

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, December 8, 2016, in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center. The following is a recap of important items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Recognition

The Board of Education recognized student-athletes who earned honors in statewide athletic competitions. Included among the recognitions were students from Palatine High School's boys and girls cross country teams, William Fremd and Schaumburg High Schools' girls cross country teams, and the James B. Conant High School boys soccer team that finished fourth in the state. A complete listing of student-athletes recognized by the Board is available [here](#).

Adoption of 2016 Tax Levy

Following a public hearing, the Board of Education approved the proposed 2016 tax levy as presented. The Board also approved a resolution abating all taxes levied for the year 2016 to pay debt service on \$9,995,000 School Bonds, Series 2012.

With the elimination of the Debt Service levy due to full abatement, the total levy adopted for 2016 is \$217,170,000. This is an increase of 0.3% or \$0.6 million over the 2015 total levy extension of \$216,519,892.

Since 2007, the Board has reduced the Debt Service levy by using existing reserve funds to pay an apportionment of its outstanding bonds. As part of the 2016 levy, continuation of the levy reduction plan was approved which included a \$3.1 million property tax abatement. This brings the total levy reduction to \$33.4 million since 2007, and eliminates the Debt Service levy for taxpayers.

Additional information on the 2016 Tax Levy is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [November 10, 2016](#).

District 211 Academic Goals and Targets for 2016-2021

During the Community Engagement sessions that were held in spring 2016, the community provided feedback on what they expect their high school education system to provide for students. Responses indicated a strong need for all students to be ready for any post-secondary choice, whether that choice is college or is career related.

The Board of Education received information on the District's academic goals and targets for a five-year period, 2016-2021. District 211's academic goals focus on skills students will need after graduation, whether they will be attending post-secondary schooling or entering the work force. In setting the District's academic goals and targets, the District is mindful that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has not finalized the response to Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that is meant to provide equal opportunities for all students and to improve student outcomes. The ISBE's ESSA proposal is expected to be submitted in the spring of 2017 and the Federal Department of Education's response time is unknown. To that end, District 211 academic goals represent both college and career preparation as presented to the Board in July 2016 and have been implemented with targets. Targets are based on closing the inequity gap within the student demographic subgroups within the District.

A listing of District 211's academic goals and targets for 2016-2021 presented to the Board is available [here](#).

Operating Fund Balance for the Period Ending June 30, 2016

In April 2008, High School District 211 first adopted an operating fund balance policy (DCA) to safeguard against financial uncertainty in the District and to ensure the capacity of the District to deliver quality services to all students without disruption. The policy clarifies that the District will maintain adequate fund balance levels for operational and financial planning purposes. The District's position regarding fund balance is measured from the following two perspectives as of June 30 of each fiscal year:

1. Within the Educational Fund as an individual fund;
2. Against a cumulative total of the Operating Funds, which include all of the following: the Educational Fund, the Operations/Maintenance Fund, the Transportation Fund, the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, and the Working Cash Fund

The Board of Education received information on the [operating fund balance for the period ending June 30, 2016](#).

Proposed Policy Revisions

As part of its ongoing Policy Manual review, the Board of Education reviews proposed policy revisions, proposed policy deletions, and proposed new policies from the Administrative Board Policy Group. The Group is comprised of Board President **Mucia Burke**, Board Vice President **Robert LeFevre**, Associate Superintendent **Lisa Small**, Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**.

After initially reviewing proposed policy revisions at its November 10 meeting, the Board approved revisions to Board policy files: [GBEA Employee Physical Examinations](#), [DLD Use of District Credit Cards](#), and [JHCD Medication Administration in Schools](#).

The Board initially reviewed a proposed revision to Board policy file: [EB School Safety Policy](#). No action was taken at the meeting.

Update Regarding Possible Recording of Board Meetings

At its September 22, 2016 meeting, the Board of Education discussed interest in the possibility of recording of Board meetings and making the recordings available on the District website. The Board directed the Superintendent to gather information surrounding the necessary technical implementation and matters of policy. Information responsive to the Board's request, covering a range of topics and factors, was presented to the Board.

Following discussion, the Board authorized the Superintendent to video record open Board meetings and to make the recordings available on the District website within seven days following the meeting. Further, the Board authorized the purchase of the necessary audio and video equipment at a cost not to exceed \$16,532. Upcoming meetings will include a review of Board policies.

A complete copy of the information presented to the Board is available [here](#).

2015-2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of Board of Education Funds

The Board of Education acknowledged receipt of the June 30, 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which includes financial statements, as prepared by High School District 211, and audited by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Illinois School Code and the

District's adopted policy require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board encourages every governmental entity, including school districts, to prepare and publish a CAFR. The CAFR serves as the District's official annual financial report and contains introductory information, schedules necessary to demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions, and statistical data. The purpose of the financial statements is to report on the financial position and operations of the District.

A representative from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP presented a brief review of the audit at the meeting.

The 2015-2016 CAFR is posted on the District 211 website for viewing [here](#).

Student User Fees Introduction

Each year, the Board of Education establishes student fees for textbooks and instructional supplies, the driver education behind-the-wheel course, student parking, transportation, school breakfast and lunch, and summer school. As prioritized in the Board's Strategic Plan, a comprehensive analysis of District 211 student fees was completed and presented to the Board, including information from surrounding, similar high school districts. A complete copy of the report is available [here](#).

A recommendation on student fees for the 2017-2018 school year will be presented at the January 19, 2017 Board meeting. The recommendation must consider costs of supplies provided to students, eligibility of students for free and reduced-price meals, overall financial impact, and overall strategic direction of the District.

School Calendar for 2018-2019 and Summer School Calendar for 2019

The Board of Education approved a school calendar for the 2018-2019 school year. Consistent with school code, the calendar provides for 181 days of instruction and four teacher institute days. The school year begins with three teacher institute days, August 8-10, 2018. These institute days will support typical new school-year orientation tasks while also providing dedicated time for District-wide departmental curriculum collaboration and alignment activities as well as targeted in-school initiatives. Students begin attending classes on August 13, 2018; first semester concludes on December 21, 2018; and the last day of school is May 24, 2019. A copy of the approved 2018-2019 school calendar is available [here](#).

The Board also approved summer school calendar for the summer of 2019. The summer calendar provides for 26 days of instruction, with no classes on Fridays. The first summer term begins on May 29, 2019 and concludes on June 19, 2019. The second summer term begins on June 20, 2019 and concludes on July 15, 2019, with no classes being held on July 4.

Additional information on the approved school calendars is available [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2017, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.