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Board of Education Meeting Recap

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

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized William Fremd High School students **Zhiwei Jiang, Anshul Kaushik, and Eva Konsur** for earning the highest possible composite score on a recent ACT college entrance examination. Of the nearly 2 million students who take the exam each year, less than two-tenths of one percent receive a top score of 36 on the exam. Over the past 22 years, District 211 has had 143 students achieve a top score. The complete list of District 211 students recognized for ACT achievements can be found [here](#).

The Board recognized James B. Conant High School students **Ashay Parikh and Rayaan Siddiqi** for winning the 2020 Congressional App Challenge for Illinois' 8th Congressional District. This national event engages student creativity and encourages their participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and their winning app will be displayed over the next year in the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

The Board also recognized Palatine High School Science Teacher and Head Chess Coach **Sean Fisher-Rohde** for being named the 2021 Coach of the Year by the Illinois Chess Coaches Association. Coach of the Year honorees demonstrate dedication to chess beyond their team and contribute to the Illinois chess community at-large.

Presentation: Prevention of Sexual Harassment in District 211

In 2016, High School District 211 crafted and adopted a series of value statements that communicate what is important to the District and its community. These value statements – which include *“Safety: Our District values safeguarding the welfare of all by providing a positive and respectful environment”* and *“Wellness: District 211 values cultivating the healthy physical, social, and emotional well-being for all”* – are the guiding principles that drive daily interactions with students. In addition to value statements, District 211 has many policies and procedures in place to specifically prevent sexual harassment from

occurring in District schools and to provide support to students when an incident is reported.

The Board of Education viewed a presentation describing District 211's proactive approach to education and prevention of sexual harassment, the District's clearly defined processes and procedures for reporting and investigating potential incidents, and the District's commitment to provide high levels of support during and after a potential incident of sexual harassment in school. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Joshua Schumacher**, along with Conant High School Assistant Principal **Jeannette Ardell**, Schaumburg High School Guidance Department Chair **Eric Melton**, Fremd High School Guidance Department Chair **Antonette Minniti**, Hoffman Estates High School Wellness Department Chair **Beth Roesner**, and Palatine High School Wellness Department Chair-Elect **Scott Hagel** presented details about the prevention of sexual harassment in District 211.

A copy of the presentation is available [here](#), as well as copies of the following supporting documents: [Harassment Information](#), [District 211 Title IX Administrative Procedures](#), [Handout for Posting Basic Title IX Training](#), [Handout for Website Posting Investigator Title IX Training](#), [Handout for Website Posting Decision-maker Title IX Training](#), and [Handout for Website Posting Title IX Supportive Measures Meeting](#).

Presentation: Facilities and Capital Improvements Update and Tax Relief Information

It has been the long-standing commitment of High School District 211 to provide safe, functional, and adaptable facilities that contribute to the educational program and have a positive impact on student achievement. As a component of its financial and operational goals, the District's long-range capital outlay plan is designed to align with its Strategic Plan, building utilization, improvement and maintenance schedule, and serve its educational goals. The District is currently completing routine maintenance and life-cycle replacement updates, completing projects in its 10-year capital improvement plan as well as completing mandated life safety projects identified on the 2019 Health and Life Safety Survey. The District's capital plan is reviewed and updated annually to reflect progress and considers changes due to financial, conditional, technological, or energy-related matters.

Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel**, Controller and Treasurer **Barbara Peterson**, and Director of Facilities and Purchasing **John Pahlman** presented information to the Board of Education on 2021-2022 life safety capital improvement projects summary and financial update, as well as the 10-year facilities and capital improvement plan. Also presented was information on 2021-2022 major capital improvement projects, 2021-2022 routine maintenance capital

projects, future facility improvement considerations, financial planning for capital improvements, and long-range financial planning and possible tax relief.

A copy of the report the Board received is available [here](#), and a copy of the presentation is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [February 18, 2021](#).

2020-2021 School Year Update

Superintendent **Lisa Small** presented the Board of Education with an update on the 2020-2021 school year, including Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) revised guidance. A copy of the report is available [here](#).

Revised Schedule for the Remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board of Education discussed the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and approved the following:

- Parents may continue to choose if their child should attend school through in-person learning or remote learning.
- The bell schedule will remain in its current form.
- April 13 is the State SAT exam day for all juniors and seniors who did not take the SAT last fall and wish to take it. There will be no school for freshmen, sophomores, and non-testing seniors.
- Friday, May 28 will be designated as an ISBE-approved Institute Day for teachers to meet by course to articulate core skills that need to be the focus for summer school courses, summer enrichment opportunities, and potentially integrated at the start of the subsequent course in the fall. The last day of classes for the 2020-2021 school year will be Thursday, May 27.

New guidance from the ISBE and the IDPH details replacement of six-foot distancing by a minimum of three-foot distancing, allowing schools to have capacity to seat all students in their classrooms. Six-foot distancing is still needed while students are eating. The two-team Hybrid system will no longer be needed, nor will alternating weeks of in-person attendance as any student who is attending in-person can potentially attend daily.

A copy of the information the Board received is available [here](#).

SAT Preparation Information

On Tuesday, April 13, 2021, junior students across Illinois will take the SAT exam. The SAT is developed by The College Board, a non-profit organization that also organizes the Advanced Placement (AP) program. The SAT exam consists of sections on Reading, Writing and Language, Mathematics, and an optional Essay section. The SAT is part of a suite of integrated assessments that include the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and the SAT. These assessments are designed to measure what students are learning in their high school coursework and the skills needed to succeed in college.

Each District 211 school implements a multi-tiered approach to preparing students for the SAT suite of assessments, including embedded school-day test preparation, after-school test preparation, and access to the free online Kahn Academy personalized test preparation website. The Board of Education received detailed information regarding SAT exam preparation for students. A copy of the report is available [here](#).

2021-2022 School Year

The Board of Education received information about the 2021-2022 school year, which is currently being planned as a traditional school year with a traditional schedule at all campuses. A copy of the report is available [here](#).

District 211 Equity Team Update

The Board of Education received an update on the District 211 Equity Team meetings. The Equity Team continues to meet as a full team and in four committees each month. The team continues to research and analyze current District practices and procedures and has moved into Phase 4: Development of the District 211 Equity Plan. Each committee has developed belief statements regarding topics of focus and are working to develop potential recommendation to the Board for increasing equity across the District 211 community.

Bea Young & Associates has completed its student and parent focus groups at each District 211 high school. In addition to focus groups, the organization also conducted interviews with the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and school principals, and is analyzing feedback obtained during the interviews and focus groups in order to provide a final report to the District 211 Equity Team, at the end of April. The Equity Team will use this information to finalize recommendations and present an Equity Plan to the Board.

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

Enrollment Projections

The Board of Education received information on enrollment projections through the 2028-2029 school year. Enrollment projections are based on fall data received from School Districts 15 and 54, and assume attendance boundaries as defined in October 2001, with no significant shifts of families within the District. The projections are based on students who will attend the District's five high schools. Off-campus projections are based on enrollments at District 211 North Campus, Higgins Education Center, and private facilities for the 2020-2021 school year and on a five-year average for the remaining years. Not included in the projections are the number of students who may enroll in District schools based upon their families specifically moving into District 211 boundaries for its educational excellence.

Projections indicate that the District's enrollment at its five high schools will increase slightly for the upcoming school year, increasing 1.3% in 2021-2022. District 211 will continue to experience increases in enrollment through 2022-2023, before a decline begins in 2023-2024.

Additional information on enrollment projections is available [here](#).

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

The Board of Education discussed a resolution to abate a portion of the taxes levied for the 2020 tax year in the Operations and Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$3 million for a final 2020 levy amount of \$238,690,000; however, a motion to approve failed.

The Board also discussed the allocation of \$5 million of the proceeds of the land sale for capital improvement projects in a future budget year. The Board did not approve this motion; however, it will be discussed again at a future meeting.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Resolution of the Board of Education of Township High School District Number 211, Cook County, Illinois, Declaring the Intention to Seek Legislation Amending the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law

Pursuant to section 35 ILCS 200/18-185 of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), PTELL limits the amount of a tax extension to the lesser of 5% or the increase in the rate of the prior year's Consumer Price Index for Urban

Consumers plus the amount for new property growth in a given tax year. The amount of the levy is used in calculating the following year's tax extension limit. Therefore, should a taxing body levy less than the amount allowed under PTELL, the aggregate levy extension for the following year may only increase by the PTELL limit and a taxing body may not recover the difference from the prior year.

Under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, "Aggregate extension base" means the taxing district's last preceding aggregate extension as adjusted under Sections 18-135, 18-215, 18-230, and 18-206. An adjustment under Section 18-135 shall be made for the 2007 levy year and all subsequent levy years whenever one or more counties within which a taxing district is located (i) used estimated valuations or rates when extending taxes in the taxing district for the last preceding levy year that resulted in the over or under extension of taxes, or (ii) increased or decreased the tax extension for the last preceding levy year as required by Section 18-135(c). Whenever an adjustment is required under Section 18-135, the aggregate extension base of the taxing district shall be equal to the amount that the aggregate extension of the taxing district would have been for the last preceding levy year if either or both (i) actual, rather than estimated, valuations or rates had been used to calculate the extension of taxes for the last levy year, or (ii) the tax extension for the last preceding levy year had not been adjusted as required by subsection (c) of Section 18-135.

Potential legislation has been drafted to amend the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for levy year 2022, the aggregate extension base for Township High School District Number 211, Cook County, Illinois shall be the amount that said district's aggregate extension for levy year 2021 would have been assuming an extension of taxes for levy year 2021 at the limiting rate for levy year 2021.

The Board of Education approved the resolution of the Board of Education of Township High School District Number 211, Cook County, Illinois, declaring the intention to seek legislation amending the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law as presented. With this, legislation would be introduced as a bill in the spring 2021 session, and should the bill be approved, it would be in effect for the 2021 tax year. The 2021 tax levy will be approved by the Board in December 2021, and an abatement of the 2021 tax levy must be filed with the Cook County Clerk by March 31, 2022.

Additional information is available [here](#), including the approved resolution.

Graduation Site Agreement Recommendation for the Class of 2021

The Board of Education authorized the superintendent to enter into a license agreement with the NOW Arena at a total cost of \$109,000 for the off-site

graduation ceremonies for Palatine, Fremd, Conant, Schaumburg, and Hoffman Estates High Schools for Class of 2021 graduation ceremonies.

The NOW Arena is a multi-purpose cultural and sports center that will be able to accommodate all five large high school graduation ceremonies with accommodations for both indoor and outdoor ceremony options, depending on the COVID mitigation restrictions placed on large gatherings at the time of graduation. Both indoor and outdoor ceremony options include live video broadcast options to outdoor spaces designated on the grounds of the NOW Arena should limited spectator capacity remain due to COVID mitigation restrictions. If ceremonies are held outdoors in order to allow for optimal family viewing, two ceremonies are planned per school. If mitigations will allow the entire graduating class to be gathered indoors, one indoor ceremony will be held per school and will include outdoor video broadcast options for extra spectators based upon the limitations in place at the time of the graduation.

Additional information is available [here](#), including Class of 2021 graduation schedules for the NOW Arena.

Summer School Proposed Schedule 2021

The Board of Education received information about the 2021 summer school schedule, and approved it as presented.

Additional information on the 2021 summer school schedule is available [here](#).

In-Service Dates for 2021-2022

At its February 14, 2019 meeting, the Board of Education adopted a school calendar for 2021-2022, with 180 student attendance days; and four institute days on: Tuesday, August 10, 2021; Wednesday, August 11, 2021; Tuesday, October 12, 2021; and Monday, January 10, 2022.

Shortened days for in-service training of staff have been used and are consistent with the allowances under school code. The principal at each school has determined which days will be used for in-service training, with no more than five shortened days allowed per school. According to state guidelines, students must be in attendance for at least three hours during a shortened day. For designated shortened days in District 211, students attend classes for 4½ hours.

In-service programs are scheduled for staff members on Parent Open House on Thursday, September 2, 2021, and on College Night on Tuesday, October 5, 2021. Students will attend school for 4½ hours on these days and the remainder of time staff will focus on continuing work to increase student achievement. In

addition, each school has a shortened day on the state administration of the SAT in April, where due to space limitations on testing dates, selected students attend school on that date.

The Board approved September 2, 2021; October 5, 2021; November 5, 2021; February 11, 2022; February 18, 2022; and May 13, 2022 as shortened days for in-service training of certified staff and special events of which each school may choose a maximum of two days for 2021-2022.

Request for Proposal – Electricity and Natural Gas Services

At its January 21, 2021 meeting, the Board of Education approved Nania Energy Advisors to solicit proposals for electricity and natural gas services. Nania Energy Advisors solicited requests for proposals (RFPs) for services to evaluate both rates and terms of services for electricity and natural gas suppliers.

The Board approved a live auction for the procurement of natural gas and electricity; and further, authorized the superintendent or designee to award contracts for electricity and natural gas for a period not to exceed 48 months in length, subject to rates received that are no more than 2% above the request for proposals received on March 11, 2021 with final determination of product and term to be made following auction results.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Renewal of Financial/Human Resources Software

The most critical resources of High School District 211 are the people who serve students. How the District allocates these valuable resources and manages staff time ensures both efficiency and responsive service. In 2017, the Board of Education approved an expenditure to transition the District to Frontline software, a robust, automated system to manage and track staff absences, substitute teacher scheduling and timekeeping functions that had previously been tracked manually. Fully in place in the 2018-2019 school year, the District has been able to realize increased functionality and efficiency for staff and more tangible and timely means to produce and analyze data. The Frontline software licensing expires June 30, 2021.

The Board authorized the superintendent or designee to execute the renewal of the Frontline software at a total maintenance cost of \$45,194.79 for the 2021-2022, \$47,002.59 for the 2022-2023, and \$48,882.69 for the 2023-2024 school years.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Administrative Appointments

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Amanda Hughes** as the 12-month assistant principal for building and grounds at Fremd High School, effective July 1, 2021. Mrs. Hughes was appointed as the school's 12-month assistant principal for discipline this school year. Prior to this appointment, Mrs. Hughes had served as principal at Berlin Area School District in Berlin, Wis., since 2018. From 2014-2018, she held the position as grant project director for the Berlin Area School District. Before this, Mrs. Hughes was a high school counselor from 2009-2014, first at Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 in Hinckley, Ill., from 2009-2011, and then at West Branch Community School District in West Branch, Iowa from 2011-2014. Prior to becoming a high school counselor, Mrs. Hughes was an English teacher, from 2007-2009 at Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 and at Bettendorf High School in Bettendorf, Iowa, in 2006. Mrs. Hughes received a bachelor of arts in teaching language arts from Augustana College in 2006. She went on to earn her first master's degree in school counseling from Northern Illinois University in 2010 and completed the coursework for her second master's degree in Educational Administration from Concordia University in May 2017.

The Board approved the appointment of **Jeannette Ardell** as the 12-month assistant principal for building and grounds at Conant High School, effective July 1, 2021. Mrs. Ardell currently serves as a 10-month assistant principal at Conant High School, a position she has held since 2016. During this school year, she has served as the school's lead discipline administrator. Prior to her administrative position, she was a school psychologist at District 211-Academy North and also served as the District's lead psychologist. Mrs. Ardell began her career in District 211 in 2002 as a psychologist at Schaumburg High School, and also served one year as the school's dean of students during the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Ardell earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Michigan State University in 1996, her master's degree in school psychology from the University of Massachusetts-Boston in 1999, and a second master's degree in educational administration from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb in 2012.

The Board also approved the appointment of **John Volgi** as 12-month assistant principal lead disciplinarian at Palatine High School, effective July 1, 2021. Since 2019, Mr. Volgi has served as a 10-month assistant principal at Palatine High School. Prior to his current role, he had been an applied technology teacher at Palatine High School since 2011. He has served the school in the roles of a lacrosse coach, CAD club sponsor, and contributor to the professional development, solutions, and attendance intervention committees. From 2017-2019, Mr. Volgi also served as a dean of students at Palatine High School. Mr. Volgi earned two bachelor's degrees, one in architectural studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2008 and the other in 2010 in technology education from Illinois State University. He earned a master's degree in STEM education and leadership from Illinois State in 2013 and a second master's

degree in educational leadership and principal preparation from Concordia University in 2017.

The Board approved the appointment of **Hamid Mehreioskouei** as 12-month assistant principal lead disciplinarian at Fremd High School, effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Mehreioskouei has been a 10-month assistant principal at Fremd High School since 2017. Prior to this administrative role, he served as a social studies teacher at Schaumburg High School since 2005. During his tenure as a teacher at Schaumburg High School, he also was the head boys' soccer coach for 12 years and dean of students from 2015-2017. Mr. Mehreioskouei received his bachelor's degree in secondary education history from Bradley University in 2004. He earned a master's degree in history from Northeastern University in 2012 and completed his second master's degree in educational leadership from Roosevelt University in 2018.

The Board approved the appointment of **Gordon (Gerry) James** as 12-month assistant principal lead disciplinarian at Conant High School, effective July 1, 2021. Mr. James has served as a 10-month assistant principal at Hoffman Estate High School since 2019. Prior to that, he had been an art teacher at Schaumburg High School since 2005. While an art teacher, Mr. James filled many roles within the school and the department, including coaching football and sponsoring multiple clubs, and during the 2014-2015 school year, he served as Schaumburg High School's dean of students. He transitioned to the role of the school's art department chair in 2015 and served in this role until 2019. Mr. James earned his bachelor's degree in art education in 2004 and a master's degree in art education in 2010, both from Northern Illinois University. He took coursework for his administrative certificate, which he earned in 2012, and he is currently pursuing a doctorate in art education through Northern Illinois University.

The Board approved the appointment of **Chris Cirrincione** as 10-month assistant principal at Palatine High school, effective August 2, 2021. Mr. Cirrincione comes to District 211 from his position as a Spanish and social studies teacher at Prospect High School in District 214, where he has worked since 2015. While a teacher in District 214, he developed an outreach program for freshman students, coordinated a student body organization, led the pep club as an advisor, and served as a congressional debate coach. Mr. Cirrincione earned a bachelor's degree in history with teaching endorsements in social studies, Spanish, and Italian from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2005. He received his master's degree in Spanish Language from DePaul University in 2018, and is currently pursuing a doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in educational leadership.

The Board approved the appointment of **Allyson Baisden** as 10-month assistant principal at Fremd High School, effective August 2, 2021. Mrs. Baisden currently serves as the district coordinator of student services for Deerfield School District 109, a position she has held since 2017. In 2016, she was the student services coordinator in Indian Prairie School District 204 at Granger Middle School, and in 2015 she served as the director of guidance at Asheville High School in North Carolina. From 2004-2014, Ms. Baisden held positions as a school social worker in Buncombe County Schools at Erwin

High School in North Carolina and in Illinois in Wheeling School District 21, Grayslake North High School, and Midlothian School District 143. Mrs. Baisden received a bachelor's degree in theatre from Earlham College in 2000, a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2004, and an additional master's degree in school leadership from Concordia University in 2014.

The Board approved the appointment of **Whitney Gbur** as 10-month assistant principal at Schaumburg High School, effective August 2, 2021. Ms. Gbur has served as an English teacher at Schaumburg High School since the 2011-2012 school year. During this time, she assumed the role of the school's head cheerleading coach and has guided the team to State on multiple occasions. From 2017-2019, Ms. Gbur also served as dean of students at Schaumburg High School. While at Schaumburg High School, she has contributed to multiple committees, such as the Saxon Strong Core Leader and Saxon Pride Member. Ms. Gbur earned her bachelor's in education from Indiana University in 2011, a master's degree in reading from Concordia University in 2014 and completed her master's degree in teacher leadership and principal preparation through Roosevelt University in 2017.

The Board approved the appointment of **Brittany Berleman** as 10-month assistant principal at Hoffman Estates High School, effective August 2, 2021. Mrs. Berleman has been a social studies teacher at Palatine High School since 2006, serving as the school's dean of students this school year. As a member of the Palatine High School faculty, she has been a swimming and diving head coach, water polo head coach, speech team assistant coach, service club sponsor, and social studies literacy coach. Mrs. Berleman received her bachelor's degree in history and secondary education from Lewis University in 2006, a master's degree in reading from St. Xavier University in 2010, and she is currently completing her principal leadership degree at Roosevelt University.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, 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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