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Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, March 17, 2022, in the auditorium at Palatine High School. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Administrative Appointment

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Alex LeGare** as Building and Grounds Manager at Hoffman Estates High School, effective April 18, 2022.

Mr. LeGare has spent his career at South Berwyn School District 100, starting as a custodian in 2012; moving to the position of security coordinator in 2013; and serving as head custodian from 2014-2018. For the past three years, he worked in maintenance.

He holds a bachelor's degree in General Studies from Western Illinois University; earned his Facility Management Professional credential from the International Facility Management Association and his Professional Maintenance Manager credential from the Association of Facility Engineers.

Recognitions

The Board recognized numerous students across all five high schools who earned honors in statewide extracurricular competition. Those students were:

Conant High School

IHSA:

Henry X. Chang, Boys Wrestling - sixth place, 195-pound weight class

Ethan L. Stiles, Boys Wrestling - first place, 152-pound weight class

Samantha J. Anderson, Girls Wrestling - sixth place, 135-pound weight class

Business Professionals of America:

Ronit Anandani, first place in Digital Media Production

Siya Choudhary, first place, Graphic Design Promotion

Ashwin L. Mannur, first place, Economic Research Team

Angiarm Nasanjargal, first place, Advanced Desktop Publishing and Human Resource Management

Dhruv K. Raval, first place, Economic Research Team
Parth N. Shah, first place, Database Applications

Health Occupations Students of America:

Alexandra M. Zaharinov, first place, Physical Therapy
Brooke M. Zhang, first place, Behavioral Health

Fremd High School

IHSA:

Elena J. Benzen, Girls Bowling - third place, wheelchair division

Jaden A. Heinlein, Boys Swimming - seventh place, 200 Yard Individual Medley
Sean P. Grady, Boys Swimming - fourth place, 200 Yard Free AWD; third place, 50 Yard Free AWD; fourth place, 100 Yard Free AWD; fifth place, 100 Yard Breaststroke AWD

Charles W. Fifield, Boys Wrestling - fourth place, 145-pound weight class
Evan D. Gosz, Boys Wrestling - third place, 113-pound weight class
Wiley D. Jessup, Boys Wrestling - second place, 106-pound weight class

Business Professionals of America:

Aditya Gupta, first place in Fundamental Accounting
Rhea Mukherjee, first place in Prepared Speech and Extemporaneous Speech
Nishanth S. Ramanujam, first place in Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications

Health Occupations Students of America:

Amulya Addepalli, first place, Researched Persuasive Writing and Speaking
Satvika R. Alur, first place, MRC Partnership
Harani R. Athwale, first place, Health Career Photography
Nitya Sai R. Borra, first place, Health Lifestyle
Emily Y. Kao, first place, Medical Terminology
Tanya Khosla, first place, MRC Partnership
Debdutta Mandal, first place, Health Informatics
Pranav Prasad, first place, Prepared Speaking
Nethra Senthilkumar, first place, MRC Partnership
Smrithi Senthil Kumar, first place, MRC Partnership
Alexander Z. Zhuang, first place, Dental Terminology

Hoffman Estates High School

Business Professionals of America:

Stephanie V. Baranov, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Brandon Y. Kim, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Armaan C. Patel, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Diya T. Patel, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Meera P. Patel, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Allison Prabakar, first place, Fundamental Word Processing
Isha V. Shah, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Isha S. Subramanian, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team

Health Occupations Students of America:

Vishva M. Patel, first place, Public Health
Tanisha Paul, first place, Public Health
Priya Srinivas, first place, Pharmacology
Zoya S. Ali, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Madinabonu Ashurova, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Kinjal G. Chaudhari, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Sudenur S. Ece, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Arya S. Shah, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Chelsi D. Vaghela, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team
Mansi D. Vaghela, first place, Parliamentary Procedures Team

Palatine High School

Health Occupations Students of America:

Eesha Bhargava, first place, Veterinary Science

Schaumburg High School

IHSA:

Brady D. Phelps, Boys Wrestling - sixth place, 106-pound weight class

Bethany J. Regione, Girls Wrestling - fifth place, 125-pound weight class

Valeria Rodriguez, Girls Wrestling - third place, 155-pound weight class

Presentation - Facilities and Capital Improvement Updates

It has been District 211's long-standing commitment 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; and 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** and Director of Facilities and Purchasing **John Pahlman** presented information to the Board of Education on the 2022-2023 projects.

A copy of their update and the full presentation is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [February 17, 2022](#).

Resolutions Authorizing Intervention in Proceedings Before the State Property Tax Appeals Board

The Board approved a resolution authorizing intervention in proceedings before the state property tax appeal board that seeks an assessed valuation reduction in excess of \$100,000 for property tax year 2020 and authorized Franczek, as the Board of Education's legal representative, to file Request to Intervene in Appeal Proceeding forms with the property tax appeal board on the property for which the District receives notification of appeal.

The full resolution is available [here](#).

Bids for Approval

The Board approved six bids for projects throughout the District, totaling \$1.9 million. The projects include paving at all schools; exterior concrete work at Hoffman Estates and Palatine high schools; pool wing restoration at Palatine High School; PE towel service at all schools; sewing machines at all schools; sewing machine cleaning.

The full report and bid information is available [here](#).

Acceptance of Donation

The Board accepted the donation of \$3,000 from P&S Investment Partners, LLC and authorized a letter of appreciation from the Superintendent. The money will be used for equipment, apparel and meals in support of the Schaumburg baseball program.

Resolutions Authorizing Abatement of the 2021 Tax Levy and 2021 Recapture Levy

The Board was presented with scenarios at its January 20, 2022 and February 17, 2022 meetings considering use of the prior two-year budget surplus and the land sale proceeds for facility improvement projects and tax relief provided via two possible tax levy abatements: 1) abatement of the 2021 recapture levy; and 2) abatement of the 2021 regular tax levy approved December 2021.

The Board reviewed financial information and projections, including a five-year projection that points toward continued overall financial stability. While it remains uncertain what financial impact current economic conditions and the continued pandemic will have on the District financially and operationally, it is critical to the financial future of the District to assess and consider all key areas as it moves forward with its financial planning and decisions. Continuous monitoring of economic and legislative changes will be included in the District's financial planning and will allow for consideration of alternative capital funding sources if necessary. Advanced forecasting provides the District with the opportunity to make financial changes to produce balanced budgets into the future in order to ensure continued support of our academic programs.

Based on information presented, the Board approved two resolutions: one abating \$4,174,840 in the 2021 recapture real estate tax levy due to section 18-233 of the property tax code; and another abating a portion of the taxes levied for the 2021 tax year in the Operations and Maintenance Fund in an amount of \$3 million for a final 2021 Operations and Maintenance Fund levy of \$30,962,000 and final total 2021 levy amount of \$242,015,000.

A \$3 million abatement will provide permanent tax relief to taxpayers within District 211 boundaries while also permanently reducing the District's baseline levy extension.

The full report and projections are available [here](#).

Facilities and Capital Improvement Updates

Over the past several months, the Board has discussed considerations for use of the \$18 million budget surplus from the prior two years and \$17.8 million of land sale proceeds. Discussion surrounding utilization of \$18 million for capital improvement projects not identified in the current 10-year plan have been reviewed. Three facility improvement projects were identified: auditorium improvements at all schools including ADA accessibility improvements; the replacement of public address systems at all schools; and the addition of air conditioning in the remaining applied technology classrooms in four schools.

The Board rejected a recommendation for administration to engage architects and engineers to prepare design and specifications for those projects and bid the projects.

The full report, considerations and motion are available [here](#).

Proposed Policy Changes

The Board approved the deletions of two policies – JED Student Absences and Excuses and JEDA Truancy – and directed the Superintendent to remove those policies from active status. These policies were recommended for deletion because the language requires modifications based on the recently passed Senate Bill 0605 (PA 102-157). The modified language has been incorporated into a proposed new student attendance and truancy policy.

That Board also filed a new policy – JEDB Student Attendance and Truancy – and directed that it be added as an active Board policy.

During the Spring 2021 session, the Illinois legislation passed Senate Bill 0605 (PA 102-157), which updates legislation regarding student absenteeism and truancy. This Public Act also requires school districts to include specific language in their policy on student attendance and truancy. Required components of the policy include a definition of a valid cause for absence, a description of diagnostic procedures to be used for identifying the causes of unexcused student absenteeism, the identification of supportive services to be made available to truant or chronically truant students, and collection and analysis of student attendance data related to truancy.

The deleted policies are available [here](#) (Student Absences and Excuses) and [here](#) (Truancy). The new policy is available in full [here](#).

Auditing Services for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025

Annually as of June 30, the Board must initiate an audit of its financial statements by a person lawfully qualified to practice public accounting as regulated by the Illinois Public Accounting Act. The audit is conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally

accepted in the United States of America, Governments Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the provisions of the Single Audit Act, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133.

The audit includes a review of the system of internal controls to ensure that there is effective control over revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities, and a proper accounting of resources, and accounting operations. The audit also includes tests of compliance with requirements of applicable state laws and regulations of material effect on the District's financial statements.

The Board of Education has utilized the auditing services of Baker Tilly US, LLP, for the past twelve years. In an effort to provide comparative pricing and review of services, a request for proposal for auditing services for fiscal years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 was sent to six area firms. Five auditing firms responded with proposals: Baker Tilly US, LLP; Lauterbach & Amen, LLP.; Eder, Casella & Co; Sikich LLP; and Wipfli, LLP. All firms have experience in auditing school districts in Illinois.

Considering each firm's level of expertise, capacity and cost proposals, Baker Tilly was recommended.

The Board approved the hiring of Baker Tilly to provide auditing services for fiscal year 2022 (not to exceed \$33,650); 2023 (not to exceed \$35,340); 2024 (not to exceed \$37,110); and 2025 (not to exceed \$38,960). The cost for fiscal year 2021 was \$32,050.

The full report and motion are available [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, with closed session beginning at 6:30 p.m. and student recognition and public comment beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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