

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, May 21, 2020, via online video-conference in order to protect public health and to be in compliance with state directives to avoid public gatherings. The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [April 2, 2020](#).

Student Accident Insurance for 2020-2021

As a service to parents who wish to supplement their medical insurance coverage, District 211 provides access to student accident insurance. Under the terms of the student insurance program, parents and students are given the option to purchase accident insurance at a reasonable cost. The District makes information available to parents through mailings and the District website, but the District is not involved in the administration of the program.

District 211 sought proposals from two providers, with Zevitz-Redfield & Associates, Inc. providing the best proposal with the lowest costs and greatest level of coverage. Zevitz-Redfield & Associates, Inc. markets student accident insurance for Gerber Insurance Company and has provided student accident insurance for District 211 for the past 19 years.

The Board of Education approved the distribution of student accident insurance information and forms prepared by Zevitz-Redfield & Associates, Inc. and Gerber Insurance Company.

Additional information on student accident insurance is available [here](#).

Illinois High School Association Renewal of Membership for 2020-2021

The Board of Education approved membership for each District 211 high school in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and agreed to abide by the Constitution; By-Laws; Terms and Conditions; and Administrative Procedures, Guidelines and Policies of the IHSA for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The IHSA Board of Directors agreed not to require payment of membership dues or state series fees for member districts.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Remote Learning Update

The suspension of in-person learning, caused by the COVID-19 health emergency, for the last eight weeks of the 2019-2020 school year brought a swift change to traditional education experiences for every member of the District 211 community. Students and staff were quickly forced to adapt to creative e-learning environments; Advanced Placement testing was revised, rescheduled and taken from home; spring extracurricular events were cancelled; and interactive graduation parades followed by virtual commencement ceremonies were put in place with the hope that larger gatherings may be possible for seniors this summer. Though many traditional events, celebrations, athletic competitions, performances and side-by-side learning experiences were not able to take place, District 211 staff and students worked to stay connected through thoughtful and inspiring networks. District 211 food and nutrition services provided approximately 575,000 meals to any child under 18 years old during the last two months of the school year via parking lot drive-thru pick-ups. The continuous wraparound supports schools provide for District 211 families continued as exceptional outreach for anyone in need. Though the environment was not ideal, creative and innovative opportunities were created and the future will include building from the lessons learned during this experience.

This summer, District 211 will offer summer school courses via remote learning. Though the summer school calendar will remain the same, students will connect remotely with their teachers from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. each school day. During this time, teachers and students will engage in a variety of remote formats, including configurations such as whole class instruction, small group breakouts, tutoring sessions, and independent student work. Though the course and camp offerings for summer are limited, courses required for graduation, incoming freshman academies, academic invitational classes, and credit recovery courses are available, allowing students to maintain their previously created four-year high school course plans.

The start of the 2020-2021 school year for students remains Thursday, August 13. With the knowledge that the health guidelines and expectations for August 13 are not definitive, District 211 will plan for three scenarios that may be implemented at any time during the school year. These scenarios include traditional, in-person learning for all; remote learning for all; and a hybrid version of a limited number of students allowed into the school at one time. Though details of possible scenarios are still being investigated, the following represents the core principles. When schools are open, the safety of our students and employees is paramount. Prior to allowing in-person instruction or extracurricular activities and athletics to begin, systems will be implemented following strict health procedures including sanitizing methods, the utilization of personal

protective equipment, physical spacing requirements, limitations on the total number of students allowed in school and all other requirements as set forth by the Illinois Department of Public Health (I.D.P.H.) and Illinois State Board of Education (I.S.B.E.). The curriculum will prepare students for the next step in their pathway – whether it be the next year of high school or entry into the workforce, military or college. Finally, the three scenarios have to allow for a relatively seamless shift from one scenario to another because of the unpredictable nature of the current health concerns. For example, though a school may be engaging in a hybrid system of rotating a limited number of students into school on a certain day, the school must be ready to shift to all in-person or all remote learning as seamlessly as possible should the directive from the State change. The high schools in District 211 are as large as 2,650 students plus staff on any given day. Therefore, the three realistic, innovate systems must account for the challenges faced by large schools while maintaining high expectations for the health and safety of all and meeting educational needs of the students. As the detailed directives from the I.D.P.H., I.S.B.E. and State of Illinois for schools to reopen have not been released, District 211 will be drafting all realistic scenarios that will allow students to safely engage in the curriculum, whether they are at home, in school with all their classmates or rotating days in school with a limited number of classmates. When the health directives for schools become available, hopefully during June, District 211 will evaluate the scenarios that meet and exceed these directives and then share the details of each scenario.

In-District Professional Learning Opportunities

The Board of Education received a report highlighting professional learning opportunities that were available for District 211 certified staff during the 2019-2020 school year. Professional learning opportunities offered by the District include in-district courses, workshops, revolving meetings, professional learning team (PLT) meetings, mentoring and induction programs, and time grants. In addition, staff participates in professional development opportunities offered by outside institutions or organizations such as graduate school and conferences. By participating in professional learning opportunities, teachers gain new perspectives and ideas.

A copy of the report the Board received is available [here](#).

Community Connections Newsletter

The May 2020 issue of [Community Connections](#), a quarterly newsletter designed to provide additional information about High School District 211 to the communities served, was distributed in mid-May. The 16th edition of *Community Connections* included the following articles: *District 211 Schools Among the Top*

in U.S. News and World Report; Palatine High School Pool Named for Former Superintendent; Sale of 62-Acre Parcel Moves Forward; Harper Promise Update; and District 211 Releases Enrollment Projections Through 2027-2028 School Year.

Community Connections is emailed to District 211 parents, students, and staff, as well as community members who have provided their contact information. All 16 editions of the newsletter are available on the [District website](#).

Waiver of Outstanding Student Fees and Obligations

Each year, the Board of Education establishes student user fees for the following school year. Student fees make up approximately 2% of the District's annual revenue. One-third of the District's students are eligible for fee waivers based upon their eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

At its February 13, 2020 meeting, the Board approved the waiver of 2019-2020 deferred instructional fees for students who were unable to pay in full at the time of registration and did not qualify for a waiver of fees through free and reduced-price lunch eligibility. In addition to deferred instructional fees, families facing financial hardship have also incurred other student user fees and obligations for which they are unable to pay. Through April 30, 2020, outstanding fees and obligations total approximately \$86,000. Outstanding fees and obligations may be related to unpaid student user fees, replacement fees, athletic or activity special item fees, or repair fees. Approximately one-half of the unpaid balance is related to student user fees and the other one-half is related to student obligations.

With the closure of schools for a portion of the current school year, the District was able to reduce expenditures for supplies and services that would have been spent had students been present in school.

The Board waived current outstanding fee balances for all outstanding fees and obligations incurred through April 30, 2020. Any fees or obligations incurred beyond April 30, 2020 will be assessed accordingly.

Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2020

Recognizing the impact the extended school closure is having on students scheduled to graduate from high school this year, in May, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released details about modifications to graduation requirements for the class of 2020. Multiple state-level requirements were relaxed for these students, including the number of credits needed in specific core subject areas, participation in physical education classes, and completion of

consumer education coursework. In addition, the ISBE also gave school districts the opportunity to excuse local graduation requirements imposed on students by the students' school district.

District 211 has a local requirement that students must complete 30 hours of instruction in safety education (driver education classroom instruction). While most students satisfy this requirement in either their sophomore or junior year of high school, some students delay it into senior year. Furthermore, many students choose to satisfy this requirement by taking driver education privately.

This semester, less than 20 seniors per school were unable to satisfy the District's driver education classroom instruction requirement because the students' private courses were cancelled or suspended during the stay-at-home order and the students were unable to meet the driver education classroom instruction requirement. The impact on students of missing the driver education classroom instruction is minimal, as the State of Illinois allows people over the age of 18 to apply for a driver's license after completing a short six-hour inline course.

Executive Order 2020-31 and the ISBE's corresponding Emergency Rules suspended certain statutory graduation requirement minimums to allow local districts to modify or reduce their local graduation requirements such that students scheduled to graduate in 2020 who, through no fault of their own, were unable to complete certain graduation requirements due to the suspension of in-person instruction.

The District 211 Board of Education waived the District's driver education classroom instruction requirement per the ISBE guidance issued for the Class of 2020.

Consolidated District Plan 2020

District 211 participates in the Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Federal grants. The use of Federal funds is governed by a comprehensive set of legislative regulations contained within the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Consolidated District Plan (CDP) application process consolidates resources and planning efforts of the four above-mentioned grants into one – not multiple – applications for grant programming. Each Illinois school district accessing Federal grant funds must submit a single unified grant application to the Illinois School Board of Education after seeking approval of the CDP by its local school board.

The Board of Education approved the 2020 Consolidated District Plan to utilize the Federal Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, and IDEA grants totaling approximately \$3,790,572 as presented. The Board also authorized the

superintendent to submit the plan as required on behalf of District 211.

Additional information on the Consolidated District Plan is available [here](#).

Spring Curriculum Committee Report

Three times a year, the Curriculum Committee for each department meets to review and discuss curriculum updates and changes. Each department's Curriculum Committee consists of 11 members, including the five school department chairs, five principals, and the associate superintendent for instruction.

The following topics were related to discussions held during curriculum committee meetings this spring: Suspension of State Assessments, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programming, and Credit Recovery Opportunities.

The spring meetings have concluded, and the Board of Education received a [summary](#) of the meetings. The Board of Education approved the Curriculum Committee report and recommendations as presented.

Summer Curriculum Projects

Each summer, teachers gather from all schools to work as District- or school-based teams to develop curriculum, enhance instructional choices and assessments, and develop new coursework. The summer is a valuable time as it allows teachers longer periods of time to gather across schools without missing classes. Summer curriculum projects are proposed by groups of teachers, reviewed by all pertinent department chairs, and then recommended by the associate superintendent for instruction. Grant funding is used to support implementation of summer curriculum projects.

The Board of Education approved the recommended summer curriculum projects at a cost not to exceed the following per grant: Title I, \$99,600; Title II, \$91,900; and IDEA, \$28,900.

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

Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) Budget

The Board of Education ratified the [NSSEO budget for the 2020-2021](#) fiscal year and agreed to pay the District's proportionate share of the budgeted revenues.

Additional information on the NSSEO budget is available [here](#), along with a copy of [District 211's share of the NSSEO budget](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 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.