

Please do not reply to this email

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, February 18, 2021, in the auditorium at Hoffman Estates High School. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Administrative Appointments

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Mark Langer** as principal of William Fremd High School, effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Langer currently serves as the 12-month assistant principal for buildings & grounds and activity director at Conant High School, a position he has held since 2017. Prior to this position, Mr. Langer was a 12-month assistant principal for discipline at Conant High School from 2015 to 2017. Mr. Langer served as a 10-month assistant principal at Conant High School during the 2013-2014 school year and then at Palatine High School during the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Langer began his teaching career in 2003 as a science teacher at Palatine High School, and then served as the school's dean of students during the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Langer earned his bachelor's degree in food sciences and human nutrition from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1999. He completed his master's degree in secondary education from National Louis University in 2003. In 2011, Mr. Langer completed a second master's degree in educational administration from Northern Illinois University.

The Board approved the appointment of **Luis Arroyo** as athletic director at Palatine High School, effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Arroyo is currently a 12-month assistant principal for discipline at Palatine High School, a position he has held since 2019. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Arroyo served as a 10-month assistant principal at Palatine High School from 2017 to 2019 and at Hoffman Estates High School from 2014 to 2017. Mr. Arroyo also coached football at both Hoffman Estates and Palatine High Schools. Before coming to District 211 in 2014, he was the dean of students and head football coach at Elmwood Park High School since 2007. Mr. Arroyo began his teaching career in 2000 as a physical education instructor at Alexander Graham School in Chicago. Mr. Arroyo received his bachelor's degree in physical education from Concordia University in 1999. In 2007, he completed his master's degree in educational leadership at Concordia University.

The Board approved the appointment of **Michele Napier** as the District's director of college and career readiness, effective July 1, 2021. Mrs. Napier became a 10-month assistant principal and activity director at Schaumburg High School in

2017. From 2014 to 2017, Mrs. Napier served as the guidance department chair at Schaumburg High School. Mrs. Napier started in District 211 as a college and career counselor at Schaumburg High School in 2011. Prior to her career in education, Mrs. Napier was a human resources and benefits manager for Ameritech. Mrs. Napier earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from DePaul University in 1991. She received a master's degree in human resources information systems from Loyola University in 1995 and earned a second master's degree in school counseling from Roosevelt University in 2011. In 2017, she earned her third master's degree in educational leadership from Roosevelt University.

The Board approved the appointment of **Danielle Hauser** as the District's director of student services, effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Hauser is currently the District's director of instructional improvement, a position she has held since 2009. Prior to this position, Dr. Hauser served as a 12-month assistant principal at Conant High School during the 2008-2009 school year and a 10-month assistant principal at Conant High School from 2005 through 2008. Prior to her roles in administration, she was a mathematics teacher at Conant High School from 1999 to 2005. She began her teaching career at Clay Junior High School in Carmel, Indiana where she taught mathematics from 1997 to 1999. Dr. Hauser received her bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Ball State University in 1997 and a master's degree in teacher leadership from Roosevelt University in 2001. She earned a second master's degree in leadership and organizational change from Roosevelt University in 2002. Dr. Hauser earned her doctorate degree in teaching and learning from Illinois State University in 2015 and recently completed coursework for a superintendent's endorsement through Eastern Kentucky University.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized High School District 211's "*Those Who Excel*" Award recipients. The Illinois State Board of Education annually sponsors the "*Those Who Excel*" awards to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the state's public and non-public schools. High School District 211 award-winners are:

- District 211 North Campus **Alternative Learning Academy** (team category): **Moises Enciso, Alexandra Fliess, Dane Henning, Zoilita Herrera-Pytlewski, Sean Keevin, Joseph Macnider, Jordan Sandberg, and Carly Sutherland**
- Schaumburg High School Psychologist **Pamela Enright** (student support personnel category)
- Hoffman Estates High School Special Education Teacher **Katie McGarvey** (early career educator category, and 2021 Illinois Special Education Teacher of the Year)

- Conant High School Principal **Julie Nowak** (school administrator category)
- Palatine High School Mathematics Teacher and Dean of Students **Joyce Richardson** (classroom teacher category)
- Fremd High School Special Education Teacher Assistant **Thomas Speziale** (educational service personnel category)

Presentation: Long-Range Financial Planning

High School District 211 Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel** presented the Board of Education information on long-range financial planning. The presentation included a Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Update, information on Fiscal Year 2022 Student User Fees, and information on a possible 2020 Levy Abatement.

A copy of the presentation is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [January 21, 2021](#).

In-District Professional Learning Opportunities

The Board of Education approved offering the following professional learning opportunities for in-district credit: “Deeper Dive into CRT Practices: A Focus on Creation Using 5 CRT Domains,” “Assessing Student Learning,” “Emotion-Friendly Classroom – Social Emotional Learning,” “Learning is Not a Spectator Sport – Student Engagement,” and “Educator Externship” as proposed.

Additional information on professional learning opportunities is available [here](#).

Class Size Committee Report

The Board of Education received a [report](#) from the Class Size Committee.

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](#).

District 211 Equity Team Update

The Board of Education received an update on Equity Team meetings. The Equity Team continues to meet as a full team and in four committees each month. In early February, the Team shifted its focus and efforts to Phase 4, which is the development of a draft equity plan. The development of the plan includes the Team's analysis of current District 211 procedures and processes, as well as the research conducted related to concepts of equity. The draft plan is scheduled to be completed in late April 2021, which coincides with Phase 1 Equity and Cultural findings from Bea Young & Associates.

At the December 10, 2020 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the collaboration with Chicago-based Bea Young & Associates to conduct Phase 1 of the Equity and Cultural Audit. This included interviews with administrators, as well as facilitating racially homogeneous student and parent focus groups at each school.

Additional information on the Equity Team update is available [here](#).

2021-2022 Financial Calendar Including Budget and Levy Sequence

The Board of Education received information about the financial calendar and the budget and levy sequence. The 2021-2022 budget sequence occurs over several months prior to the budget recommendation to the Board in August 2021. Development of the annual budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year began following the adoption of the 2020 levy at the December 10, 2020 Board meeting. Property tax revenue based upon the approved 2020 levy amount will provide the majority of the District's revenue source. Additional revenue sources will be evaluated and budgeted over the coming months as information become available regarding state and federal sources.

Expenditures for the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget will begin to be developed by schools and departments over the next several months for textbooks, supplies, purchased services, and capital replacement needs. These recommendations will then be reviewed and prioritized by administration and the superintendent prior to inclusion in the budget plan. The expenditure budget will be aligned with the District's strategic priorities. Budget planning continues throughout the spring and into the start of the fiscal year with a tentative budget presented to the Board in August 2021.

The Board also received a copy of the 2021-2022 Budget Development calendar, incorporating both the levy approval and budget development process. The calendar identifies various steps in the development and date for completion of each component.

The following budget parameters and considerations are planned to be incorporated into the 2021-2022 budget development process:

- Maintain a balanced budget in accordance with the School Code (105 ILCS 5/17-1)
- Allocate costs associated with achieving District academic goals
- Allocate staffing costs based on enrollment and instructional programs
- Safeguard a minimum 33.3% fund balance within the Educational Fund and combined operating funds
- Allocate salary costs based on negotiated contracts
- Allocate benefit and insurance costs based on projections developed in coordination with the District's consultant, HUB International
- Allocate an estimated \$4.0 million in the Life Safety Fund for approved projects on the life safety survey recently filed with the Illinois State Board of Education
- Execute inter-fund transfers to fund life safety projects (\$4 million)
- Continue the one-to-one program for a portion of new devices purchased in the 2021-2022 fiscal year

The District's operating funds include the Educational, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, Illinois Municipal Retirement/Social Security, and Working Cash Funds, and are used to account for revenue and expenditures necessary for the operating needs of the District. The District's operating funds are used to support the academic, facility, and operational priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. The District is operating free of bonded debt, and it will rely on funds allocated in the annual operating fund budget to continue with completion of its strategic priorities, including continuation of the one-to-one program, payment for capital improvement projects, and completion of future health and life safety projects without the need to issue debt.

For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, salary and benefits costs will be budgeted according to contractual agreements and projected healthcare cost trends. The District will continue to review and allocate supply, purchased services, equipment, and other expenditures over the coming months based upon strategic priorities and overall District need.

Life Safety projects mandated in the 2018-2019 survey are in progress. The District also will continue work on projects outlined in its second 10-year capital improvement plan during the 2021-2022 school year. Projects scheduled for completion include washroom renovations at Fremd and Palatine High Schools, replacement of aging mechanical equipment at multiple buildings, and initial costs associated with kitchen upgrades at Fremd High School in the summer of 2022.

The District's non-operating funds include Debt Service, Life Safety, and Capital Projects Funds, and will not be used for accounting purposes in the 2021-2022

school year. The District has no bonded debt or capital leases; therefore, there will be no activity in the Debt Service Fund.

While the 2021 levy will be established during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the established levy amount does not impact the 2021-2022 budget, but rather will be the first step in development of the following year's 2022-2023 budget. Currently, introductory levy information is shared with the Board beginning in September. Following review and discussion of the recommended levy amount for a period of up to three months, the Board must establish the levy amount no less than 20 days prior to adoption of the levy each year. The levy must then be approved and filed with the Cook County Clerk by the last Tuesday in December, which for 2021 the final date to file the approved levy is December 28.

Additional information on the 2021-2022 financial calendar and budget and levy sequence is available [here](#), as well as a copy of the 2021-2022 budget development calendar.

2021-2022 Student User Fees & 2022 Summer School Fees

Each year, the Board of Education establishes student user fees for the use of textbooks, instructional supplies, driver education behind-the-wheel, student parking, transportation, school breakfast and lunch, and summer school. At its December 10, 2020, the Board reviewed introductory information on student user fees for the current school year. At the January 21, 2021 meeting, the Board approved student user fees for 2021 Summer School. Recommendations for 2021-2022 student user fees and 2022 Summer School were discussed at the February 4, 2021 Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

Illinois School law permits public school districts to charge student user fees for items that are directly consumed or used by students or for a student's participation in curricular or extracurricular activities. Public school districts are not permitted, however, to charge tuition or fees to cover the general cost of the student's education in accordance with the Illinois Constitution. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Board took action to waive select student fees in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Student instructional fees, student parking fees, and student fees for reduced-price meals were waived. For the current year, estimated fee revenue is expected at \$2.5 million with waivers of fees comprising \$3.5 million in total relief for families.

Textbook/Instructional Supply Fee

The Board approved that the textbook/instructional supply fee of \$170 for the 2021-2022 school year again be waived for all students. Waiver of this 2021-2022 fee amount is projected to provide approximately \$1,354,000 in fee relief for District 211 families.

Driver Education Behind-the-Wheel Fee

Illinois School Code provides that school districts may charge a fee, not to exceed \$250, for participation in the driver education behind-the-wheel course. District 211 received approval from the Illinois General Assembly for a waiver of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-23) to change the fee for driver education behind-the-wheel to \$400 through the 2021-2022 school year. The Board approved the driver education behind-the-wheel fee remain at \$400 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Student Parking User Fee

At each school, an allotment of student parking spaces is available for a user fee of \$75 per semester. This fee was last increased by \$10 per semester during the 2018-2019 school year. Student parking fees are used to offset costs associated with maintaining and repairing parking lots. The Board approved the student parking user fee remain \$75 per semester for the 2021-2022 school year.

Transportation Fee

The State provides partial reimbursement to school districts for the cost of transporting students who reside more than 1.5 miles from school. In order to receive State reimbursement, school districts may not charge a fee for transporting these students. The State provides no reimbursement for the cost of transporting students who reside less than 1.5 miles from school. The Board approved the bus transportation fee remain at \$200 per year for students whose residence is within 1.5 miles of school and is due in full by July 1, 2021. There is no bus transportation fee for those students who reside beyond 1.5 miles from school. A late registration fee of \$35.00 will be added to all payments received after July 1, 2021.

Summer School Fees

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, and 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 Board took action in January 2021 to set 2021 Summer School fees as waived or discounted rates in anticipation of a possible Hybrid learning model. Fees of approximately \$540,000 were offset for families through the reduced-fee rates.

The Board approved the 2022 summer school fees as presented, including \$140 per semester for academic courses and \$75 per semester for non-credit athletic or activity camps (\$175 for non-credit competitive baseball and softball).

School Breakfast and Lunch Fees

District 211 participates in both the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Participants of these programs agree to operate on a non-profit basis, offer standard school breakfast and lunch meals that contain specified food components, establish a unit price for standard meals, and provide free or reduced-price standard meals to eligible students. As a participant in these programs, District 211 receives government-donated food commodities and partial financial reimbursement for student breakfast and lunch meals.

For the 2020-2021 school year, the USDA granted permission for school districts to operate under the Seamless Summer Meal programs, granting all students access to meals free of charge. The current waiver for school districts to operate under this program expires June 30, 2021.

Free and reduced-price standard school breakfast and lunch meals are available to eligible students based on household income or for additional qualifying criteria. Applications for free and reduced-price meals are mailed to parents or legal guardians of all students before the start of each school year and also are available on the District website. Reduced-price lunch is 40¢ and reduced-price breakfast is 30¢.

In a traditional school year, students are offered a three-tier meal pricing structure for standard, reimbursable school lunches. Lunches are available for \$2.55, \$2.85, and \$3.10, and pricing of a meal is determined primarily by the food cost of the entrée. Breakfast with milk is available to student for \$1.65.

Several factors impact the price of school meals, including fluctuations in food cost, changes in commodity reimbursements, and student preferences. As part of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, school districts are required to charge students for paid meals at a price that is the difference between the free and paid meal reimbursement rates. The intent of the law, known as “paid equity,” is to ensure that federal free and reduced-meal reimbursement funds are not used to subsidize the cost of paid meals.

The Board approved student paid lunch prices be set at \$2.55, \$2.85, and \$3.10 and that the paid breakfast price be set at \$1.65 for the 2021-2022 school year. The Food & Nutritional Services Department is required to operate as a non-profit, self-funded department. The approved lunch and breakfast prices align with requirements under the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, and will help offset rising prices of food and supplies, generating approximately \$2,035,000 of revenue to paid meals for the Educational Fund.

Additional information on student user fees 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. Among other requirements, the new law demands that every piece of software (hundreds of apps, websites, online subscriptions, operational software applications that manage student information, etc.) used by the District be analyzed for compliance with federal and state student data privacy laws. The Board of Education approved 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.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Resolution Abating a Portion of the Taxes Levied for the 2020 Tax Year

The Board of Education adopted its 2020 tax levy at its December 10, 2020 meeting, and it was filed with the Cook County Clerk on December 16, 2020. The levy amount is a 2.73% increase over the 2019 levy amount, of which 0.43% is attributed to new property growth and 2.3% is attributed to the Tax Cap limitation.

The District updated its five-year financial projection and presented information to the Budget and Finance Committee on February 4, 2021. The updated financial forecast included the latest 2020 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rate of 1.4%, receipt of proceeds of \$17.75 million from the sale of the Schaumburg 62-acre site, and an anticipated favorable year-end budget projection of a \$3.3 million budget surplus.

With this updated financial information, the Board of Education discussed options regarding a tax rebate, as well as allocation of funds from the 62-acre land sale for capital improvement projects, and will continue discussion at its March 18, 2021 meeting.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Lawsuit Against Juul Labs, Inc.

Juul Labs, Inc. is the vaping industries largest and most well-known corporation. It has been the driving force within the industry and has been at the forefront of the most comprehensive marketing campaigns, product development, and assertive lobbying campaigns.

More than 100 school districts across 20 states have filed a “Mass Tort” lawsuit against Juul Labs, Inc. to recover damages for costs incurred and to be incurred by school districts from vaping epidemic that has taken hold in high schools and middle schools across the country.

Over the past several years, District 211 has seen a dramatic increase in the use and abuse of vaping products and technologies. The impact has been significant not only on the District’s administrative, supervisory, and physical resources, but more importantly, the impact has been significant on students. These “legal” nicotine products are of significant concern due to the incredible amount of highly addictive nicotine compounds found in traditional vaping products.

The Board of Education approved a resolution authorizing commencement of vaping litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. as presented, and executing the attorney-client fee contract authorizing the legal services of the Frantz Law Group, APLC as defense attorneys for the Mass Tort lawsuit against Juul Labs, Inc. There is no cost to District 211 to join the lawsuit, as the Frantz Law Group is handling the case on a contingency fee basis.

Additional information on the lawsuit against Juul Labs, Inc. is available [here](#).

Life Safety – Elevator Modernization Work at Palatine High School and James B. Conant High School

On the 2018-2019 Life Safety Survey, elevator modernization work was identified for the passenger elevators at Palatine and Conant High Schools, and the freight elevator at Conant High School. The scope of the work includes updates to the elevator hoistway, elevator car cables, mechanical units, pit valves, cab door and interior, fixtures, and controller units. District 211 has secured proposals utilizing the Sourcewell cooperative agreement, pursuant to Public Act 0905-0990 allowing for cooperative purchases and contracts via the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act to be utilized by public school districts, with Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corporation. Elevator improvement are scheduled for summer 2021 and will be budgeted in the 2021-2022 Operations and Maintenance Fund budget.

The Board of Education authorized the superintendent or designee to execute a contract with Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corporation in the amount of \$342,535 for elevator modernization work at Palatine and Conant High Schools.

Potential Topics for Future Discussion

An agenda item on sexual violence prevention, including a review of the District's Title IX policy, grievance procedures, and an overview of the District's wellness curriculum, will be added to the Board of Education's March 18, 2021 meeting.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, March 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