

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, April 24, 2014, 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.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized state award-winner **Milan Patel** from Hoffman Estates High School who earned a 6th-place finish in the chemistry competition at the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering competition.

Also recognized was Hoffman Estates High School student **Joshua Lichwa** for receiving the 2014 Infinitec Outstanding Student Technology Award recognizing exceptional progress and skills in assistive technologies.

Hoffman Estates High School student **Antonio Alfaro** was recognized for his first-place finish at the Illinois High School Art Exhibition in the sculpture category.

Annie Zheng, William Fremd High School student, was recognized for earning a silver medal in the 2014 National Scholastic Writing Competition with her short story, "Lost and Found."

The Board also honored Fremd High School Girls Gymnastics Coach **Elissa Ference** for being named the 2014 Illinois High School Association Girls Gymnastics

Coach of the Year, recognizing her outstanding service and unselfish devotion to student-athletes.

Parent club presidents and their respective Booster Clubs were honored by the Board for their service to District 211 schools during the 2013-2014 school year:

- **Julie Rhodes**, President Conant High School Booster Club
- **Michael Anzalone**, President Conant High School Band Booster Club
- **Scott Beutler** and **Peter Carlson**, Co-Presidents Fremd High School Viking Booster Club
- **Jill Rusten**, President Fremd High School Music Association
- **Thomas Goodrich**, President Hoffman Estates High School Loyal Parents (HELP)
- **Debbie Rohrwasser**, President Palatine High School Pirate Booster Club
- **Pamela Groves** and **Pam Pelarinos**, Co-Presidents Schaumburg High School Very Interested Parents (VIPs)
- **David Christopher**, President Schaumburg High School Band Booster Club

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [April 10, 2014](#).

Proposed In-District Professional Learning Opportunities Summer 2014

In-district courses empower educators to embrace an array of professional learning opportunities incorporating theory

with practice. Summer 2014 professional learning opportunities will focus on digital learning, literacy, and assessment.

Previously approved courses that will be offered this summer include: *A Realistic Approach to Test Question Creation*, *Blogging in the Classroom*, *Create an Online Workspace for Your Classroom Using the Schoology LMS (for beginners)*, *Flipped Learning*, *Google Applications for Educators*, *Google Applications for Educators Part 2*, *Increasing Student Text Comprehension with Subtext*, *Infinite Campus and Mastery Manager: The How To!*, *iTunes U Course Manager*, *Literacy in Content Area Classrooms*, *Open Educational Resources and Transitioning to a 1:1 Classroom*.

Workshops previously approved that will be offered this summer include: *Advanced Schoology*, *Creating Rubrics in Mastery Manager*, *Digital Portfolios*, *Educreations*, *E-readers for Literacy Skills*, *iMovie*, *NearPod*, *Notability/ Dropbox/ Evernote/ Paperport Notes/ Goodreader*, *Notability/ Dropbox/ Evernote/ Paperport Notes/ Goodreader and Reports in Mastery Manager*.

The Board of Education also approved the following new courses for in-district credit: *"Gamification in the Classroom,"* *"Transforming Learning and Units of Study within a Digital Environment,"* *"Transforming Students from Consumers to Producers,"* *"Title I Creating a Student Centered Classroom: The Larry Geni Project,"* *"2014 Digital Learning 10,"* *"2014 Digital Learning 20,"* *"2014 Digital Learning 30,"* *"Digital Classroom Management,"* *"Explain Everything,"* and [*"TurnItIn.Com."*](#)

Additional information on approved in-district courses for summer 2014 is available [here](#).

Proposed Policy Revisions/New Policy

As part of its ongoing Policy Manual review, the Board of Education reviews proposed policy revisions and proposed new policies from the Administrative Board Policy Group. The Group is comprised of Board Vice President **Mucia Burke**, Board Member **Robert LeFevre**, Assistant Superintendent **Theresa Busch**, Assistant Superintendent **Samantha Dolen**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**.

After initially reviewing at its April 10 meeting, the Board approved proposed policy revisions to Board policy file: [JEDA Truancy](#). The Board also reviewed new policy [Teen Dating Violence](#), with no action being taken.

Capital Improvement Funding Considerations

At its April 11, 2013 meeting, the Board of Education reviewed plans for a long-range capital improvement plan that provided for improvements to each District 211 building. Building on this plan, last month the Board was presented a comprehensive five-year capital and facility plan that will enhance academic and extracurricular opportunities for all District 211 students. These projects include expansion of wireless access points in District buildings; pool expansion and locker room remodeling; remodel of main office and a connecting corridor for science and math at Conant High School; media center upgrades in all buildings; auditorium lighting and sound upgrades; upgraded athletic field drainage, surfacing, and safety features; relocation of the Adult Transition Programs at Palatine and Hoffman

Estates High Schools; and relocation of alternative and special education programs to a centralized leased location.

Capital projects are proposed to be funded through either the Capital Projects Fund using transferred fund balance reserves or through the annual Operations/Maintenance budget. In addition to the auditorium upgrades and the Conant High School connecting corridor that will be funded as part of the Operations/Maintenance budget, general maintenance and improvement of District facilities and sites also will continue to be advanced on an annual basis and funded with general operating funds in the Operations/Maintenance Fund.

With the progression of life safety projects identified in the 2010 life safety survey, completion of these projects is being prudently managed with recent 2012/2013 bond sale proceeds. For the upcoming 2014-2015 school year, approximately \$7.9 million of identified life safety projects will be completed. Additionally, skylight repairs at Fremd High School and roof repairs at Conant High School were filed as life safety amendments and will be completed this summer. As proceeds from the 2012/2013 sale of Life Safety bonds are used to fund the first \$16 million in project costs, the District continues to realign the outstanding \$10 million of life safety projects in financial projections and assess funding options. Current projections indicate that the District will have expended its \$16 million in 2012/2013 bond proceeds by the end of the 2015 calendar year.

In review of the proposed five-year capital improvement plan, the Board was presented with an outline of final or projected costs for each project, as well as three funding scenarios. As the Board considers facilities improvement projects and funding options, the following financial

parameters will guide recommendations:

- Any/all funding options will not adversely impact the operations plan that supports the instructional program for District 211
- The District will maintain a balanced budget in all operating funds in accordance with School Code
- All financial planning and operational budget initiatives will maintain target operating fund balances at a minimum of 33.3% of the next budget year's expenditures (per Board Policy DCA)

The Board approved the authority to seek life safety amendments for the pools, natatorium, and pool locker rooms at all five District high schools, and for the Barrington Orthopedic Building.

Additional information presented to the Board on Capital Improvement Funding Considerations is available [here](#).

Bids for Consideration – Swimming Pool & Natatorium Renovation

The District's swimming pools are among the most used spaces in our schools, having been originally constructed for student use in 1978. Regular maintenance, repairs, and up-keep have been performed, with no major renovations having taken place.

In recent months, the District has been involved in the pre-planning stage for the renovation and expansion of all five District swimming pools. Phase I is planned for construction to begin at Conant High School in the coming months, with renovations at Fremd and Hoffman Estates High Schools to follow, and Palatine and Schaumburg High Schools to

complete the planned work, all over a 36-month period. The pool projects will involve a complete renovation of existing facilities, creating a much larger square pool with deeper and more lanes. The project also will include replacement of mechanical equipment, locker rooms, bleacher area, and offices.

Given the higher degree of complexity associated with the design and construction of swimming pools, the need to ensure quality, consistent, and uniform completion of all five pools, the Board of Education approved a change from the traditional general contractor delivery method of construction to the more commonly used method referred to as construction management services, with bids for the construction received individually, for each construction trade.

For the bids received, the [Board awarded the business](#) to the lowest responsible bidders.

Barrington Orthopedic Lease Agreement

In an effort to centralize the District's alternative education programs (including Academies North and South, the Adult Transition Programs, and other special education programs serving students) in a location that would offer greater efficiency of support, administration, transportation services, and utilization of facilities, the Board of Education approved a 10-year lease agreement as presented with an option to purchase, for the Barrington Orthopedic facility at 1030 W. Higgins Road in Hoffman Estates. The lease effective date is June 1, 2014.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Appointment of School Treasurer and Assistant School Treasurer

In accordance with Illinois School Code, the Board of Education of school districts effected by the abolition of Township School Treasurer are required to appoint their own school treasurer for a two-year term, beginning and ending on the first day of July. The school treasurer shall not be either a member of the Board of Education or the superintendent of schools, and must be either a certified chief school business official or a certified public accountant. School Code also provides that the school treasurer be bonded.

The Board appointed **Barbara Peterson** as school treasurer and **Lauren Hummel** as assistant school treasurer, effective July 1, 2014. Treasurer bonds will be secured through Zurich Fidelity and Deposit Surety Co. in the amount of \$16,000, and from Lloyd's of London in the amount of \$18,343.

Athletic Training Services

High School District 211 provides comprehensive athletic training services for fall, winter, and spring athletic seasons, as well as summer athletic camps at each school. Athletic training staff at each school consists of one head athletic trainer and two assistant athletic trainers per season, and one athletic trainer per summer camp. At Palatine, Fremd, Schaumburg, and Hoffman Estates High Schools, head athletic trainers are provided by Barrington Orthopedic Specialists, and assistant athletic trainers are contracted by

Athletico. Conant High School has two teacher/trainers and one independent contractor.

The current three-year head athletic trainer contract with Barrington Orthopedic will expire in June 2014, and due to cost considerations, has elected to discontinue its head trainer services with District 211. In 2013, ATI terminated its assistant athletic trainer agreement with the District after two years for similar cost prohibitive reasons. Subsequently, District 211 entered into a one-year agreement with Athletico to satisfy necessary training services for the 2013-2014 school year.

Athletic training has progressed over time from when coaches simply treated athletes to a time now that necessitates certified and accredited professionals for treating and rehabilitating student athletic injuries while meeting legal requirements. These accredited trainers are required to fulfill professional development hours and ongoing continuing education in order to provide comprehensive training services. Given the size of the District's athletic program and continued focus on student safety and injury care, the District's commitment to provide comprehensive well-qualified athletic training services for students remains a priority.

The Board of Education approved a contract agreement with Athletico to provide assistant athletic training services at a rate of \$25 per hour for 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 school years. The Board also approved the employment of four full-time, 12-month salaried and accredited head athletic trainers at Palatine, Fremd, Schaumburg, and Hoffman Estates High Schools, effective July 1, 2014. Employing full-time head athletic trainers will afford District 211 the enhanced benefit of hiring and

evaluating personnel, which has proven to be successful for all other positions throughout the District. Administrators, staff, coaches, parents, and student-athletes will all benefit from the increased communication and expertise a full-time athletic trainer brings to their respective school.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Administrative Appointment

Superintendent-Elect **Daniel Cates** is pleased to announce the following administrative appointment:

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Kara Prusko** as assistant director of special education, effective July 1, 2014. Mrs. Prusko is currently principal at Dwight D. Eisenhower Junior High School in Schaumburg School District 54, a position she has held since 2011. Mrs. Prusko served as the assistant principal at the school from 2008 until her appointment as principal in 2011. She also was a special education teacher in District 54 at Jane Addams Junior High School from 2003 to 2008, and at Neil Armstrong Elementary School from 1995 to 2003. Mrs. Prusko received her bachelor's degree in special education from Illinois State University in Normal, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Concordia University in Chicago, and a master's degree in educational administration from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2014, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in

the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy
Administration Center.