

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, February 16, 2023, in the Anne Koller Board of Education Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.

The following is a recap of items that were acted upon at the meeting.

Administrative Appointments

James B. Conant High School

Mr. Monte Holt was appointed a 10-month assistant principal at James B. Conant High School. He currently is a physical education and driver education teacher at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, a position he has held since the 2017-2018 school year. During his time in that position, Monte also served as an assistant basketball coach and substitute dean of students. He began his teaching career in 2014 as a lead physical education and health teacher at Fenger Academy High School in Chicago. He holds a bachelor's in Kinesiology from Eastern Illinois University and a master's degree in Principal Leadership from Governors State University.

William Fremd High School

Mr. Kevin Farrell was named a 10-month assistant principal at William Fremd High School. He is currently the Academic Intervention Coordinator at Grayslake Central High School, a position he has held since the 2018-2019 school year. Kevin began his teaching career as an English teacher at Grayslake Central in 2009. He holds a bachelor's degree in English and two master's degrees – one in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University-Chicago and a second in Educational Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University.

Mr. Scott Newmark was appointed a 10-month assistant principal at William Fremd High School. He currently is a Spanish and French teacher at Fremd, a position he has held since the 2013-2014 school year. While at Fremd, Scott also served as Dean of Students and is the head boys tennis coach. He began his teaching career in 2009 as a bilingual elementary teacher in Wheeling District 21. He holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from Butler University and two master's degrees – one in French from DePaul University and one in Instructional Leadership from Roosevelt University.

Schaumburg High School

Mr. Christopher Allen was named Buildings and Grounds Manager at Schaumburg High School. He is currently a construction manager and building and grounds operations advisor for Cordogan Clark & Associates in Aurora, a position he has held since 2022. Christopher began his career as a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army and Department of Defense. He also served as director of plant operations for School District U-46, facilities security program and maintenance specialist for the Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration and executive director of building management and director of capital projects for Kane County. He holds a bachelor's in Management from the University of Illinois-Springfield and a master's degree in Business and Organization Security Management from Webster University.

Recognitions

The Board of Education formally recognized District 211 students from four schools who earned all-state honors from the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA).

William Fremd High School

Music Directors **Marla Caballero, Christina Collins** and **Matthew Moore**

Thomas Lu	--	All-State Honors Band
Amaanullah Khan	--	All-State Honors Band
Elyse Schlesinger	--	All-State Honors Band
Grace Herbst	--	All-State Honors Choir
Anish Mukherjee	--	All-State Honors Choir
Mia Reffell	--	All-State Honors Choir
Sophia Tziortzis	--	All-State Honors Choir
Mark Ariagno	--	All-State Honors Jazz Ensemble
Lisa Kazami	--	All-State Honors Orchestra
Alexander Kim	--	All-State Honors Orchestra
Kailene Liao	--	All-State Honors Orchestra
Hanna Oyasu	--	All-State Honors Orchestra

James B. Conant High School

Music Directors **Devin Godzicki** and **Tim Koll**

Emma Schuth	--	All-State Honors Senior Chorus
Katherine Rummel	--	All-State Honors Orchestra
Yuuki Sato	--	All-State Honors Orchestra
Lily Yoshihara	--	All-State Honors Orchestra
Airi Ito	--	All-State Honors Orchestra

Schaumburg High School

Music Directors **Susan Carlson, Ann Espel, Anthony Graffeo** and **Vinnie Inendino**

Owen Adamitis	--	All-State Honors Choir
Chris Mininni	--	All-State Honors Choir
Josephine Mascarenhas	--	All-State Honors Band
Genna Vilorio	--	All-State Honors Band
Mia Hardison	--	All-State Honors Orchestra

Hoffman Estates High School

Music Director **Matthew Schlesinger**

Jude Maier	--	All-State Honors Chorus
Kyla Peyser	--	All-State Honors Chorus

Congressional App Challenge

The Board additionally recognized James B. Conant High School senior Anmay Gupta for placing first in the Congressional App Challenge for the 8th Illinois District. The Congressional App Challenge engages students' creativity and encourages STEM participation. The national event allows high school students to create and exhibit software applications.

Presentation: Strategic Plan Update - Technology

District 211 is committed to preparing students for their future. We strive to build the following skills in each of our future graduates: academic growth, college and career readiness, student involvement, global competitive skills and wellness. These skills form the foundation of our District 211 Strategic Plan, which outlines the priorities, goals, strategies and targets to drive innovative progress over the next five years. The Plan was developed by a Steering Committee comprising staff, parents, students, community members and Board of Education members. It covers ten key priorities with goals and subsequent indicators, strategies and targets for each. **Gary Gorson**, chief technology officer, and **Scott Weidig**, technology chair, will present on the District's progress toward the Technology goals of the District 211 strategic plan.

An overview can be found [here](#).

The presentation can be found [here](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of its [Thursday, January 19, 2023 meeting](#).

Resolution Authorizing Intervention in Proceedings Before the State Property Tax Appeal Board

At previous meetings, the Board approved resolutions authorizing intervention in proceedings before the state property tax appeal board brought by property owners seeking assessment reductions greater than \$100,000. The District has received notice that a property owner is seeking an assessment reduction greater than \$100,000 for the 2021 assessment year. To protect revenue interests in the assessment appeal process, it is recommended that the District intervene in the appeal process. Currently, the District has 188 PTAB appeals from property owners that remain unresolved. The Board approved the resolution authorizing intervention in proceedings before the state property tax appeal board which seeks an assessed valuation reduction in excess of \$100,000 for property tax year 2021. More details can be found [here](#).

Bid for Consideration

The Board awarded business for fertilizer for all schools and the Administration Center to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Conserv FS, in the amount of \$14,437.50. Funds are allocated in the 2022-2023 Operations and Maintenance Fund budget. Full details are [here](#).

Acceptance of Donations

The Board formally accepted donations of \$1,500 from Rotary Club of Schaumburg in support of the Cougars in Need program at James B. Conant High School and \$1,500 from Country Financial Insurance for the Palatine High School Cupcakes for a Cause event.

Class Size Committee Report

The Board received information from the Class Size Committee.

Following each semester's sixth-day audit, the Committee meets to comply with a Letter of Agreement and the Master Contract between the Board of Education and the District 211 Teachers Union. The sixth-day audit for the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year occurred Wednesday, January 18. The Class Size Committee, composed of **Jeremy Harkin**, Schaumburg High School Mathematics teacher representing the Union, and Director of Student Services **Danielle Hauser**, reviewed master schedule data and concluded that fewer than 1 percent of class sections exceeded the range for course enrollment.

The second semester began with 3,450 active course sections across the District's schools. The schools' master schedules organize course sections to accommodate nearly 12,000 students, each of whom average five academic courses in their daily class schedules. Resolving course conflicts and arranging daily teacher schedules to allow students the maximum opportunity to participate in their selected courses presents an immense scheduling challenge.

As a result of the schools' student services directors' efforts, only 29 course sections began the semester with more students than prescribed by the scheduling guidelines and five were resolved. Overages largely occurred from students moving into the District and changing course levels.

2023-2024 Financial Calendar Including Budget and Levy Sequence

The Board received information about the financial calendar and budget and levy sequence. The 2023-2024 budget sequence occurs over several months prior to the recommendation to the Board in August 2023. Development of the annual budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year began following the adoption of the 2022 levy at the December 2022 Board meeting.

Full information, including a calendar and budgeting considerations, is available [here](#).

Proposed Policy Revisions

During the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 sessions, the Illinois legislature passed House Bill 0169 (PA 102-406), which updates legislation regarding student absences from school due to religious holidays; Public Act 102-0339, which amends the Illinois School Code to specify the

use of physical restraint, time out and isolated time out are limited; and Public Act 102-798, which updates the length of time a school board must hold an organizational meeting after the election authority certifies election results.

The proposed new policies were reviewed by the Administrative Board Policy Group comprising Board President **Anna Klimkowicz**, Board Member **Mark Cramer**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Joshua Schumacher**, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services **Kurt Tenopir** and Director of Administrative Services **Matt Hildebrand**. They were also reviewed by the Board at its January 19 meeting.

The Board agreed to modify the policies as proposed and add them to active Board Policy.

Full policy information is available below:

[Policy JEF Released Time for Religious Observance](#)

[Policy JGA Corporal Punishment and Use of Physical Force](#)

[Policy BCA Board of Education Organizational Meeting](#)

Public Address System Proposal - William Fremd and Hoffman Estates High Schools

Several components of the District's public address (PA) systems are original to our schools and in need of updating. The systems are used to communicate across our schools daily and are a critical component of safety and security plans. Upgrades will provide integration of a communication system that links office and classroom locations with additional safety features including visual strobe light indicators; amplifiers with higher output; 2-way call buttons to allow communication to and from the office; text to speech options; an upgraded graphic user interface to enhance ease of bell schedule changes as tied to a calendar; pre-recorded messages consistent across the District; and mobile app and message board capabilities.

William Fremd High School and Hoffman Estates High School will require a complete upgrade. Implementation of the PA system at James B. Conant High School was approved by the Board in September 2022 and is complete. Installation at Palatine High School and Schaumburg High School is anticipated to take place through 2024.

The Board approved Sound Incorporated to upgrade the PA system at William Fremd High School and Hoffman Estates High School at a total cost not to exceed \$1,386,115.

Full details are available [here](#).

Request for Information - Medicaid Fee for Service Vendor

District 211 is eligible for Medicaid reimbursement in two categories: Administrative Outreach Services and School-Based Services (Fee for Service). The vendor for the Administrative Outreach Services program, Public Consulting Group (PCG), was selected by the Illinois

Department of Healthcare and Family Services. It reimburses districts for outreach services for at-risk students before they are identified as eligible for special education services.

Fee for Service program vendors are selected by individual school districts. The program reimburses school districts for direct services provided to Medicaid-eligible students who receive qualifying services. Examples include speech/language therapy, nursing services, psychological services, social work services, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

The agreement with the District's current Fee for Service vendor is set to expire June 30, 2023. A Request for Information (RFI) was provided to four vendors, in addition to public advertisement. The vendor Relay offered the most comprehensive services to meet needs.

The Board authorized a one-year contract with Relay for the period between July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2024, with the option to renew the contract for up to four years.

Full information is available [here](#).

Approval to Retain Lobbyist to Support High School District 211 in Responding to Mega-Project Pilot Legislation

Legislation known as the Mega Project Assessment Freeze and Payment Law (the "Mega Project Bill") was recently introduced in the Illinois General Assembly as SB 1350. The legislation would amend primarily the Property Tax Code to create a development incentive immediately benefitting the redevelopment of the current Arlington Park International Racecourse with a proposed NFL football stadium and mixed-use development.

The Board received an overview of the Mega Project Bill and a comparison to the use of tax increment financing (TIF) under the Tax Increment Reallocation Development Act.

A list of experienced lobbyists was identified to assist Districts 211, 214 and 15 with assessing and responding to the mega project legislation. An initial round of firms were interviewed by representatives from Districts 15, 211 and 214 as well as attorneys from Franczek PC. Three final candidates will advance to a second interview by the superintendents of the districts.

The Board voted to postpone the vote on retaining a lobbyist pending further information.

Full details as viewed by the Board are available [here](#).

In-Service Dates and Early Morning Work Sessions for 2023-2024

At its February 14, 2019, meeting, the Board approved a school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year, with 180 student attendance days and four institute days. Shortened days for in-service training of staff have been used in the past and are consistent with the allowances

under School Code. The principal at each school has determined which days will be used for in-service training in coordination with our bus route constraints across the District.

The Board approved the following shortened days: August 31, 2023 for Parent Open House; September 28, 2023 for College Night; Friday, November 3, 2023, Friday, February 9, 2024, Friday, February 16, 2024, and Friday, May 10, 2024 for in-service training of certified staff and special events, of which each school may choose a maximum of two days for 2023-2024; two days for state-required testing as determined by the Illinois State Board of Education; and the implementation of 12 morning work sessions, each 75 minutes long, on the following Tuesdays: August 22, 2023; September 5, 2023; September 19, 2023; October 24, 2023; November 7, 2023; December 5, 2023; January 16, 2024; January 30, 2024; February 13, 2024; February 27, 2024; March 12, 2024; and April 2, 2024. Full details are [here](#).

Board Member Expenses

In accordance with board policy BHD (Board Member Expenses), the Board must pre-approve expenses of any Board member. The Board approved the Pre-Approval Form for Anna Klimkowicz to attend the North Cook Division Dinner Meeting on March 15, 2023.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held Thursday, March 16, 2023, 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.