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Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, April 7, 2022, in the auditorium at William Fremd High School. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized six Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) all-state honorees from William Fremd High School: **Sophia Katsma, Lisa Kazami, Alexander Kim, Jason Yung, Mark S. Ariagno and Hanna Y. Oyasu.** All of these students achieved exemplary achievement in orchestra, choir or band. Directors **Christina Collins, Marla Caballero** and **Matthew Moore** also were recognized. ILMEA honorees from other District 211 schools were honored at a previous meeting.

The Board recognized Hoffman Estates High School student-gymnast **Elyssa Wuerffel** for taking fifth place in state in Beam. Head Girls Gymnastics Coach **David Calisch** also was recognized.

The Board also applauded Fremd High School student **Anish Mukherjee** for earning a perfect score of 36 on the American College Test (ACT). In 24 years, District 211 has had 148 students do so.

Public Hearing on the Proposed Reduction-in-Force of Teaching Positions

In accordance with ILCS 5/24-12, the Board conducted a public hearing to receive input on the administration's proposal for a reduction-in-force of teaching positions. After the public hearing, the following action on this agenda item was taken by the Board:

- Resolution Authorizing the Reduction-in-Force and Release of Non-Tenured Teachers

- Release of First-Year Teacher Assistants, First-Year Certified Nursing Assistants and First-year Non-ISBE Licensed Nurse

Approval of Minutes The Board approved the minutes from its regular meeting on March 17, 2022.

Sale of Surplus School Property

Per Board Policy DN School Property Disposal, property owned by District 211 with market value of more than $300 may be disposed to the best advantage of the District with condition of equipment reviewed by the Board of Education prior to its disposal. Additional information is available here.

Authorization to Release Purchase Orders

Each spring, Board authorization is requested to release purchase orders against next year's budget before the budget has been formally adopted. This ensures supply and capital items with long lead times for delivery or completion necessary for the start of the new school year are ordered with adequate time for delivery. Capital and supply budgets for the Educational Fund were submitted by administrators in each school, and the proposed expenditures had multiple levels of school and central office administrator review and approval. Capital and supply budgets for the Operations & Maintenance and Transportation Funds are under development, though the Board has already approved the purchase of school buses for the fiscal 2022-2023 school year. Several departments have identified items that are necessary for the start of the school year.
Full details are available here.

Enrollment Projections

Enrollment projections through 2029-2030 were recently completed. They are based on fall enrollment data from Districts 15 and 54, and assume attendance boundaries as defined in October 2001 and no significant shifts of families within the District. Growth and reduction factors are based on recent experience, and enrollment from private schools has been included. Changes in the housing market could alter projections.

The numbers indicate the District's enrollment at the five high schools will increase slightly for the upcoming school year. The District enrollment is projected to decline starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

The full report and numbers are available here.

Starting Times for the 2022-2023 School Year

The Board of Education received information regarding starting times for each school for the 2022-2023 school year. They remain unchanged from this year. To make efficient use of transportation resources, school buses are used first to transport students to early start schools, and then transport students to late start schools.

Early Morning Work Sessions 2022-2023 and College Night Update

Early Morning Work Sessions are a designated time when faculty members who teach the same course have the opportunity to meet to examine multiple data points relating to student success. At the high school level, it is not typical for teachers who teach the same course to have the same preparation period that allows them to meet to have discussions that include all teachers. The Early Morning Work Sessions allow teachers who teach the same course to be involved in consistent instructional planning. Larger departments tend to have multiple faculty members teaching the same course; and therefore, the professional learning teams consist of faculty within their school. Departments that offer courses taught by only one teacher tend to connect across the District during Early Morning Work Sessions via electronic conferencing.

At the February 17, 2022 Board of Education meeting, October 4, 2022 was approved as a shortened school day for College Night for the 2022-2023 school year. This annual date will need to be changed to Thursday, October 6, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year due to a calendar conflict.

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to approve 12 morning work sessions, each 75 minutes in length, on the following Tuesdays: August 23, 2022; September 6, 2022; September 20, 2022; October 25, 2022; November 15, 2022; December 6, 2022; January 17, 2023; January 31, 2023; February 14, 2023; February 28, 2023; March 14, 2023; and April 4, 2023.

Bulk Email Platform

District 211 is committed to transparent, timely and relevant communication with all stakeholders. To accomplish this, a robust and intuitive platform allowing for both creative and direct mass messaging is needed. The system currently used for this purpose was built in-house for the sole purpose of sending bulk emails.

The system is experiencing reliability issues as communication goals shift and the demand for timely, relevant and engaging emails and alerts increases. For several months, increasing limitations have been noted, including an inability to translate text into other languages even as the District's student population grows more diverse and a significant lag time on email delivery due to messages going through a clearinghouse.

Following conversations with peer districts, the Communications and Technology teams identified four education-focused mass notification software platforms with the ability to deliver what the District needs and drive communications forward. Product demonstrations were conducted and company interviews were held, with a goal of having a new platform in place and users on-boarded by the end of the school year.

The Board authorized the Superintendent or designee to execute the purchase of the Blackboard mass notification software platform at a total cost of $16,415 for a one-year period, which includes an annual cost of $14,375 plus $2,040 in one-time start-up fees. There will be an option to renew for an additional one year at a cost of $14,375.

The full report is available here.

Board Member Expenses

In accordance with board policy BHD (Board Member Expenses), the Board must pre-approve expenses of any Board Member. Board members seeking expense pre-approval for conference or workshop attendance will complete and submit to the Superintendent the request for Pre- Approval Form for Future Expense Reimbursement. Pre-approval may be made for a single event or a series of similar events.

The Board approved the Pre-Approval Form for Future Expense Reimbursement for Steven Rosenblum to attend the IASB North Cook Division Dinner Meeting, April 20, 2022 as submitted.

Policy BBF Board of Education Member Ethics and Social Media Protocols

The Board reviewed and discussed Board Policy BBF Board Member Ethics and Social Media Protocols for Board Members.

The Board of Education Ethics Document is available here. Board of Education Protocols are available here.

Selling Price of a Student Building Construction House

Through a program allowing students to work with teachers and professionals to build entire homes, another house has been completed and is ready for sale in Elgin. Students from all five high schools worked on the home.

The Board approved a selling price of $649,900.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, April 28, 2022. Closed session will begin at 6:30 p.m. and open session will begin at 7:30 p.m.

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