

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, March 12, 2020, in the Anne Koller Board of Education Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Military Recognition

The Board of Education honored Private **Xavier Andrews**, a senior at William Fremd High School who is serving in the Illinois Army National Guard. Private Andrews led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized two students who earned honors in statewide athletic competitions. Fremd High School student-athlete **Isiah Pettigrew** finished fourth in the 195-pound weight class at the state wrestling tournament, and Schaumburg High School student-athlete **Haylie Frick** was second at the state bowling meet.

The Board recognized 17 [Illinois Music Educators Association](#) (ILMEA) all-state honorees from James B. Conant, Fremd, Palatine, and Schaumburg High Schools. These students earned all-state honors in band, choir, and orchestra.

Fremd High School student **Pavan Pandurangi** was recognized by the Board for earning the highest possible composite score on a recent SAT college entrance examination. Of the nearly 2 million students who take the exam each year, only about 300 receive a top score. The complete list of District 211 students recognized for SAT achievements can be found [here](#).

The Board recognized Conant High School student **John Waity** for winning the Congressional App Challenge for the 8th Congressional District. His app, titled "Conant Map," will be displayed in the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Public Hearing and Approval of Electronic-Learning Day Program

High School District 211 retains four emergency days that can be employed in the event that a short-term school closure may be needed. To plan for the possibility that one or more District 211 schools may be closed beyond the number of available emergency days, a public hearing was held by the Board of Education to hear comment on a proposal to authorize an e-learning program

that would enable staff members to support students' continued learning experiences via electronic means in the event of emergency school closing days related to the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Leveraging its well-established one-to-one program, District 211 is positioned to seamlessly implement an e-learning day program. Every student is provided a school-issued iPad, and any student needing home Internet access is provided a hot spot through the District's participation in the Sprint 1Million program. District teachers utilize online classroom management systems as a routine element of classroom instruction. Necessary resources and assets are in place to support e-learning instruction and a communication plan has been drafted to inform all students, parents, and staff members about the e-learning program. The District has developed its e-learning day program plan to be in full compliance with requirements set forth in Public Act 101-0012.

Following the public hearing, the Board adopted the [resolution](#) to employ an e-learning day program as presented.

Presentation: Facility and Capital Improvement 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 District's educational goals. The District is currently completing projects in its next 10-year capital improvement plan developed in fiscal year 2018 consistent with its Strategic Plan as well as completing mandated life safety projects identified on the 2019 Health and Life Safety Survey. The District's 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.

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 scheduled for completion over the next several years.

Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel** and Director of Facilities & Purchasing **John Pahlman** presented a report to the Board of Education that summarized the work completed to this point relative to both mandated life safety improvements and capital improvement projects. The presentation and report also included a summary of the progress relative to life safety projects and the capital improvement project timeline scheduled over the next several years in

conjunction with financial planning considerations as the District operates debt-free.

A complete copy of the Board report is available [here](#), along with a copy of the [presentation](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [February 13, 2020](#).

In-Service Dates for 2020-2021

At its February 14, 2019 meeting, the Board of Education adopted a school calendar for 2020-2021, with 180 student attendance days; and four institute days on: Tuesday, August 11, 2020; Wednesday, August 12, 2020; Tuesday, October 13, 2020; and Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

Shortened days for in-service training of staff have been used and are consistent with the allowances under school code. The principal at each school has determined which days will be used for in-service training, with no more than five shortened days allowed per school. According to state guidelines, students must be in attendance for at least three hours during a shortened day. For designated shortened days in District 211, students attend classes for 4½ hours.

At its February 13, 2020 meeting, the Board approved in-service programs for staff on Thursday, September 3, 2020 (Parent Open House) and Wednesday, October 14, 2020 (District 211 College Night), as students will attend school for 4½ hours on these days and the remainder of time staff will focus on continuing work to increase student achievement. In addition, each school has a shortened day on the national administration of the SAT in April. The Board also approved the following shortened days for in-service training for certified staff and special events: November 6, 2020; February 12, 2021; February 19, 2021; and May 14, 2021, of which each school may choose a maximum of two days for the 2020-2021 school year.

A week following the Board's approval of the October 14, 2020 shortened day due to College Night, the District learned that the agency coordinating the annual College Night program cannot host the event on October 14, 2020. Instead, the agency will hold the District 211 College Night on October 20, 2020, and the Board approved this date as a shortened day for in-service training of certified staff and special events.

Enrollment Projections

The Board of Education received information on enrollment projections through the 2027-2028 school year. Enrollment projections are based on fall data received from School Districts 15 and 54, and assume attendance boundaries as defined in October 2001, with no significant shifts of families within the District. The projections include students who will attend the District's five high schools. Off-campus projections are based on enrollments at District 211 North Campus, Higgins Education Center, and private facilities for the 2019-2020 school year and on a five-year average for the remaining years. Not included in the projections are the number of students who may enroll in District schools based upon their families specifically moving into District 211 boundaries for its educational excellence.

Projections indicate that the District's enrollment at its five high schools will remain relatively stable for the upcoming school year, increasing 0.1% in 2020-2021. District 211 will continue to experience increases in enrollment through 2022-2023, before a decline begins in 2023-2024.

Additional information on enrollment projections is available [here](#).

Illinois High School Association Letter of Appreciation Recognition

Illinois High School Association Assistant Executive Director Tracie Henry expressed the IHSA's [thanks and gratitude](#) to Palatine High School Principal Tony Medina, his staff, and students who give their time, talents, and energies to continually make the state finals for girls gymnastics a true success and memorable experience for all competitors and fans. Palatine High School has hosted the IHSA girls gymnastics state finals since 1979.

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 **Robert LeFevre**, Board Vice President **Anna Klimkowicz**, Associate Superintendent **Lisa Small**, Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**. Proposed policy revisions also are reviewed by legal counsel.

After conducting its initial review of proposed policy revisions [GBCC Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace](#); [JFCA Student Appearance Policy](#); and [JFC Student Conduct](#) at its February 13, 2020 meeting, with no action taken at that meeting,

the Board approved the revised policies and directed the superintendent to make appropriate distribution.

One-to-One Program and Electronic Device Purchase

High School District 211 has provided each student an individual electronic device as part of the District's one-to-one program for the past six years. The program has become a fixed component of the District's instructional model and has been recognized by Apple as an example of one-to-one program implementation for other school districts to emulate.

The program is structured so that each student is assigned a device as a freshman. The student keeps that same device for the full four-year high school experience, at which time, the graduating senior has the option to purchase his or her assigned iPad at current market value. iPads not purchased by graduating seniors are sold to a third-party vendor.

The iPad has proven to be a high-quality individual electronic device for students, and teachers continue to identify new ways to use the iPad in their classrooms. The District extended its partnership with Apple Professional Learning during the 2019-2020 school year to further integrate the iPad into classroom instruction and strengthen learning outcomes. Throughout the school year, Apple certified teacher trainers collaborated with 170 faculty members over the course of 14 full-day professional learning sessions. In addition to these professional development sessions, District 211 continues to sponsor a two-day summer orientation experience for new teachers focused on using the iPad as an instructional tool.

District 211's iPad Protection Plan continues to be available for students and their families through the District's self-insurance program. The optional Protection Plan carries an annual \$25 premium, plus variable deductible charges. The Plan supports families by limiting repair and replacement costs due to accidental damage or loss, with over 80% of the student body participating in the Plan during the 2019-2020 school year. Based on claim rates and program cost analysis, the District recommends maintaining the annual premium cost of \$25 for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board of Education authorized the District to purchase 2,975 iPads from Apple at a total cost of \$859,800 to support the one-to-one learning program during the 2020-2021 school year.

Additional information is on the one-to-one program electronic device purchase is available [here](#).

Naming of the Palatine High School Pool Facility

Previous District 211 Superintendent **Nancy N. Robb** served students, staff, and parents faithfully for 34 years. Her leadership and contributions inspired the creative expansion of meaningful supports and services to all students over the span of her exemplary career. Dr. Robb served District 211 not only as superintendent (2008-2014), but also as associate superintendent for instruction (2004-2008), assistant superintendent for extended educational and special services (2002-2004), principal at Palatine High School (1990-2002), student services director at Schaumburg High School (1983-1990), and guidance counselor at Schaumburg High School (1980-1983). In honor of her inspiration, dedication, vision, and tireless efforts throughout her career, the Board declared that the pool facility at Palatine High School be named the Nancy N. Robb Natatorium.

Administrative Appointments

Superintendent-Elect **Dr. Lisa Small** is pleased to announce the following administrative appointments:

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Michael Smith** as 10-month assistant principal at Palatine High School, effective August 3, 2020. Mr. Smith currently serves in an administrative position as a dean of students at Hinsdale South High School, a position he has held since 2017. Prior to this position, he was an English teacher and assistant department chair for English at the school for the 2016-2017 school year. Previously, he was an English teacher from 2006-2016 and head girls soccer coach from 2011-2017 at Hinsdale Central High School. He began his career as an English teacher at East Peoria Community High School in 2005. Mr. Smith earned his bachelor's degree in English secondary education from Bradley University in 2004, and he received his master's degree in educational leadership from Concordia University in 2011.

The Board approved the appointment of **Linda Serafini** as 10-month assistant principal at Fremd High School, effective August 3, 2020. Ms. Serafini began her career as a family and consumer sciences teacher in 2000 at Schaumburg High School. In 2015, she transferred to Hoffman Estates High School, where she coordinated the preschool and early education teacher program. In addition, she has served as a sponsor and coach throughout her career and has participated on several school committees. During this school year, Ms. Serafini served as a dean of students at Hoffman Estates High School. Ms. Linda Serafini graduated from Western Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in family and consumer sciences education in 1999. In 2005, she received her master's degree in educational leadership from Roosevelt University and will complete a second master's degree in principal leadership from Aurora University later this year.

The Board approved the appointment of **Jinu Joseph** as 10-month assistant principal at Conant High School, effective August 3, 2020. This school year, Mr. Joseph has been serving as an assistant principal at Traughber Junior High School in Oswego, Ill. Prior to this position, he was an assistant principal at Westmont High School in Community Unit School District 201 from 2017-2019. Before entering administrative positions, Mr. Joseph was a mathematics teacher, first at Richards Career Academy in 2011, and then at the Marine Leadership Academy from 2012-2017. Mr. Joseph earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Purdue University in 2006. In 2009, he received a master's degree in teaching and learning from DePaul University. He earned a second master's degree in educational leadership from National Louis University in 2016.

The Board approved the appointment of **Anthony Ganas** as 10-month assistant principal at Hoffman Estates High School, effective August 3, 2020. Mr. Ganas became both a special education teacher and head wrestling coach at Hoffman Estates High School in 2009. For the 2013-2014 school year, he served as the school's dean of students. Mr. Ganas was appointed to the role of assistant department chair for special education at Hoffman Estates High School in 2017. Mr. Ganas received a bachelor's degree in public relations from Wartburg College in 2003. In 2008, he earned a master's degree and his special education teaching credentials from the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse. He earned a second master's degree in educational leadership from Northeastern Illinois University in 2013.

The Board approved the appointment of **Jacob Hughes** as 10-month administrator at District 211 Alternative Learning Academy, effective August 3, 2020. Mr. Hughes began his career in District 211 as a coach and then a teacher assistant in 2008. In 2013, he was a part-time special education teacher at Hoffman Estates High School. The following year in 2014, he became a full-time teacher in Schaumburg High School's special education department. In his District 211 career, he has been an assistant wrestling coach and the head coach for girls lacrosse. This school year, Mr. Hughes has served as a dean of students at Schaumburg High School. Mr. Hughes earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from Illinois State University in 2008, his learning behavior specialist endorsement from Roosevelt University in 2013, and his master's degree in instructional leadership from Roosevelt University in 2017.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2020, 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.