

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, August 14, 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.

Introduction of Newly Appointed, Promoted, and Transferred Administrators

Newly appointed, promoted, or transferred administrators were introduced to the Board of Education:

Daniel Andersen, 10-month assistant principal, Hoffman Estates High School

Luis Arroyo, 10-month assistant principal, Hoffman Estates High School

Colene Brockman, dean of students, William Fremd High School

Courtney Buss, 10-month assistant principal, James B. Conant High School

Brigit Cain, student services director, James B. Conant High School

Russell Cumings, 12-month assistant principal, Schaumburg High School

Renée Erickson, director of special education

Kimberly Glaser, 10-month assistant principal, William Fremd High School

Matthew Hildebrand, director of administrative services

Lauren Hummel, chief operating officer

Gordon James, dean of students, Schaumburg High School

Craig Kersemeier, 12-month assistant principal, William Fremd High School

Christopher Kontney, director of facilities & business services

Mark Kovack, associate superintendent for student services

Mark Langer, 10-month assistant principal, Palatine High School

Daniel Lanser, 10-month assistant principal, Schaumburg High School

Denise Mitchell, dean of students, James B. Conant High School

Barbara Nocola, dean of students, Hoffman Estates High School

Julie Nowak, principal, James B. Conant High School
Mary O'Connor, director of food services
Barbara Peterson, controller & treasurer
Kara Prusko, assistant director of special education
Joshua Schumacher, 12-month assistant principal, Hoffman Estates High School
Lisa Small, associate superintendent for instruction
Robert Small, 12-month assistant principal, James B. Conant High School
Kurtis Tenopir, principal, William Fremd High School
Jerry Treviño, director of summer school & community outreach
Brigid Tileston, 12-month assistant principal, Hoffman Estates High School

Energy Star Recognitions

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 earned the EPA's Energy Star building recognition. For three years in a row, District 211 schools have continued to be recognized with this award. Conant, Palatine, and Schaumburg High Schools represent three of four schools in Illinois to achieve the Energy Star building status for 2014. Nationally, District 211 represents three of 595 schools to achieve this award in 2014.

Energy Star has created a rating system for all types of commercial and institutional buildings, including K-12 schools. Within these categories, District 211 benchmarked its energy use relative to the national population of similar buildings. In the Energy Star application, this benchmark is called a national energy performance rating and is expressed on a scale of 1 to 100. To be eligible for an energy performance rating, buildings must meet criteria by building designation, operating characteristics, and energy data. To receive Energy Star recognition, an individual building must receive a score of 75 or higher. The average performance level of all five District 211 schools together has attained a score of 77. Using data from monthly electric

and natural gas bills, and the EPA's energy performance rating system, a baseline for each building was established and then tracked for performance.

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

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [July 17, 2014](#).

Open House Dates

The Board of Education received information on Open House dates and times for District 211 schools. Open Houses will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2014, at the following times:

Academy-North: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Academy-South: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
James B. Conant High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
William Fremd High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Hoffman Estates High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Palatine High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Schaumburg High School: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

2014-2015 Tentative Budget

The Board of Education approved the 2014-2015 Tentative Budget as presented. The Tentative Budget is available on the District 211 website for public inspection for a minimum of 30 days. Further, a public hearing will be held at the September 18, 2014 Board of Education meeting, and adoption of the budget must be completed by September 30, 2014.

The Tentative Budget represents the finance and operations plan that supports District 211's instructional program. The Tentative Budget was

developed in accordance with the revised Illinois Program Accounting Manual and presents revenue and expenditures by category and fund.

The following budget parameters were established and incorporated into the 2014-2015 budget development process:

- Maintain a balanced budget in accordance with the School Code (105 ILCS 5/17-1)
- Allocate costs associated with achieving District academic goals
- Allocate staffing costs based on enrollment and instructional programs
- Implement planned interfund transfers from the Educational Fund, Transportation Fund, and Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund and from the Educational Fund and Working Cash Fund to the Debt Service Fund
- Utilize \$2.0 million of existing Debt Service Fund balance to supplement the planned levy abatement
- Maintain a minimum 33.3% fund balance within each of the major operating funds
- Allocate salary costs based on negotiated contracts and Board approved percentage increases
- Allocate benefit and insurance costs based on projections developed in coordination with Corporate Benefits Consultants, Inc. (CBC)
- Allocate \$5.3 million in the Life Safety Fund for approved projects
- Allocate \$1.0 million for contingency to accommodate any unanticipated expenditures (Education - \$500,000; Operations/Maintenance - \$200,000; Transportation - \$100,000; Municipal Retirement/Social Security - \$100,000; and Life Safety - \$100,000)

For 2014-2015, operating budgets are balanced, fund balances are healthy, and planned levy reductions in debt service continue to represent a positive fiscal trend for High School District 211. Primary operating funds of the District include the Educational, Operations/Maintenance, Transportation, Municipal Retirement, and Working Cash Funds. These operating funds account for approximately 87% of the total budget. The District accounts for three restrictive funds that include debt service, capital projects, and life safety. Expenditures for these restrictive funds include payment of principal and interest on outstanding debt, ongoing construction and site improvement projects,

and State approved life safety work. Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for the Debt Service Fund, while bond proceeds and/or transfers from other funds serve as the revenue source for Capital Projects and Life Safety.

Overall, the cumulative 2014-2015 budget is projected to be \$23.5 million over in expenditures compared to revenue due to a unique combination of capital improvement projects occurring during the same year. The planned capital improvement projects include swimming pool renovations, an updated and enhanced media center, renovations to the Conant High School front office, and significant building renovations for special and alternative education programs taking place at 1030 W. Higgins Road in Hoffman Estates. Additional factors contributing to a deficit budget include a debt service levy reduction, completion of life safety projects, and the continuation of the iPad lease payments. This projected budget deficiency forecast also assumes the use of all contingency funds included in the budget, which the District has not historically needed to utilize these emergency funds.

The District's operating funds (Educational, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, Illinois Municipal Retirement, and Working Cash Funds) are projected to finish the 2014-2015 fiscal year in a favorable position with a projected surplus of \$6.7 million. Positive surplus budgets are projected in the Educational Fund (\$2.3 million); Operations and Maintenance Fund (\$2.2 million); Transportation Fund (\$0.1 million); Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (\$0.1 million); and Working Cash Fund (\$2.0 million). The restrictive funds will recognize the planned fund deficits in the Debt Service Fund (\$4.0 million), Capital Projects Fund (\$20.8 million), and Life Safety Fund (\$5.3 million).

The reported \$6.7 million budget excess/surplus in the operating funds reflects the District's commitment to maintaining balanced budgets in accordance with School Code and keeping expenditures at or below projected revenue. For the past 10 years, District 211 has maintained surplus budgets in its operating funds, and for 2014-2015, it is projected to do the same.

The reported \$4.0 million budget deficit in the Debt Service Fund is due to a positive levy reduction plan that has been in place since 2007 and lease payments for iPad devices through the One-to-One iPad Program. As part of a multi-year levy reduction (abatement) strategy to

benefit District taxpayers, the Board approved the reduction of \$2.0 million as part of the 2013 debt service levy adopted last December. The debt service reduction strategy provides for the ongoing use of reserves to pay a portion of principal and interest on outstanding bonds and subsequently, reducing the Debt Service levy by that same amount. This results in a lower overall tax rate for taxpayers due to the planned proportionate reduction in property taxes in the Debt Service levy. Since 2007, the Board of Education has reduced its overall levy by \$26.3 million, and this additional payment would increase the total levy reductions to \$28.3 million.

The reported \$20.8 million budget deficit in the Capital Projects Fund reflects the planned capital improvements to the Conant High School main office renovation project (\$4.3 million), pool renovation and planning costs for all five high schools (\$11.7 million), media center renovation and planning costs for Schaumburg, Fremd, and Conant High Schools (\$950,000), renovations to the leased 1030 W. Higgins Road building (\$3.0 million), initial design and planning costs for the relocation of Palatine High School Adult Transition Program (\$500,000), and residual payments due for the wireless expansion project (\$375,000). Capital improvement projects including pool renovations, 1030 W. Higgins Road building renovations, Fremd and Conant High Schools media center remodels, and the Palatine High School ATP relocation are all planned to take place over multiple years with associated costs spanning multiple budget years.

Total direct revenue is projected to be \$240.8 million, a decrease of 1.4% from the 2013-2014 actual budget, and includes the planned capital improvements and renovations. On a budget to budget comparison, a 0.4% increase in the overall comparison of revenues budgeted in 2013-2014 in comparison to the revenues anticipated in 2014-2015. The slight increase is primarily due to unbudgeted, state categorical payments received in the 2013-2014 fiscal year and delayed state categorical payments anticipated for the 2014-2015 school year. Total direct expenditures are projected to be \$264.3 million, an increase of \$13.6 million or 5.4% from the 2013-2014 actual budget, and includes planned capital improvements and renovations. On a budget to budget comparison, total expenditures are projected to increase \$15.2 million or 6.1% from 2013-2014 primarily due to planned salary and benefit costs, increased health insurance costs, life safety projects, and capital improvements and renovations in the Capital

Projects Fund. The budget also provides for \$1.0 million of contingency amounts spread over the operating funds and is reflected in the operating expenditure total.

Additional information is available [here](#) and a copy of the 2014-2015 Tentative Budget is available [here](#).

Summer School Calendar Recommendation for 2015

At its May 23, 2013 meeting, the Board of Education approved a pilot summer school calendar for 2014 that consisted of 13 instructional days each semester, with each day being five hours and 15 minutes in length with no attendance on Fridays. At the time of approval, the District indicated that the impact of a four-day summer school week would be reviewed at the conclusion of the 2014 summer school.

The Board approved the summer school calendar for 2015, consisting of 13 instructional days each semester, with each day being five hours and 15 minutes in length with no attendance on Fridays. The first semester of summer school for 2015 will begin June 9, 2015, and end June 30, 2015, and the second semester will begin July 1, 2015, and end July 22, 2015.

Additional information on the summer school recommendation for 2015 is available [here](#), along with a copy of the summer school report available [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2014, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.