

# BOARD RECAP

**AUGUST 17, 2023**

The High School District 211 Board of Education met Thursday, August 17, 2023, in the Board Room of the G.A. McElroy Administration Center. The following is a recap of items acted upon.

## RECOGNITION

The Board of Education formally recognized 14 deans and administrators who are new to the District or new to their roles, representing all five high schools. They are:

**Christopher Allen**, Buildings and Grounds Manager at Schaumburg High School

**Thomas Barlow**, 12-month assistant principal at Hoffman Estates High School

**Michelle Bremehr**, 12-month Assistant Principal at Palatine High School

**Liza Delgado-Sullivan**, Dean of Students at Palatine High School

**Kevin Farrell**, 10-Month Assistant Principal at William Fremd High School

**Travis Hastings**, 10-Month Assistant Principal at Palatine High School

**Erik Hauser**, Athletic Director of Conant High School

**Robert Heitz**, Dean of Students at Palatine High School

**Dane Henning**, 12-month assistant principal at James B. Conant High School

**Monte Holt**, 10-Month Assistant Principal Conant High School

**Alex Miramontes**, Full-time dean/10-Month Assistant Principal at Palatine High School

**Thomas Moore**, Dean of Students at Hoffman Estates High School

**Scott Newmark**, 10-month assistant principal at William Fremd High School

**Charles Nichols**, Dean of Students at William Fremd High School

## FEATURED SLIDESHOW

Showcasing the first day of school, 2023-2024. [https://youtu.be/H5Jklt1\\_otk](https://youtu.be/H5Jklt1_otk)

## PRESENTATION: 2023-2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET

The Board received information regarding revenue and expenditures accounted for in the 2023-2024 tentative budget. The tentative budget includes all funds and represents the finance and

operations plan that supports District 211 programs.

Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel** and Controller and Treasurer **Barbara Peterson** presented an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 budget. The presentation is viewable [here](#).

The Board approved the 2023-2024 tentative budget as presented and directed the Superintendent to place the budget on display for a minimum of 30 days. A public hearing is scheduled for the September 21, 2023 regular meeting.

More information, including a summary of funds and the budget timeline, is [here](#). The Budget Booklet can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board approved the minutes of its Thursday, [July 20, 2023](#) meeting.

## **HEALTH/DENTAL INSURANCE PREMIUM RATES FOR 2023-2024**

At its May 11 meeting, the Board approved the 2023-2024 renewal of health/dental claims administration services with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Each fall, projected claim experience based on historical claims costs and health inflation trends is used to determine premium equivalent rates for all health plan options. Premium equivalent rates established in the fall are for the health plan year beginning January 1, 2024.

The Board reviewed the premium rates and employee enrollment by plan, and approved the change in deductible for the HSA plan to \$1,600 for single coverage and \$3,200 for family coverage effective January 1, 2024. The Board also established Blue Cross/Blue Shield premium equivalent rates, contribution percentages and the wellness incentive structure for the applicable employee groups, effective January 1, 2024.

Full information is available [here](#).

## **RENEWAL OF WEB HOSTING PROGRAM**

In 2017, the Board authorized the Superintendent to employ the services of Blackboard Inc. to rebuild and subsequently host the District's eight websites. Since then, the District has continued to renew the services of Blackboard, and in 2022 the Board approved an additional Blackboard-supported mass communications tool that greatly expanded communications and messaging capabilities. In September 2022, Finalsight, a global leader in K-12 school website development, hosting and digital communications software and services, acquired the Blackboard K-12 Community Engagement division, which includes the web community manager and mass notifications platforms used by District 211.

The product is now known as Finalsite + Blackboard K-12.

The Board authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the renewal of the renamed Finalsite + Blackboard K-12 web community manager and mass notifications platform with technical support at a cost of \$35,986 for one year. Details can be viewed [here](#).

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION PROTOCOLS**

The Board operates as a single entity responsible for its governance and processes. In May 2016, the Board, in conjunction with the Superintendent and a representative from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), compiled a list of agreements and expectations by which to work together to conduct the work of the District 211 community. The agreements were approved again by the Board of Education in 2017.

In 2019, 2021, and 2023, the Board of Education reviewed the agreements in conjunction with the Superintendent and an IASB representative.

The Board approved the Board of Education Protocols as presented, which included a small revision linking the Board's role to Board policies. The protocols can be viewed [here](#).

## **SOCIAL MEDIA LAWSUIT**

Recently, a large-scale lawsuit focusing on the impact of social media has been filed on behalf of school districts across the country. The coordinated lawsuits are against Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube and other social media companies for allegedly causing harm to students that use these platforms.

The Frantz Law Group firm's experts contend (and have been supported by a comprehensive report from the U.S. Surgeon General) that the various defendants' manipulative algorithms cause significant addiction and severe emotional distress to students that have led to significant interference with the educational process and student learning. The lawsuits allege, in part, that the Defendants have targeted youths so that they spend an inordinate amount of time on social media.

The Board approved a resolution authorizing the commencement of litigation against Meta Platforms, Inc. Facebook Holdings LLC, Snap Inc., TikTok Inc., Alphabet Inc. and other entities as presented and executed the attorney-client fee contract authorizing the legal services of the Frantz Law Group, APLC as counsel for the District. Full information can be found [here](#).

## **DISTRICT 211 AND POLICE PARTNERSHIP FOR PROPER GUN STORAGE SAFETY**

Through consensus of the majority of the Board, the Superintendent was directed, in partnership with the local police departments, to communicate information to families



regarding safe gun storage. In addition, the new legislation allowing safe gun storage education during safety class will be discussed during the Fall Curriculum Committee meeting and recommendations presented to the Board through the standard curriculum process.

## **BOARD MEMBER EXPENSES**

In accordance with board policy BHD (Board Member Expenses), the Board must pre-approve expenses of any Board Member. The Board approved the pre-approval form for future expense reimbursement for Anna Klimkowicz to attend the Triple I Conference, November 16 to 19.

## **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held Thursday, September 21, 2023, 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.