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Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, December 10, 2020, 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 the William Fremd High School Girls Basketball Team for winning the 2019-2020 State Championship, as well as honoring Fremd High School Mathematics Department Chair and Head Girls Basketball Coach **David Yates** for being named the 2019-2020 Illinois High School Girls Basketball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Fremd High School student-athlete and member of the 2019-2020 girls basketball team, **Ella Burns**, was recognized for winning the Illinois High School Association's 3-Point Shooting Contest, also called Queen of the Hill. A list of the Fremd High School student-athletes recognized is available [here](#).

The Board recognized James B. Conant High School gymnast **Julia Betts** who was named the Illinois Senior Gymnast of the Year by the Illinois High School Girls Gymnastics Coaches Association.

Adoption of 2020 Tax Levy

Following a public hearing, the Board of Education approved the proposed 2020 tax levy as presented. The proposed 2020 tax levy approved by the Board on November 12, 2020 is \$241,690,000.

Additional information on the 2020 Tax Levy is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [November 12, 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](#).

Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

Annually, the Association of School Business Officials International recognizes school districts that demonstrate high standards and best practices for financial reporting and accountability with the organization's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award. High School District 211 earned recognition as a recipient of this award for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2019, marking the 13th consecutive year the District has been honored.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Proposed New Policies, Policy Revisions, and Policy Deletions

As part of its ongoing Policy Manual review, the Board of Education reviews proposed policy revisions, proposed policy deletions, and proposed new policies from the Administrative Board Policy Group. The Group is comprised of Board President **Robert LeFevre**, Board Vice President **Anna Klimkowicz**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Joshua Schumacher**, Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**. Proposed new policies, as well as policy revisions and deletions, also are reviewed by legal counsel.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) required that schools gave and communicate a policy stating that they do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, and other characteristics. The Board approved new policy [Non-Discrimination Statement](#), after initially reviewing at its November 12, 2020 meeting.

The Board also approved proposed policy revisions to Board policy [File: GAC/JA/KAA Uniform Grievance Policy](#); [File: JFJ/GBCBB Prohibition of Harassment of or By Students](#), and [File: JFCH Prevention of and Response to Student Bullying](#) after initially reviewing at the November 12, 2020 meeting.

The Board approved proposed policy deletions for Board policy [File: JFCM Non-Discrimination of Students and Staff by Students](#); [File: GBMA Grievance Procedure for Sex Discrimination](#); and [File: GBMB/JFJK Prohibition of Sexual Harassment](#) after initially reviewing at the November 12, 2020 meeting.

2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of Board of Education Funds

The Board of Education acknowledged receipt of the June 30, 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that includes financial statements, as prepared by High School District 211, and audited by Baker Tilly US, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Illinois School Code and the District's adopted policy require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board encourages every governmental entity, including school districts, to prepare and publish a CAFR. The CAFR serves as the District's official annual financial report and contains introductory information, schedules necessary to demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions, and statistical data. The purpose of the financial statements is to report on the financial position and operations of the District.

A representative from Baker Tilly US, LLP, Certified Public Accounts, presented a brief review of the audit at the meeting.

The 2019-2020 CAFR is posted on the District 211 website for viewing [here](#).

Operating Fund Balance for the Period Ending June 30, 2020

In April 2008, High School District 211 first adopted an operating fund balance policy (DCA) to safeguard against financial uncertainty in the District and to ensure the capacity of the District to deliver the current range of comprehensive, quality services to all students into future years without disruption. The policy ensures that the District will maintain adequate fund balance levels for operational and financial planning purposes. The District's financial position regarding fund balance is measured from the following two perspectives as of June 30 of each fiscal year:

1. It is within the Educational Fund;
2. It is within the multiple funds that comprise the Operating Fund

The Board of Education received information on the [operating fund balance for the period ending June 30, 2020](#).

2019-2020 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) of Board of Education Funds

The District regularly publishes extensive financial information, and in an attempt to make this information accessible to the general community, the Board established a commitment to produce a Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)

each year. The PAFR is an unaudited financial publication that presents financial information recently audited by the District's accounting firm of Baker Tilly US, LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

A copy of the District 211 PAFR for the financial period ending June 30, 2020 is available [here](#).

Bid for Consideration – Buses

Sealed bids for buses were opened and evaluated for the purchase of 10 model-year 2022, propane-fueled, 71-passenger buses and two propane-fueled, 42+1 wheelchair-equipped buses. Twelve buses will be traded in, and bid prices were to include trade-in credit. Bids were sent to four vendors, with two sealed bids returned.

The Board of Education awarded the business for buses to the lowest responsible bidder, Central States Bus Sales, in the amount of \$1,193,090. Due to the manufacturing time required for buses, the Board's approval now will help ensure delivery for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Payment for the vehicles will be made after delivery in July 2021, and funds for the vehicles will be included in the 2021-2022 transportation budget.

Additional information on the bus bids is available [here](#).

Student User Fees Introduction

Each year, the Board of Education establishes student fees for textbooks and instructional supplies, the driver education behind-the-wheel course, student parking, transportation, school breakfast and lunch, and summer school. The Board of Education received a report containing an overview of the District's student fees. A complete copy of the report is available [here](#).

The District must continue to monitor the revenue impact of student user fees on its overall budget and will advance recommendations that consider the effect on students and the District's financial position at Board of Education meetings on January 21, 2021 and February 18, 2021. A recommendation for summer school fees for the 2021 school year will be reviewed at the January 21, 2021 meeting and the remaining fees, including summer school fees for summer 2022, will be discussed in conjunction with the discussion of the District's updated financial projection and possible tax levy abatement at the February 18, 2021 meeting.

District 211 Equity Team Update

The Board of Education received an update on Equity Team meetings. The Equity Team continues to meet monthly as a full group and smaller committees and has accomplished the majority of its work from Stage 1: stakeholder engagement. During this phase, the Team discussed the importance and necessity to include and affirm the voices of students, staff, and families in the school community. Through research and collaboration, the Team ultimately determined that an outside organization was necessary to ensure the validity of the outreach process and reliability of the feedback obtained during the process. During November, representatives from the Equity Team researched multiple organizations that partner with school districts to facilitate stakeholder engagement regarding equity, and one organization was identified as both the best fit and most well-versed in equity concepts in the State.

The Board authorized the superintendent to enter into an agreement with Bea Young & Associates to provide professional services to District 211 and to conduct an Equity & Cultural Audit at a cost of \$45,000. The contract proposal contains two phases of work: Phase I would begin in February 2021 and would consist of seven individual interviews with District 211 administrators, 20 two-hour homogeneous focus groups with up to 12 students each, and 20 two-hour homogeneous focus groups with up to 12 parents/family members each; and would include all corresponding documentation and written reports. The cost of Phase I would be funded by existing 2020-2021 Title 2 funds.

In the contract, there is an option to continue work into the 2021-2022 school year, identified as Phase II. Phase II would consist of 11 District-level leadership interviews, including all Board members and administrators who report directly to the Superintendent, 16 two-hour focus groups of up to 12 certified and classified staff members, and two two-hour focus groups of up to 12 school-level administrators, and will include all corresponding documentation and written reports. A cost estimate of Phase II will be available at the conclusion of Phase I.

A copy of the Equity Team update is available [here](#).

Establish Time, Place, and Date of Regular Board of Education Meetings

The Board of Education approved the following schedule for regular Board meetings in the G.A. McElroy Administration Center to begin at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of entering closed session, with the public portion of the meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m.: Thursday, July 15, 2021; Thursday, August 19, 2021; Thursday, September 23, 2021; Thursday, October 21, 2021; Thursday, November 11, 2021; Thursday, December 9, 2021; Thursday, January 20, 2022; Thursday, February 17, 2022; Thursday, March 17, 2022; Thursday, April 7, 2022; Thursday, April 28, 2022; Thursday, May 12, 2022; Thursday, May 26, 2022; and Thursday, June 16, 2022.

Sale of Surplus School Property

Per Board of Education policy DN School Property, property owned by District 211 with market value of more than \$300 may be disposed of to the best advantage of the District with condition of equipment reviewed by the Board prior to its disposal.

The Board authorized the sale of the following items: Body Master lateral shoulder raise machine, Cybex Upright leg curl machine, Cybex triceps press machine, Cybex leg press machine, Cybex arm curl machine, Cybex leg extension machine, Cybex lat pulldown machine, Hammer strength unilateral leg press machine, Life Fitness abdominal crunch machine, Life Fitness shoulder press machine, Life Fitness multi hip machine, Life Fitness incline chest press machine, Life Fitness seated row machine, Life Fitness upright chest press machine, a Coats 5065AX rim clamp tire changer, a gas- powered MB walk-behind broom, two Micro Rain MR32 traveling sprinkler systems and a 2008 71-passenger bus by way of public sealed bid, public auction site or company trade-in. Additional information is available [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21, 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.

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