# Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, October 17, 2019, in the cafeteria at James B. Conant High School. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

## Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on September 19, 2019.

## 2019 Summer School Enrollment/Cost Analysis

The Board received an update on Summer School 2019. District 211 provided learning opportunities for 11,199 students during Summer School 2019. Summer programming continues to offer courses in credit recovery, academic acceleration, college and career pathway exploration, and athletic/activity camps.

Summer School 2019 operated at a net cost of $2,327,547 to High School District 211. This included waiver of fees for 536 Incoming Freshman Academy students, 141 Sophomore Academy students, 396 Special Education Academy students, and 306 Emergent Bilingual students. Additionally, reduced fees were collected from 829 three-week Freshman Invitational Mathematics program students and 479 Project Excel students. These varying fee structures allow for students to access summer curriculum to address learning gaps in English, writing, and mathematics.

Additional information on Summer School 2019 is available here.

## 2019-2020 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility

The Board of Education received information on District 211's participation in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, federally assisted meal programs that provide qualifying students with access to nutritionally balanced, low-cost, or free meals during the school day. Students may qualify for free meals if they are a foster child, homeless or migrant student, recipient of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), qualify for income-eligible Medicaid, or if their household meets income eligibility guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). A student with a household income at or below 130% of the poverty level is eligible for free meals; those with income between 131% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals (30¢ for breakfast

and 40¢ for lunch as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture). For the current 2020 fiscal year, a family of four must have a gross income of less than $33,475 annually to qualify for free meals or $47,638 annually to qualify for reduced-price meals.

Eligibility for meal benefits is reviewed and determined annually based upon the guidelines established by the USDA. The number of students eligible for meal benefits across District 211 has increased by 27% over the past 10 years, with data reported as of September 30, 2019, in coordination with deadlines for ISBE School Report Card data.

All District 211 high schools remain relatively stable in the number of students eligible for meal benefits this school year compared to last year. However, the dispersion of low-income students varies noticeably among District 211 schools. Current data shows that the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in each school ranges from a low of over 16% at Fremd High School to a high of 57% at Palatine High School.

Eligibility for meal benefits provides students with access to several services during the school day. This includes not only receiving nutritionally-balanced meals twice a day, but additional meal services are provided to qualifying schools for free breakfast and lunch programs for all students attending summer school at Palatine, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools, and an after-school snack program at Palatine High School. Students qualifying for meal benefits may also qualify for academic fee waivers per Illinois School Code and Board of Education Policy JN – Student Fees. Further, both Hoffman Estates and Palatine High Schools qualify for additional funding through the Federal Title I grant that aids in providing additional supports and services for students in schools of economic need.

Additional information on free and reduced-price meal eligibility is available here.

**Community Connections Newsletter – Strategic Plan Update**

The 14th edition of *Community Connections*, a quarterly newsletter designed to provide additional information about High School District 211 to the communities served, was distributed in mid-October. As communicated in the 2016 Strategic Plan, the District places a priority on providing updates to the community about programs and events taking place within the District. The 14th edition of *Community Connections* includes the following articles: *2019-2020 budget keeps District 211 debt-free; GPS helps track buses and prevent breakdowns; District to add solar panels to Higgins Education Center; 62-acre land sale update; Update on Superintendent search;* and *D211 hosts Positive Coaching Alliance Community Education Sessions.*

*Community Connections* is emailed to District 211 parents, students, and staff, as well as community members who have provided their contact information. All 14 editions of the newsletter are available on the District website.

## Proposed New Policy and 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 **Robert LeFevre,** Board Vice President **Anna Klimkowicz,** Associate Superintendent **Lisa Small,** Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand,** and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**.

The Board conducted its review of proposed new policy JAA Equal Educational Opportunities. The Board discussed the policy and took no action. The Board will consider the policy for possible adoption at the November 14, 2019 Board of Education meeting.

The Board also reviewed and approved a proposed revision to Board policy file: IKF Graduation Requirements. The policy was originally reviewed at the September 19, 2019 meeting.

The Board conducted its first review of the proposed policy revisions for Board policy files BDDH/KD Public Participation at Board Meetings and BDDB Agenda Format. Policies require two reviews, and no action was taken upon the first review. The Administrative Board Policy Committee will review the policies again and present them for possible adoption at the November 14, 2019 Board meeting.

## 2019 Tax Levy Information

The Board of Education received tax levy information at the meeting, including tax levy background information, 2019 levy considerations, a 2019 tax levy recommendation, the District's committed reserve funds, financial projection information, and the 2019 tax levy calendar.

For the 2019 levy, the Tax Cap limit of 1.9% + new property (estimated at 1.1%) establishes the allowable increase for the Aggregate Operating Extension of Capped Funds levy. Since there is no need for a Debt Service levy, the recommended levy amount is $235.9 million.

The Tax Cap determines the amount by which the total levy may increase over the total levy amount for the aggregate operating funds from the prior year. While the total 2019 levy may not exceed an increase of more than 1.9% plus

new property growth over the prior year amount, the District may levy according to its financial needs, by fund, each year. For the 2019 levy, the recommended levy amounts increase the Educational Fund by 4.4% to support general operating costs for educational purposes, and an increase of 4.1% in the Operations and Maintenance Fund reflects the need to support all building and maintenance costs. This includes funds transferred from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for completion of capital projects identified in the Strategic Plan. The Educational Fund and Operations and Maintenance Fund levies support the continuation of quality instructional programming and services that students are currently provided and the maintenance and upkeep of facilities. The Transportation Fund levy is recommended to decrease by 8.4%, as capital replacement costs decrease. The levies for the Illinois Municipal Retirement and Social Security Fund provides the necessary funds to support employer costs. As annual costs for IMRF expenditures continue to decrease due to advanced payments made to reduce unfunded liability amounts, the District is levying less into this fund and able to allocate these funds for additional operating purposes. The 2019 levy also includes an allocation into the Working Cash Fund for the purpose of paying for Life Safety projects. In the past, the District has paid for required Life Safety work through the issuance of bonds. One of the District's strategic initiatives was to become and remain debt free. To achieve this, the District must pay for future Life Safety projects either through fund transfers or by levying for these funds directly. As a result, a levy into the Working Cash Fund was proposed as the funding source. Funds levied into the Working Cash Fund will remain allocated specifically for approved Life Safety projects and will be transferred to the Life Safety Fund in the upcoming budget year. Funds levied into the working cash fund are subject to the aggregate Tax Cap, whereas, had funds been levied to repay debt, the total would have exceeded the Tax Cap.

Levying the aggregate extension of capped funds at an amount less than the established limit under the Tax Cap law inhibits the District from collecting revenue to support these needs, and further, leads to loss that will continue to compound year-over-year and will impact programs. The following variables support the recommendation for a 1.9% + 1.1% new property increase of the aggregate of capped funds:

- the recommended amount supports the continuation of instructional programs for students;
- the impact of levying less than the allowable amount in these funds has a compounding and permanent effect year-over-year;
- the District's strategic direction to fund necessary capital improvements is through operations and annual future savings;
- the District's strategic direction is to remain debt free; and
- the future financial position of the District for future Boards of Education would be compromised.

The District's recommendation for the 2019 levy is a critical component of preserving its long-term financial stability while being able to fund its current level of operations, complete necessary capital improvement and life safety projects, and retain a level of reserves to safeguard against possible unknowns. A change in the 2019 levy recommendation will negatively impact the District's stable financial position and ability to fulfill all of its commitments as defined in the Strategic Plan.

The following levy calendar has been established and provides for determination of a proposed 2019 levy amount at the November 14, 2019 Board of Education meeting:

- **November 6, 2019** – tentative Budget & Finance Committee meeting for further review of 2019 levy information, if needed
- **November 14, 2019** – scheduled Board of Education meeting; determine amount of proposed 2019 levy (this determination must be made not less than 20 days prior to the levy adoption)
- **November 28, 2019-December 5, 2019** – prescribed form of notice of public hearing must be published in a newspaper with general circulation within the school district no more than 14 nor less than seven days prior to the public hearing
- **December 12, 2019** – scheduled Board of Education meeting; public hearing on proposed 2019 levy at 7:30 p.m. and adoption of 2019 levy
- **December 31, 2019** – last day to file 2019 levy with the Cook County Clerk

The tax levy information the Board received is available here.

**Site Lease Agreements – T-Mobile**

T-Mobile Wireless, a public utility whose facilities and operations are licensed and regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), submitted proposals to enter into site lease agreements with District 211 to utilize existing cellular antenna located at Conant and Hoffman Estates High Schools. T-Mobile agrees to pay District 211 a total of $338,918.39 for a 25-year site lease agreement for each school.

The Board of Education approved entering into the site lease agreement with T-Mobile Wireless to add additional antennas to the existing NE cell tower and the addition of a new shelter at Conant High School, and to add additional antennas to the existing SE cell tower and the addition of a new shelter at Hoffman Estates High School. These site lease agreements will not adversely affect the District's use of the property.

Additional information is available here.

## 10-Year Facilities and Capital Improvement Plan Update

It has been the long-standing commitment of District 211 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 the District's financial and operational goals, the long-range capital outlay plan is designed to align with the District's Strategic Plan, building utilization, improvement and maintenance schedule, and serve the educational goals. The District is in year four of its current 10-year capital improvement plan and is completing projects consistent with its Strategic Plan. The capital improvement plan is reviewed and updated annually to reflect the District's progress and considers changes due to financial, demographic, technological, or energy-related conditions.

The Board of Education received a report summarizing the capital improvement work completed to date and the progress relative to life safety projects. The report also included the capital improvement timeline scheduled over the next several years. The capital improvement schedule was created in conjunction with financial considerations to ensure the District operates debt-free.

The report included information on athletic field upgrades at Conant High School, as well as replacement of stadium turf and track resurfacing at Palatine and Hoffman Estates High Schools. It also included information on washroom renovations at Hoffman Estates High School, as well as roof repairs/replacement and parking lot renovation at Hoffman Estates High School.

As the District completes capital improvement projects, the Board of Education will continue to be provided with project status and financial updates for each project. Administration also will continue to provide planning recommendations for the remainder of the capital improvement plan and for the upcoming 10-year capital improvement plan recommended for future years.

A complete copy of the Board report is available here.

## Request for Foreign Exchange Trips

The Board of Education approved participation in the following six foreign exchange trips for the summer of 2020 (Note: District 211 reserves the right to cancel any travel that it deems unsafe or not in the best interest of the District):

Escazú, Costa Rica – May 25-June 6, 2020
*Palatine and Schaumburg High Schools*

Krefeld, Germany – May 27-June 10, 2020
*Palatine High School*

Strasbourg and Paris, France – May 28-June 15, 2020
*Palatine, Fremd, Conant, Schaumburg, and Hoffman Estates High Schools*

Madrid and Barcelona, Spain – May 28-June 11, 2020
*Hoffman Estates High School*

Beijing, Changsha, Zhangjiajie, Nanjing, Tongli, and Shanghai, China – May 31-June 12, 2020
*Palatine, Fremd, Conant, Schaumburg, and Hoffman Estates High Schools*

Iceland; Berlin and Munich, Germany; and Vienna and Salzburg, Austria –June 4-June 20, 2020
*Hoffman Estates High School*

## Illinois Association of School Boards Resolutions 2019

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Delegate Assembly is the policy-making body of IASB. The Delegate Assembly is comprised of one voting delegate from each member district. High School District 211 Board of Education Vice President **Anna Klimkowicz** serves as a member of the 2019 Resolutions Committee. At the joint annual conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards/Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials, the Delegate Assembly of IASB will review, discuss, and vote on proposed resolutions submitted by member districts. District 211 Board Member **Steven Rosenblum** will represent District 211 as the voting voice for the Board. The results from the proposed resolutions will guide IASB's position statements and staff in ongoing legislative efforts.

This year, there are 12 proposed new resolutions and five amended position statements.

New Resolutions
1. Student Safety (submitted by Mercer County School District 404)
2. Business Enterprises – Minority Owned (submitted by Champaign Unit School District 4)
3. Student Safety Grant Program (submitted by Wheeling Community Consolidated Unit School District 224)
4. School District Police Force (submitted by Peoria School District 150)
5. Background Checks – Substitute Teachers (submitted by Carrollton Community Unit School District 1)
6. School Safety – Traffic Zones (submitted by Community High School District 99)
7. School Board Elections – Seating of New Board Members (submitted by Blue Ridge Community Unit School District 18)

8. School Board Elections – Swearing In (submitted by Lincoln Elementary School District 156)
9. School Board Elections – Terms (submitted by Peoria School District 150)
10. School Board Member Compensation (submitted by Peoria School District 150)
11. Charter School – Renewal of Charters (submitted by Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50)
12. Charter Schools – At-Risk Students (submitted by Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50)

Amended Position Statements
1. Position Statement 5.05 – Prevailing Wage Act (submitted by West Prairie Community Unit School District 103)
2. Position Statement 1.01 – Educational Programs (submitted by **Township High School District 211**)
3. Position Statement 2.27 – State Authorized Charter School Funding (submitted by Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50)
4. Position Statement 2.04 – Funding Special Education Programs (submitted by Community Consolidated School District 168)
5. Position Statement 20.4 – Funding Special Education Programs (submitted by Grayslake Community High School District 127; co-sponsors: Gavin School District 37, Lincolnshire-Prairie View District 103, Fox Lake Grade School District 114, Millburn Community Consolidated School District 24, and Deerfield Public School District 109)

The Board reviewed a report with the proposed slate of resolutions. The Board will discuss the resolutions at the November 14, 2019 Board of Education meeting prior to the Board's representative delegate casting a vote on behalf of the Board at the upcoming Delegate Assembly at the annual IASB conference on November 23, 2019.

Additional information is available here, along with a copy of the 2019 Resolutions Committee Report.

**Next Board of Education Meeting**

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.