

Board of Education Meeting Recap

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

Administrative Appointments

The Board of Education approved the appointments of two 10-month assistant principals at Palatine High School, effective August 1, 2022.

Dr. Antonette Minniti is currently Student Services department chair at Fremd High School, a position she has held since the 2019-2020 school year. She began her teaching career in 2001 as an English teacher at Fremd, and served as Department Chair in English from 2007 until 2009, when she became a counselor at Fremd. She holds a degree in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; master's degrees in Communications, Media and Theatre and Educational Administration from Northern Illinois University; a master's degree in School Counseling from Roosevelt University; and a doctorate in teaching and learning from Illinois State University.

Michelle Bremehr is the current principal of Truman Middle College Charter School, a position she has held since 2016. She began her teaching career in 2010 as a language arts teacher at Oak Grove School in Green Oaks, IL. In 2001, she transitioned to Truman as an English teacher. She holds a degree in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and master's degrees in English Education and Educational Leadership.

Recognitions

Students who earned all-state honors from the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) were recognized by the Board of Education.

They include:

From James B. Conant High School: **Nathanial Mathew**, All-State Honors Band; **Airi Ito**, **Daichi Kurita** and **Sean Yoshihara**, All-State Honors Orchestra; and Music Directors **Leann Roder-Manson** and **Devin Godzicki**. From Schaumburg High School: **Rhys Barlow** and **Josephine Mascarenhas**, All-State Honors Band; **Lea Steen**, All-State Honors Choir; **Nicole Setiawan**, All-State Honors Orchestra; and Music Directors **Susan Carlson**, **Vincent Inendino** and **Ann Espel**. From Hoffman Estates High School: **Niko Otsuka** and **Emma Tomita**, All-State Honors Band; **Mia Dulicek**, **Jude**

Maier, Kya Peyser and **Brandy Underwood**, All-State Honors Chorus; and Music Directors **Brian Ferguson** and **Matthew Schlesinger**.

The Board of Education recognized Schaumburg High School English Teacher **Lauren Kern** for earning her National Board Certification. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification program was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and generate ongoing school improvement. It is the highest and most respected certification a teacher can attain.

The Board of Education recognized High School District 211's "*Those Who Excel*" Award nominees. 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 nominees are:

Student Support Personnel - **Caryn Bova**, Fremd High School

Education Service Personnel - **Dzidra Malinski**, Schaumburg High School

Classroom Teacher - **Patti Ertl**, Conant High School

School Administrator - **Stacy Lenihan**, Administrative Center

Team - Hawks Nest: **Andres Acosta**, **Maggie King**, **Jennifer Nieft**, **Angela Rallidis** and **Kelly Stebner**, Hoffman Estates High School

Public Hearing

The Board of Education held a public hearing on the proposal and recommendation to contract with a commercial driver training school for behind-the-wheel driver education services.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released in January to eight commercial driving schools to solicit interest in providing behind-the-wheel instruction beginning in the fall semester of the 2022- 2023 school year. Of the three responses, one commercial driving school, Top Driver, met the full requirements of the request.

The Board approved the recommendation to enter into a contract with Top Driver to provide behind-the-wheel instructional services to District 211 students enrolled in a District 211 driver education course for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.

Read more information [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the [minutes](#) of its Thursday, January 20 meeting.

District 211 Professional Learning Opportunities

The Board of Education approved offering the following professional learning opportunities for in-district credit: “Student Social-Emotional Wellness in Your Classroom;” “Reclaiming Your Passion for Education;” “Powerful Teaching: Unleash the Science of Learning;” and “Applying the District 211 Equity Plan in Your Classroom.”

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

Class Size Committee Report

The Board of Education received a report from the Class Size Committee.

View the report [here](#).

2022-2023 Financial Calendar Including Budget and Levy Sequence

The Board of Education received information about the financial calendar and the budget and levy sequence. The 2022-2023 budget sequence occurs over several months prior to the budget recommendation to the Board in August 2022. Development of the annual budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year began following the adoption of the 2021 levy at the December 2021 Board meeting.

Full information is available [here](#).

Five-Year Financial Projection Information

At its January 20, 2022 meeting, the Board of Education received information on the District’s current financial position for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and an updated five-year financial forecast including the 2021 consumer price index for urban consumers (CPI-U). The forecast included scenarios for two possible abatements; one abating the recapture levy and one abating the 2021 levy approved December 2021. The financial forecast also included \$18 million in facility improvements with a recommended funding source of reserves.

At the March 17, 2022 meeting, the Board will take action on three recommended motions including abatement of the recapture levy, abatement of the 2021 regular tax levy and authorizing the District to engage District system vendors, architects and engineers to further design and plan facility improvements including the replacement of public address systems, auditorium renovations, and addition of air conditioning to the remaining applied technology classrooms without cooling. All abatement resolutions must be filed with the Cook County Clerk’s office by March 31, 2022.

More information on the five-year projection is available [here](#).

During the January 20, 2022 Board of Education meeting, a request also was made for additional abatement scenarios. View that supplemental information [here](#).

Graduation Site Agreement Recommendations, Class of 2022

District 211 high schools have a long history of having formal and dignified graduation ceremonies. In 1996, District schools began hosting graduation ceremonies off school grounds to offer greater spectator capacity. The NOW Arena in Hoffman Estates is a multi-purpose cultural and sports center that will be able to accommodate all five large high school graduation ceremonies with accommodations as needed for COVID-19 mitigation restrictions placed on large gatherings at the time of graduation.

The NOW Arena provides all building equipment, audio-visual equipment for ceremonies, parking staff, janitorial services, support personnel (security, ushers, tradesmen, box office, emergency medical technicians, etc.), utilities and permits, and assesses a licensing fee for the cost of hosting the ceremonies.

The Board approved a motion to enter into an agreement with the arena at a total cost of \$165,000 for off-site graduation ceremonies.

Scheduled dates are: Hoffman Estates High School - Friday, May 20; Palatine High School - Sunday, May 22; Fremd High School - Monday, May 23; Schaumburg High School - Tuesday, May 24; and Conant High School - Wednesday, May 25.

Purchase of Computers for IHSA Esports Activity

Esports, also known as electronic sports, is a form of organized competition facilitated through computer gaming. Most commonly, esports takes the form of organized, multiplayer online video game competitions. Esports also is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world and earned an Illinois High School Association (IHSA) “emerging sports and activities” designation beginning in 2019. After exploring the interest related to esports in Illinois high schools, the Esports Advisory Committee recommended that the IHSA add Esports as the newest IHSA activity program in the 2021-2022 school year.

Six computers for each school and headsets for communication, allowing teams to practice and play the multiplayer games, will be purchased by the District. After evaluating the IHSA hardware recommendations and alternatives, the District Information Technology staff recommended purchasing 30 laptops and 30 gaming headsets for use by students involved in IHSA Esports.

The Board authorized the purchase.

Read more information [here](#).

In-Service Dates for 2022-23

At its November 11, 2021, meeting, the Board of Education revised and approved a school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year, with 180 student attendance days and four institute days on Tuesday, August 9, 2022; Wednesday, August 10, 2022; Tuesday, October 11, 2022; and Monday, January 9, 2023. Shortened days for in-service training of our staff have been used in the past and are consistent with School Code.

The Board approved the following potential dates for shortened student attendance and in-service training of certified staff and special events, of which each school may choose a maximum of two: September 1, 2022; October 4, 2022; Friday, November 4, 2022; Friday, February 10, 2023; Friday, February 17, 2023; Wednesday, April 12, 2023; Thursday, April 13, 2023; and Friday, May 12, 2023.

Read the full information [here](#).

Proposed Policy Deletions

The Board reviewed recommendations to delete two policies:

Board policies JED Student Absences and Excuses and JEDA Truancy are being recommended for deletion since 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.

The proposed policy deletion has been reviewed by the Administrative Board Policy Group comprised of Board President Anna Klimkowicz, Board Member Mark Cramer, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Joshua Schumacher, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Kurt Tenopir and Director of Administrative Services Matthew Hildebrand.

The full policies are available [here](#) (Student Absences) and [here](#) (Truancy).

Proposed New Policy: Student Attendance and Truancy

During its 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 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 proposed new policy concerning student attendance and truancy has been reviewed by the Administrative Board Policy Group comprised of Board President Anna Klimkowitz, Board Member Mark Cramer, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Joshua Schumacher, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Kurt Tenopir and Director of Administrative Services Matt Hildebrand.

The full proposed new policy is available [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, March 17, 2022, 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.