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Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, May 12, 2022, in the Board Room of the G.A. McElroy Administration Center. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Administrative Appointment

The Board approved the appointment of Katie Weir as Director of Food Services.

Katie Weir currently is Assistant Director of Food Services at Oak Park River Forest High School, a position she has held for the past three years. She also serves as a contract oncology dietitian at Wellness House. Prior to these roles, Katie served as a dietitian at Block Center for Integrative Cancer Treatment from and as a dietary supervisor at St. Alexius Medical Center.

She holds a bachelor's degree in foods and nutrition with a minor in business management and administration from Bradley University and completed her Dietetic Internship from Dominican University.

Her appointment is effective July 1, 2022.

D211 Videos:

As part of the ED-RED anniversary dinner, District 211 created a video showcasing the performing arts in all schools, set to music performed by the District 211 Honors Band.

This video was then shown before the April 28, 2022 Board meeting and can be viewed [here](#).

A second video showcasing students engaged in classrooms across the District was created for the May 12 meeting and can be viewed [here](#).

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized students who earned honors in statewide competitions.

Fremd High School

IHSA Group Interpretation: **Andre Boulet, Noah Gable, Jair Herrera, Grayson Walther**, All-State Medalists, with Sponsor **Robin Quinn**

IHSA Journalism: **Noah Grabianski**, 2nd Place Team, 2nd Place Review Writing; **Antonia Hon**, 2nd Place Team, 2nd Place Advertising; **Sourojit Mazumder**, 2nd Place Team, 4th Place News & Writing, 1st Place Headline Writing; **Shruti Patankar**, 2nd Place Team, 1st Place Editorial Writing, with Sponsor **Grant Dawson**

Hoffman Estates High School:

IHSA Journalism: **Caitlyn Karecki**, 3rd Place Yearbook Copy Writing, with Sponsor **Kelly Carroll**

Palatine High School

IHSA Journalism: **Matthew Stepp**, 4th Place Photo Storytelling, with Sponsor **Sean Berleman**

Schaumburg High School

IHSA eSports: **Soya Lee** and **Damian Long**, 2nd Place Doubles Team, with Sponsor **Adam Koschnitzke**

The Board also recognized teacher **Kerri Largo** as a finalist for the Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching award.. She is the Hoffman Estates High School business education department chairperson and a business teacher. Mary Lopez, a Schaumburg High School social studies teacher, also was a finalist and was honored at the Board's April 28 meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [April 28, 2022](#).

Bid for Consideration

Bids for asbestos abatement work for Palatine and Fremd high schools have been opened and evaluated, and funds will be allocated in the 2022-2023 Operations and Maintenance fund.

The Board approved the awarding of bids for the work to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Husar Abatement, Ltd., for \$54,000.

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

Surplus School Property

Per Board Policy DN School Property Disposal, property owned by the District with market value of more than \$300 may be disposed to the best advantage of the District.

Full information 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 through the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award. District 211 earned recognition as a recipient of this award for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2021. This is the 15th consecutive year the District has been honored.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Strategic Plan Update

At the April 14, 2022 Board of Education special meeting, the Board reviewed a draft of the priorities, goals, indicators and strategies. Based on the feedback from focus groups and the Steering Committee, the document has been updated and was presented for review.

This document is intended to guide the District for the next five years. Targets that align with the identified strategies also will be added as part of the final Strategic Plan document.

The draft document can be viewed [here](#).

Facilities and Capital Improvement Update

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.

Additionally, 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. This included a discussion at its March 17 meeting, when the Board rejected a recommendation for the administration to proceed with work on three specific facility improvement projects: 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 requested the item be brought back for further discussion.

The Board then authorized administration to further engage its architects and engineers to prepare design and specifications for three specific projects: auditorium improvements at all schools; air conditioning in the applied technology classrooms at four schools without it; and public address system improvements at all schools.

The Board further authorized administration to bid and present the project improvements in each case to the Board for consideration in future meetings over the next several years.

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

Panorama Education Software Platform

The P-20 Learning Renewal Resource Guide, released by the Illinois State Board of Education in March 2021, provides Illinois school districts a framework designed to support students, educators and the community as educators navigate the complexities of COVID-19 trauma. The

guide includes twelve priority topic areas, including supporting students' mental wellness through social-emotional learning. While social-emotional learning is not a new concept, the COVID-19 pandemic has had both a short-term and potentially long-term effect on our students' mental health. As we have now experienced a full year of in-person instruction after COVID-19 disruptions, we realize we need to facilitate new structures and systems for assessing and improving the social-emotional health of our students and staff.

The purchase of Panorama Education was approved at the June 17, 2021 Board meeting. Once approved, we began the integration process with teams comprising staff from all District 211 buildings. This platform includes access to valid, reliable student and staff survey tools as well as providing a system that can manage behavior and academic intervention strategies.

Moving forward further with the Panorama platform will enable District 211 staff to continue to assess and monitor social-emotional health by administering Panorama's validated, research-backed social-emotional learning surveys to students and staff. These measures will allow staff to gather information about our students' development and application of key social-emotional learning skills, such as grit and growth mindset, as well as information about the District's, and individual schools, support for social-emotional development.

The Board approved a one-year agreement with Panorama Education at a cost of \$124,500.

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

Benefit Consulting/Brokerage Services

District 211 provides a range of benefits to its employees, including five self-funded medical insurance plans; dental, vision and group life plans; voluntary life options; flexible spending accounts; health spending accounts and long-term disability. Given the size of our insurance group, the need to evaluate benefit components, plan design and renewal structure is a high priority and places valued demand on third-party insurance consulting and resources.

The District utilizes consulting and brokerage services to assist with review and evaluation of benefit design, funding, claims administration, renewal negotiations with the applicable carriers and access to day-to-day member advocacy services for employees and retirees. Given the significant financial commitment for insurance, it is prudent to continue to access the capabilities of an insurance consultant/broker to provide qualified expertise in health insurance consulting, insurance brokering, underwriting analysis, compliance matters and claim utilization review. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent to five providers.

The Board of Education authorized HUB International Limited to provide benefit and consulting brokerage services for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2022, with the option to renew the contract for four additional one-year periods at an annual cost of \$85,800.

Full information is available [here](#).

Proposed Policy Revisions

Current Board policy files: AD District Mission Statement and AF High School District 211 Value Statements have been reviewed by the Board as part of the Strategic Plan development

process. The Board has proposed changes that will update these policies in regard to representing our future five-year Strategic Plan. The proposed revisions align with feedback from the community and the direction of the District.

The Board reviewed the initial drafts of the revised Mission Statement and Value Statements.

The proposed revisions can be viewed here:

[Mission Statement](#)

[Value Statements](#)

Consolidated District Plan

The Federal government provides a variety of education grant programs to support eligible school districts across the nation. In the past, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) managed access to these grants for Illinois school districts. Effective 2019-2020, to comply with legislative regulations contained within the Every Student Succeeds Act, ISBE began managing all federal grants under one Consolidate District Plan (CDP). Each Illinois district accessing federal grant funds must submit a single unified grant application to ISBE after seeking approval of the CDP by its local school board. District 211 participates in the Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Federal grant programs.

The Board of Education reviewed and approved the District 211 Consolidated Plan.

Read the full report [here](#).

Spring Curriculum Committee Report

District 211 offers a comprehensive high school experience with more than 700 unique courses offering an extensive array of opportunities for every student. Each year, the Curriculum Committee meets three times to ensure the rigor and relevance of curriculum, instructional methodology and alignment of coursework across the District. The Curriculum Committee is made up of department chairs from each school along with principals and the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. While the Committee is composed of 11 members, the process of curriculum development and modification is a collaboration between teachers and administrators. Each group is engaged in the process at different levels to ensure our curriculum remains dynamic and relevant to our students and the course.

The Curriculum Committee discussed and recommended course modifications, including course name changes, changes in critical learning standards, updating assessments, and identifying textbooks, software and supplementary textbooks. The Committee also discussed other core components of the curriculum, including career pathways, industry credentials, work-based learning experiences, pathway endorsements and dual credit coursework.

The spring meetings have concluded, and the Board received a summary.

The Board approved the Curriculum Committee report and recommendations as presented.

Read the full report [here](#).

Summer Curriculum Projects

Each summer, teachers gather from all schools to work as District- or school-based teams to develop curriculum, enhance instructional choices and assessments, and develop new coursework. The summer is a valuable time as it allows teachers longer periods of time to gather across schools without missing classes. Summer curriculum projects are proposed by groups of teachers, reviewed by department chairs, and recommended by the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Grant funding helps support implementation.

The Board of Education approved the recommended summer curriculum projects at a cost not to exceed the following per grant: Title I, \$109,725; Title II, \$91,050; and IDEA, \$29,250.

Further details on summer curriculum projects approved by the Board are available [here](#).

Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) Budget

The Board ratified the NSSEO amended 2021-22 annual budget, ratified the NSSEO proposed 2022-23 annual budget and agreed to pay the District's proportionate share of the proposed budgeted revenues.

Additional information on the NSSEO budget is available [here](#).

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

The budget chart with District 211's share is available [here](#).

Board Member Expenses

In accordance with board policy BHD (Board Member Expenses), the Board must pre-approve the expenses of any Board Member. Board members seeking expense pre-approval for conference or workshop attendance complete and submit to the Superintendent the request for Pre-Approval Form for Future Expense Reimbursement no later than noon on the Friday preceding the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The Board approved the Pre-Approval Form for Future Expense Reimbursement for Steven Rosenblum to attend the Triple I Conference, November 18-20, 2022 as submitted.

Next Board Meeting

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held Thursday, May 26, 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.