Materials](#) and [INB: Teaching About Controversial Issues](#) until the January 2022 Board of Education meeting.

IASB Resolutions

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.

At the joint annual conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards/Illinois Association of School Ad

ministrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials on November 20, 2021, the Delegate Assembly of IASB will review, discuss, and vote on proposed resolutions submitted by member districts. Board Vice President Steven Rosenblum will represent District 211 as the voting voice for the Board.

Results from the proposed resolutions and amended statements will guide the IASB's position statements and staff in ongoing legislative efforts. This year's proposals include 16 new resolutions, one amended existing resolution, four reaffirmations of existing position statements, one new belief statement, and one amended belief statement.

The Board of Education had previously reviewed the full report; at its latest meeting, members discussed the new resolutions.

More details are available [here](#).

Waiver of School Code - Driver Education

The Board of Education agreed to again approve an application for a waiver modification requesting to charge up to \$400 for behind-the-wheel driver education.

The Illinois School Code provides that school districts may charge a fee, not to exceed \$50, for participation in the driver education behind-the-wheel course. District 211 previously received approval from the Illinois General Assembly for a waiver to charge up to \$400 for the 2017-2018 through the 2021-2022 school years.

The driver education behind-the-wheel fee has been \$400 since 2017-2018. Prior to that, the fee was established at \$350 beginning with the 2004-2005 school year.

Costs of administering the behind-the-wheel course remain in excess of the recommended fee amount.

Full information can be found [here](#).

Revised School Calendars

The Board of Education approved revised school calendars for the 2022-23 school year as well as the summer calendars for 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Calendars previously had been presented in February 2019; since that time, however, additional requirements have been approved by the Illinois legislature. This includes the addition of the Juneteenth National Freedom Day and the 2022 Election Day.

The revised calendars accommodate these days accordingly.

More information can be found [here](#).

Fall Curriculum Committee Report

The process of curriculum development in District 211 has a long history of involvement and cooperation between teachers, administrators and the Board of Education. Each group is engaged in different levels for the selection of instructional materials to ensure our curriculum remains rigorous, relevant and dynamic. In addition, District 211 curriculum is aligned to national and state academic standards as required by the Illinois State Board of Education. District 211's academic program is organized into departments that include each content area. Within each department, course curriculum is organized based on District 211 critical learning standards, which form the foundation for the units of study, learning targets, instructional activities and formative and summative assessments. The curriculum development process begins at the teacher and professional learning team (PLT) level. Department chairs from each school guide and oversee the collaborative process between teachers and meet regularly to discuss plans and proposals created through PLT work. Once evaluated against school- and District-wide expectations, curricular proposals are then brought to the Curriculum Committee, which comprises 11 members: the department chair from each school, the principal of each school, and the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

The District 211 Curriculum Committee meets three times annually to focus on curricular scope and sequence, as well as to discuss core components of the curriculum. The core components – which include activating and deactivating courses and updating and recommending textbooks and software – are recommended by the Curriculum Committee and presented to the Superintendent prior to being reviewed by the Board of Education. Additional discussions often occur regarding dual credit and advanced placement offerings, curriculum guide updates, legislative mandates, equity, social-emotional learning and unique curricular projects in departments.

This fall, several new department chairs were welcomed into their new roles, including: **John Brown**, Guidance Department Chair at Hoffman Estates High School; **Tom Chester**, Music Department Chair at Hoffman Estates High School; **David Torpe**, Science Department Chair at James B. Conant High School; **Jeff Stewart**, Social Studies Department Chair at James B. Conant High School; **Scott Hagel**, Wellness Department Chair at Palatine High School; **Darius Sanchez**, Science Department Chair at Palatine High School; **Lisa Lau**, Department Chair at North Campus; and **Beth Roesner** as the new District 211 Department Chair for the Wellness Department. During the Fall Curriculum meetings, each department reviewed and discussed two Board of Education policies related to curriculum. The first, Board Policy IIAA Selection of Instructional Materials, was reviewed to ensure all teachers fully understand the “Guidelines for the Evaluation of Instructional Materials.” Department chairs and principals also discussed Board Policy INB Teaching About Controversial Issues. The conversation centered on the “guidelines for determining

whether a controversial issue or material should be presented in the context of an educational experience for a class.”

The group also discussed the District 211 Equity Plan. Department Chairs were encouraged to champion this plan with their departments, specifically focusing on the priorities from the Equitable Curriculum and Instruction section of the plan.

Each department also recapped progress and made recommendations for their areas. The Board of Education reviewed the [Fall Curriculum Report](#).

Senior Graduation Products

Each year, District 211 graduates approximately 3,000 students. All students participating in the graduation ceremony are required to be dressed in a matching cap and gown and will receive a diploma with a cover at the ceremony.

Fees per participating student are collected to cover the cost of the cap and gown. Fees for students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch are waived. The District has allocated \$21,000 in the 2021-2022 budget to cover the cost of these waived fees.

Based on styles of caps and gowns, individual prices range from \$22 to \$35 per student. Unit price for diplomas and diploma covers are \$4.47 each. The District pays for the diplomas and their covers at a cost of approximately \$13,000 per year, which is included in the 2021- 2022 budget.

A Request for Proposal for senior graduation products was sent to 10 vendors; two vendors responded. Jostens was selected as the recommended vendor for all three products based upon pricing, product quality and past service experience.

The full information can be found [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2021, with closed session beginning at 6:30 p.m. and recognitions beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.