

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, November 13, 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.

Military Recognition

The Board of Education honored Corporal **Neph Ramos**, a 2012 Conant High School graduate who is now serving in the United States Marine Corps. Corporal Ramos led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions

The Board recognized High School District 211's "*Those Who Excel*" Award recipients, including William Fremd High School Applied Technology Teacher **Steven Elza**, who was named 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year. The Illinois State Board of Education annually sponsors the "*Those Who Excel*" awards to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the state's public and non-public schools. High School District 211 award-winners are (listed alphabetically):

Secretary to the Superintendent **Sally Cimmarusti** (educational service personnel category)
Schaumburg High School Head Librarian **Susan Elk** (student support personnel category)
William Fremd High School Applied Technology Teacher **Steven Elza** (classroom teacher category; 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year)

District 211 Academy-North Teacher **Dane Henning** (early career educator category)
James B. Conant High School Assistant Principal **Robert Small** (school administrator category)
Hoffman Estates High School **SOAR Core Committee** (team category); Team members are:

Brigit Cain, Angelica Cordova-Rajoo, Anthony Ganas, Brian Harlan, Christine Jenkins, Elizabeth Lambert, Kerri Largo, Kirk Macnider, Kelly O'Connor, Beth Roesner, Joshua Schumacher, and William Scully

Energy Star Recognition

Annually, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Energy (DOE) recognize buildings and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to protecting the environment through energy efficiency. Earlier this spring, District 211 received notification that Conant High School, Palatine High School, and Schaumburg High School each earned the EPA's Energy Star building recognition. The District recently received notification that Fremd High School also achieved the EPA's Energy Star building recognition for 2014. District 211 schools now represent four of five schools in Illinois to achieve the Energy Star building status, while nationally, District 211 represents four of 967 schools to achieve this award in 2014.

These awards acknowledge District staff for their commitment to achieve continuous improvement in energy performance and further protect the environment through energy efficiency.

Instructional Coaching Presentation

Following implementation of a small-scale pilot during second semester of the 2013-2014 school year, seven instructional coaches, one per school, were funded through grant money for the start of the 2014-2015 school year. The goal of the Instructional Coaching program is to provide daily, job-embedded professional learning for all teachers to improve their classroom instructional practices.

Alina Morelli, Schaumburg High School Instructional Coach and **Katie Giegler**, Fremd High School Instructional Coach, presented the Board of Education with information on interactions coaches have experienced during the first quarter of the school year. In the past nine weeks, coaches have met with teachers in small groups, as professional learning teams, drop-in sessions, department meetings and via formal coaching cycles. **Christopher Bays**, Palatine High School; **Patricia Ertl**, Conant High School; **Kerri Largo**, Hoffman Estates High School; **David O'Connor**, Academy-South; and **Amy Laskiewicz**, Academy-North are the instructional coaches at the other District schools.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [October 16, 2014](#).

Curriculum Committee Report

The fall round of the 2014-2015 Curriculum Committee meetings has been completed with 16 department meetings taking place. The committees welcomed 13 new department chairs and three new District department chairs to leadership positions.

Near the end of the 2013-2014 school year, the District Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) Joint Committee presented the first-round of criteria outlining how teachers were to demonstrate student growth as a part of the evaluation system. The Committee requested that all teachers use the 2014-2015 school year to pilot the evaluation system and return feedback to the Committee. This system maintains the integrity of the current District Benchmark Assessment (DBA) system and allows for the student growth component of PERA to be a part of that already established system. The PERA system does require additional pre-testing in order for student growth during the duration of the course to be documented. This fall, many of the discussions at the curriculum committee meetings centered on each department making meaningful assessment decisions and creating and/or modifying DBAs and pre-tests to meet the requirements of PERA. The guidelines of the District PERA Joint Committee allow teachers, working in their professional learning teams (PLTs), to select areas of focus for the upcoming school year. These areas of focus will become the teachers' goals for the student growth portion of the evaluation document, as well as, instructional discussions during morning work sessions. During the spring round of curriculum committee meetings, all departments will bring forth the designated pre- and post-tests for each course.

In order to assist teachers with this process, continual professional development in Mastery Manager, Depth of Knowledge, and assessment creation have occurred as needed with schools, departments, and individuals. **Danielle Hauser**, director of instructional improvement; school professional development administrators; technology coordinators; and the newly appointed instructional coaches have been able to assist teachers through a variety of one-on-one and small group sessions.

A discussion occurred at each curriculum committee meeting with the chairs explaining some of the exciting department-specific technology opportunities that are occurring for students in their classrooms because of the One-to-One implementation. **Lynn Swanson**, director of instructional technology, and a school technology coordinator were at each meeting to share in the successes and to review any updates or changes that are occurring to allow teachers to continue to experience a seamless transition out of a paper-based educational environment.

As the details regarding the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) continue to come forth from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), District 211 leadership teams are discussing possible options for the implementation of the assessment to Algebra II and English III students. During curriculum meetings, an update occurred on the current information available and the potential testing schedules. Pending the release of the testing manual from the ISBE with explicit testing details, a final testing scenario cannot be recommended. The testing schedule for the spring is expected to be confirmed prior to the end of first semester.

The Board of Education approved the Curriculum Committee report and recommendations as presented. A complete copy of the Fall 2014-2015 Curriculum Committee Report is available [here](#).

Summer School Enrollment/Cost Analysis

The Board received an update on Summer School 2014 and the implementation of the new summer schedule. The revised four-day summer school week consisted of 13, five-hour and 15-minute days each semester, with no school on Fridays. Input from parents, students, and teachers overwhelmingly indicated support of the newly revised schedule. Data gathered from the summer of 2014 showed increases in academic achievement and decreases in behavior incidents. Summer School experiences provide opportunities for students to accelerate in programs, improve skills, allow for exploration of new interests, and provide credit recovery. The Summer School experience also provides an opportunity for many incoming freshmen, especially those at-risk for academic difficulties, to familiarize themselves with the routine of the high school educational environment and schedule.

The Incoming Freshman Academy was offered for the 10th year, while the Sophomore Summer Academy was offered for a ninth year. Student academies are offered to selected students at no cost and are designed to accelerate student learning in reading, writing, and mathematics. **Kristy Loughlin-Vance**, English Academy summer school coordinator, and 11 English teachers representing all five high schools gathered during the 2013-2014 school year to ensure the alignment and consistency of the Incoming Freshman Academy curriculum. The group narrowed the curriculum of the academy to specific areas of focus within reading strategies, writing, grammar, and academic behaviors. They also created a daily planning guide to assist out-of-district teachers with meeting the expectations of the summer academy

program. The group will meet again in November 2014 to review the next level of curriculum and revise the Sophomore Academy English curriculum.

The Applied Technology Department continued to offer a special program entitled “Project Lead the Way Summer Engineering Academy,” which is designed to provide selected young students with an opportunity to participate in a three-week course that explores engineering and architecture concepts. In 2014, the non-credit course was offered only to students in the summer prior to 8th grade who have shown an interest and have performed well in mathematics and science.

Additional information is available at:

- [Summer School Update and Cost Analysis](#)
- [Project Lead the Way Cost Analysis/Comparison](#)
- [Summer School Cost Analysis](#)

2015-2016 Budget Calendar

The Board of Education received the [2015-2016 Budget Calendar](#).

2014 School Report Cards

School Report Cards provide information about academic performance and characteristics of students, faculty, instructional resources, and finances at the school, district, and state level. Prepared by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Report Cards contain data received from and about schools at various points throughout the school year. According to Illinois School Code, School Report Cards are to be forwarded to school from the ISBE annually by October 31 and made available by schools to the public with 30 days. No information in the School Report Card can be modified.

In past years, District 211 has posted the “At-a-Glance” School Report Cards on the District and school websites. In addition to At-a-Glance School Report Cards, the ISBE also produces electronic versions of the School Report Cards, available at <http://illinoisreportcard.com>. The District and schools will provide a link to this website as well.

As required by Illinois School Code, this year’s School Report Cards include a measure of high school student readiness for college coursework, as measured by receiving an ACT score of 21 or higher; school environment indicators from the 5Essentials Survey that was administered last spring; and highlighted programs, courses, and opportunities available at each school.

The Board directed the superintendent to make appropriate availability of [2014 School Report Cards](#) by placing them on the District 211 and school websites. Printed copies of School Report Cards also are available upon request.

2013-2014 Annual Report

The Board of Education reviewed the [2013-2014 Annual Report](#). The Annual Report, which is produced each year, highlights outstanding students and staff, as well as reviews programs, presents statistics of interest, and summarizes financial information from the last school year.

The Board approved the Annual Report. It will be posted on the District's website for community members and public viewing.

2014 Proposed Tax Levy

The Board of Education received information on the 2014 Tax Levy at its October 16, 2014 meeting. The proposed levy was established within the tax limitation amount of 1.5%, plus access to new property of 0.2%. In addition to the proposed levy, the Board is planning a continuation of its levy reduction plan for 2014 with an additional \$2.0 million in debt service abatement. Since 2007, the Board has reduced the Debt Service levy by \$26.3 million, using existing reserve funds to pay an apportionment of its outstanding bonds. The total recommended tax levy for 2014, including the Debt Service levy and approved abatement, is \$212,648,268, an increase of 1.7% over the 2013 total levy extension.

After further review and discussion, the Board approved the proposed levy amount for 2014. The Board will hold a hearing at its December 11, 2014 meeting to hear public comment on the proposed tax levy, with adoption of the 2014 tax levy following the public hearing.

Additional tax levy information is available [here](#).

Proposed Detachment and Annexation of Property Between Districts 211 and 214

Following a public hearing, the Board of Education authorized the District to file an Order with the appropriate County offices authorizing detachment and annexation of certain territory (Arlington Downs, located at the northeast corner of Euclid Ave. and Rohlwing Road), allowing for consistency in the property and greater efficiency of school district resources through transportation costs.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Purchase of Financial/Human Resources Software

The Board of Education approved the purchase and implementation of the Infor financial management software at a total cost of \$758,425 and Tyler Technologies software at a cost of \$474,621; and that the District be authorized to renew yearly costs for Infor and Tyler Technologies at annual costs of \$71,915 and \$94,729.80, respectively. This will provide software that will best meet the operational needs of the District.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Credit Card Processing Contract

The Board of Education authorized the District to renew its contract for credit and debit card processing with Moneris for a two-year term. The District accepts credit card payment for student registration fees (regular, continuing education, summer school, and sports camps), as well as the school breakfast and lunch programs.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Proposed Policy Revisions and New Policies

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**, Associate Superintendent **Lisa Small**, Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**.

The Board initially reviewed proposed policy revisions to Board policy files: [G CBD Professional Staff Leaves and Absences](#); [GBCC Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace](#); and [GBCE Drug and Alcohol Test Program](#). No action was taken at the meeting.

The Board also initially reviewed two new proposed policies, [Copyright](#) and [Prevention of and Response to Student Bullying](#). No action was taken at the meeting.

Administrative Appointment

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Nicholas Jahnke** facilities engineer, effective December 1, 2014. Mr. Jahnke has worked extensively with building automation systems that are responsible for controlling the energy within large institutional buildings for Johnson Controls, Inc., a leading manufacturer in energy management systems, since 2008. His ability to utilize the technical dynamics of building-wide system controls and direct teams of installers led to a managerial position at Johnson Controls, Inc. There, his responsibilities included assessing financial viability of building automation projects; overseeing the installation of equipment, training and staff development of end users; and developing energy conservation strategies at large institutional facilities such as the Chicago Public Schools and Cook County jail facilities. Mr. Jahnke has produced innovative solutions that have resulted in significant energy conservation and cost savings for his clients. He earned a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a master's degree in business administration from DeVry University.

Mr. Jahnke replaces Energy Manager **Reece Thome**, who is retiring after working for more than 40 years in District 211. Before being named energy manager in 2004, Mr. Thome served as an applied technology teacher and department chair; a football, basketball, and baseball coach; a computer club sponsor; and career development coordinator. During Mr. Thome's tenure as energy manager, District 211 has saved approximately \$11.4 million in energy costs.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.