

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, May 12, 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.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized students who earned honors in the state competitions in Group Interpretation (William Fremd High School); Science Olympiad (James B. Conant and Palatine High Schools); and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (Palatine, Conant, and Hoffman Estates High Schools). The complete list of students recognized is available [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [April 28, 2016](#).

Community Engagement Update

Four rounds of Community Engagement sessions have been completed on the following topics: State of the District (February 1-2, 2016), Academic Programming (March 14-15, 2016), Student Involvement & Wellness (April 4-5, 2016), and Finances & Facilities (May 2-3, 2016). Information gathered at these meetings, including verbatim responses and an executive summary of each session, is available on the District 211 Community Engagement [website](#).

Random telephone surveys have begun and will finish on or about May 15, 2016. Telephone surveying will continue until 500 surveys have been completed. At the conclusion of the telephone survey, an online survey will be made available starting on or about May 16, 2016, and the survey will be advertised to the entire community. The electronic survey will be open for responses through May 27.

In addition to Community Engagement sessions and surveys, small focus group discussions with 12 groups from throughout the community were conducted in January. All focus groups were facilitated by an outside consultant and no District 211 personnel or Facilitating Team members participated in the focus groups. Information from the focus groups is posted on the Community Engagement [website](#).

Reports and summaries from the Community Engagement sessions, focus groups, and telephone and online surveys will be compiled by the Facilitating Team and presented to the Board of Education at its June 16, 2016 meeting.

Additional Community Engagement information is available [here](#).

Board of Education Agreements

Responsible for governing the school district, the Board of Education works on behalf of the entire community as one entity, with clarity of purpose and a clear direction. The Board operates as a single entity responsible for its governance and processes while refusing to surrender to special interest or partisan political groups.

On April 30, 2015; July 16, 2015; and January 5, 2016, the Board and the Superintendent met with a representative from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) for the purpose of self-evaluation and to discuss governance practices of the Board of Education. From these discussions, the Board and Superintendent compiled a list of agreements and expectations by which to work together in order to conduct the work of the High School District 211 community.

The Board initially reviewed the draft agreements at its meetings on February 11, 2016 and March 17, 2016. After further discussion, the Board agreed that since all Board members were not present at the meeting, the Board of Education Agreements would be placed on the agenda for each future Board meeting and that the Board would take action once all Board members are present.

The Board approved its agreements at the meeting, and the agreements are posted on the District 211 website [here](#).

Proposal for Alternative School Programming

High School District 211 has utilized the services that North Cook Young Adult Academy (NCYAA) has provided for the past 20 years. NCYAA is an alternative school program created under the Safe Schools Act, developed by a consortium of school districts. Each year, District 211 contracts with NCYAA to provide educational programming for those students who would otherwise be eligible for expulsion.

Over the course of a school year, an average of 20-25 District 211 students engage in behavior that is considered expellable according to provisions in Section 10-22.6 of the Illinois School Code and District 211 Board Policies JGE and JFC. In lieu of expulsion, these students have been transferred to the NCYAA program, where they receive continued academic programming and socio-emotional supportive services. NCYAA provides these services at an annual cost of approximately \$410,000.

Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, there will be significant changes to the organizational structure of NCYAA. Due to budgetary constraints and lack of funding, NCYAA plans to close its Palatine campus, located at 335 E. Illinois Ave. in a space NCYAA has leased from District 211 for approximately 11 years, and transfer all students to its Des Plaines campus, which lies outside of District 211 attendance boundaries.

As a result of this consolidation, starting with the 2016-2017 school year, it would be necessary to transport all District 211 students to the Des Plaines campus by utilizing either District 211 transportation services or taxi services.

At its April 28, 2016 meeting, the Board of Education was presented initial information on a proposal for High School District 211 to create and operate an alternative education program to provide the academic and supportive services once provided by North Cook Young Adult Academy. The program would serve students who would otherwise be recommended for expulsion and removal from the District educational programming. The program would be housed in the facility space that NCYAA is vacating within the District-owned facility at 335 E. Illinois Ave. in Palatine and would service up to 35 students at a cost of approximately \$600,000 annually. This cost reflects the combined average cost of benefits for all staff positions. Because the majority of District 211 students who are enrolled in the NCYAA program are currently assigned to this same location, no additional cost for transportation is associated with this proposal.

After reviewing the formal recommendation for this proposal, the Board approved creation of its own alternative education program beginning with the 2016-2017 school year to serve District 211 students who have committed an act of gross disobedience or misconduct, may be eligible for expulsion, and would warrant removal from the regular high school.

Additional information on the alternative school proposal is available [here](#).

Curriculum Committee Report

The spring round of the 2015-2016 Curriculum Committee meetings has been completed, with 17 departmental meetings taking place. Each department's Curriculum Committee has 11 members, including five school department chairs, five principals, and the associate superintendent for instruction. The following topics were reviewed at each department's Curriculum Committee meeting this spring: Dual Credit Courses, College Majors and Career Exploration Website, Critical Learning Standards (CLS), and Type II Assessment Series.

The Board of Education approved the Curriculum Committee report and recommendations as presented. A summary of Committee activity is available

[here](#). (Note: recommendations requiring Board action are in bold and listed by department.)

Early Morning Work Sessions 2016-2017

Though there are many individual and small group professional development opportunities for a teacher throughout the school year, it is highly unlikely that teachers of the same course within a school have a consistent common time to engage in an in-depth instructional conversation. Early morning work sessions provide designated times for teachers of the same course within the same department to share their best instructional practices.

During early morning work sessions, teachers are grouped in professional learning teams (PLTs) based on courses they teach. PLTs continue to enhance the practice of continuous improvement targeted on student success by providing time for teachers to collaboratively identify potential improvements relative to curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

The Board of Education authorized the superintendent to approve 12 morning work sessions, each of which would be 75 minutes in length, on the following Tuesdays: August 23, 2016; September 6, 2016; September 20, 2016; October 4, 2016; October 18, 2016; November 1, 2016; November 15, 2016; January 24, 2017; February 7, 2017; February 21, 2017; March 7, 2017; and March 21, 2017.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Summer Curriculum Projects

Summer curriculum projects give faculty the opportunity to work with colleagues from other schools to collaborate on their instructional choices and curriculum implementation in the classroom.

The Board of Education approved the recommended summer curriculum projects at a cost not to exceed the following per grant: Title 1, \$67,925; Title 2, \$60,875; and IDEA, \$20,325. The focus of this summer's projects is on curriculum development and alignment, District Benchmark Assessment (DBA) revisions, critical learning standard (CLS) implementation, and instructional innovations, and will be entirely supported from grant funding.

Further details on the specific summer curriculum projects that were approved by the Board are available [here](#).

Health & Dental Program Claims Administration

The Board of Education approved to continue its self-insurance program for health and dental benefits for 2016-2017 and retained Blue Cross and Blue Shield to provide claims administration services for medical, dental, and utilization review. Further, the Board authorized the purchase of aggregate and specific stop-loss insurance from Blue Cross and Blue Shield, as presented.

District 211 provides employees and eligible retirees with health and dental benefits through a modified self-insured program. Under the program, costs are based on claim experience, administrative fees per program participant, and stop-loss insurance. The District's multi-plan health design structure supports four Preferred Provider Options (PPO) plan variants and two Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans. The current multi-plan structure integrates varied cost control factors for deductibles, coinsurance, prescription drugs, health savings accounts, and varied levels of premiums based on plan benefits. Through the modified self-insurance program, the District continues to benefit from improved cash flow and access to PPO and HMO discounted claim costs.

The renewal recommendation for 2016-2017 reflects an increase in the administrative monthly rates for PPO medical to \$50.87 per employee per month (+1.2%); HMO medical increases to \$50.87 per employee per month (+1.2%); an increase in the HMO managed care fee from \$10.72 per employee per month to \$12.41 per employee per month (+15.8%); an increase in the HMO physician service fees from \$391.05 to \$397.41 (+1.6%) per plan participant per month; no change in the network access fees at 0.63% of PPO discounts; and dental rates will remain the same at \$2.58 per employee per month. Applicable prescription drug utilization rebates decrease to \$16.37 per employee per month and will be applied as a credit to monthly billing statements. This change is the direct result of plan utilization with participants choosing more generic prescription drugs and ultimately lowering overall prescription claims costs. Individual stop-loss insurance (ISL) will increase from \$36.65 to \$37.39 (+2.0%) per employee per month for PPO participants and will increase from \$22.33 to \$27.89 (+24.9%) for HMO plan participants. Alternative stop-loss carriers were reviewed, and BCBS continues to provide the most competitive rate.

Additional information on District 211's health and dental program claims administration is available [here](#).

Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) Budget

The Board of Education ratified the NSSEO budget for 2016-2017 fiscal year and agreed to pay the District's proportionate share of the budgeted revenues.

Additional information on the NSSEO budget is available [here](#), with a copy of the [proposed budget](#) and [budget chart](#) provided as supplemental resources.

Board Discussion: Possible Policy Consideration

The Board of Education discussed the consideration of creating a negotiations policy. Following the discussion, the Board asked the Superintendent to gather additional summary data on current practices, including legal and regulatory guidance, to present for further discussion at either the June 16, 2016 or July 21, 2016 regular Board meeting.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.