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Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, May 11, 2023, in the auditorium of William Fremd High School. The following is a recap of items acted upon at the meeting.

Administrative Appointments

Palatine High School – 12-Month Assistant Principal

Michelle Bremehr is a 10-month assistant principal at Palatine High School, a position she held during the 2022-2023 school year. She began her career in 2010 as a language arts teacher at Oak Grove School in Green Oaks, IL. In 2011, she transitioned to Truman Middle College Charter School as an English teacher, where she worked until 2016. From there, she became principal of Truman Middle College Charter School until moving into her current position. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and master's degrees in English Education and Educational Leadership.

Palatine High School – 10-Month Assistant Principal

Travis Hastings is currently an English teacher at Conant High School, a position he has held since 2015. For the past two years, he also served as the school's dean of students. He began his career as an English teacher at Pekin Community High School District 303 in 2013. Mr. Hastings holds an undergraduate degree in English Education from Illinois State University, a master's in English from Northeastern Illinois University and a master's in Principal Leadership from Roosevelt University.

Palatine High School – Temporary Full-Time Dean/10-Month Assistant Principal

Alex Miramontes was appointed a temporary full-time dean at Palatine High School until his principalship endorsement is processed by the ISBE. At that time, he will have the title of 10-month assistant principal at Palatine High School. He currently serves as a Special Education teacher at Palatine, a position he has held since 2021. During the 2022-2023 school year, he also served as dean of students. He began his career as a Special Education teacher at Dundee-Crown High School in 2015. In 2018, he took a similar position at Mundelein High School. Mr. Miramontes holds a bachelor's in Special Education from Roosevelt University. He earned a master's degree in Educational Leadership from American College of Education.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized students who earned statewide recognition, as well as staff and a volunteer receiving Illinois State Board of Education recognition.

Palatine High School

Illinois Science Olympiad

Presented by Sponsor **Robert Heitz:**

Sophia Stupen	-	1st Place, Agricultural Science
Suryanshu Bahadur	-	1st Place, Agricultural Science
Marianne Ciomek	-	2nd Place, Forensics
Nghi Nguyen	-	2nd Place, Forensics
Lily Schellenbach	-	2nd Place, Write It Do It; 4th Place, Bridge
Maryam Isaac	-	2nd Place, Write It Do It; 4th Place, Bridge; 4th Place, Experimental Design
Reva Desai	-	2nd Place, Write It CAD It
Tanya Saxena	-	2nd Place, Write It CAD It
Kelsey Grimme	-	4th Place, Experimental Design
Vanessa Pavlov	-	4th Place, Experimental Design

IHSA State Journalism

Presented by Sponsor **Sean Berleman:**

Natalie Steiger	-	Top Six, Journalism
Monika Jurevicius	-	Top Six, Journalism
Yilin Li	-	Top Six, Journalism
Marissa Parchim	-	Top Six, Journalism

William Fremd High School

IHSA State Journalism

Presented by Sponsor **Grant Dawson:**

Cooper O'Kelly	-	2 nd Place, Sports Writing
Antonia Hon	-	5 th Place, Advertising; 6 th Place, Editorial Cartooning

ILMEA IMEC

Presented by Sponsor **Matthew Moore:**

Emily Allen	-	Bari Saxophone
Amanda Alvia	-	Flute
Sarah Anderson	-	Clarinet
Mark Ariagno	-	Trumpet
Ishaan Batra	-	Trombone
Sanjna Batra	-	Alto Saxophone
Elaine Bovalis	-	Percussion
Alex Bratek	-	Oboe
Sreya Chamakura	-	Bassoon
Justin Chao	-	Percussion
Allison Chen	-	Oboe
Justin Chung	-	Tuba
Prithika Devarajan	-	Clarinet
Nishika Girish	-	Euphonium
Noah Grabianski	-	Trombone
Griffin Gruchot	-	Trumpet
Jillian Harvey	-	Clarinet
Milan Huff	-	Tuba
Ella Jung	-	Percussion
Jeewoo Kang	-	Flute
Samuel Kang	-	Clarinet
Sophia Katsma	-	Flute
Amaanullah Khan	-	Bassoon

Andrew Kim	-	Trombone
Ashley Kim	-	Flute
Katarina Kim	-	Clarinet
Sena Kim	-	Flute
Yechan Kim	-	Percussion
Jonathan Kravchuk	-	Percussion
David Ku	-	Percussion
Asha Kuehner	-	Trumpet
Madison Lammers	-	Trumpet
Alexandra Lu	-	Clarinet
Thomas Lu	-	Tenor Saxophone
Joy McMillan	-	Euphonium
Tabitha Mo	-	Flute
Rhea Mukherjee	-	Alto Saxophone
Yoshiya Nakagawa	-	Trombone
Kacper Nowak	-	Alto Saxophone
Matthew Olin	-	Clarinet
Hanna Oyasu	-	Flute
Nivedita Pisharody	-	Horn
Isabel Pollpeter	-	Tenor Saxophone
Kai Potuznik	-	Euphonium
Rohan Rao	-	Trumpet
Vikram Rao	-	Trumpet
Elyse Schlesinger	-	Horn
Emily Schlesinger	-	Bass Clarinet
Elizabeth Suderman	-	Horn
Joseph Tader	-	Alto Saxophone
Cocoro Wachi	-	Trumpet
Josephina Weber	-	Clarinet
Michael Wei	-	Horn
Jian Wu	-	Trumpet

James B. Conant High School

FCCLA State Competition

Presented by Sponsor **Jackie Brown:**

Alexander Waterman	-	Gold, Fashion Construction – Casual Wear
Mia Pontrelli	-	Gold, Frosted Cake Decorating

Oliwia Bardo

-

Gold, Frosted Cake Decorating

Those Who Excel Awards

The following individuals and teams have been named winners to represent District 211 in the Illinois State Board of Education's 2023 "Those Who Excel" awards program.

Classroom Teacher: Brenda Moreno, Palatine High School, Patrick Craig, William Fremd High School; and Heidi Davey, Hoffman Estates High School

Community Volunteer: Kate Johnson, Hoffman Estates High School

Educational Support Personnel: Cindy Rogers, Palatine High School and Michael Diez, James B. Conant High School

School Administrator: Russell Cumings, Schaumburg High School

Team: District 211 Transportation – Joel Martinez and Palatine Office Bus Drivers; Pablo Farias and James B. Conant Office Bus Drivers; Sadath Hussain and Schaumburg Office Bus Drivers; Patrick Mc Shane and Hoffman Estates Office Bus Drivers; Scott Prusko and District 211 Bus Mechanics; and Liz Brandon, Nick Kozin, Diana Mikelski, Garry Passafiume, Lynn Prybyl, Joyce Royster, and Bette Wilmot, G.A. McElroy Administration Center

Strategic Plan Update: Equity

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. A benchmark of the Plan is the commitment to increase equity in our schools through a focus on equitable practices and hiring diverse staff. 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 priority. **Mr. Josh Schumacher**, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and **Ms. LaShaunda Sandifer**, director of diversity, equity and inclusion, presented on the District's progress toward the equity goal.

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

Presentation: Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies

Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies was retained February 21, 2023 by the Board to provide state government relations advice and lobbying services in relation to the

Mega-Project Pilot legislation, related TIF reform and public-school finance impacts. Cozen O'Connor represents the combined interests of Districts 211, 15 and 214. John F. Dunn of Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies presented an update regarding legislative activity related to the land recently purchased by the Bears Organization and formerly known as Arlington Park International Racetrack.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular [April 27, 2023](#) meeting.

Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

Annually, the Association of School Business Officials International recognizes districts that demonstrate high standards and best practices for financial reporting and accountability through the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award. For the 16th year in a row, District 211 was named a recipient of this award for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2022. This award confirms the District's commitment to financial accountability and transparency through its financial reports. The District's business office staff is unique among school districts in that it has the knowledge and skillset to internally prepare all of its own financial records for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) to be fully reviewed and audited by its independent audit firm, Baker Tilly US, LLP. These awards are an affirming acknowledgement to the Board and District for the commitment to continuously provide comprehensive, accurate and transparent financial information meeting national quality and accountability standards.

Health and Dental Program Claims Administration Fees

District 211 provides employees and eligible retirees with health and dental benefits through a modified self-insured program known as a cost-plus model.

Over the past few months, the District's brokerage/consulting service provider Hub International, Inc. (Hub) conducted an analysis of District 211's renewal structure of claims administration services and stop-loss insurance and sought pricing from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBS) per the insurance plans in the District collective bargaining agreements. BCBS notified the District it will sunset the current prescription drug formulary plan effective July 1, 2023 and anticipated that more than 340 employees would be impacted by the change. In anticipation of the sunset date, the District worked with Hub to identify ways to minimize employee disruption in prescription drug coverage while also controlling costs through plan management.

The Board approved enrolling in the ASC self-insured program for health and dental benefits for 2023-2024 for PPO plans, remaining in the cost-plus health and dental plan

for HMO plans and retaining Blue Cross and Blue Shield to provide claims administration services for medical, prescription drugs, dental and utilization review. The Board also approved purchasing 125% aggregate stop-loss insurance and specific stop-loss insurance from Blue Cross and Blue Shield at a level of \$350,000 for PPO plans and \$150,000 for HMO plans as presented. More details are [here](#).

Transportation Van Camera Purchase

The District transportation department maintains a fleet of approximately 47 vans and 164 buses. Over the past several years, the District has outfitted the fleet with security camera devices. As new vehicles are ordered, they are specified to be equipped with camera technology. This provides video recordings of footage inside and outside of the vehicle. The District has 19 vans remaining in its fleet that are not equipped with cameras and has obtained quotes to outfit 16 of them (the remaining three are not used to transport students).

The Board approved the purchase of camera systems for 16 vans from Central States Bus Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$42,657.40. Full information is available [here](#).

Selection of Legal Counsel to Serve as Hearing Officer and Investigator

In Board Policy IIAA Selection of Instructional Materials, a concern may advance to a hearing. The Board may select a hearing officer who is not assigned to nor connected to the same school building to which the complaint is made. In Board Policy GAC/JA/KAA Uniform Grievance Policy, if a complaint is filed, a qualified individual is appointed as an investigator. The Board approved Caroline Roselli from Robbins Schwartz as legal counsel on Board hearing and investigation matters as assigned.

ELLevation Software Platform

District 211's English Learner (EL) enrollment during the 2012-2013 school year was 485 students. The current EL enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is 1,597.

In addition to requirements for educational programming, Illinois schools are required to use an approved English language screening instrument in the EL student enrollment process, and all EL students are required to participate in a state assessment that focuses on four language domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

The ELLevation software platform will enable District 211 staff to continue to assess, monitor and effectively support EL students. ELLevation is a comprehensive EL program management platform that organizes all EL student data, supports critical meeting and monitoring processes, enables accurate reporting and supports instructional planning for multilingual students.

The Board approved a one-year agreement with Curriculum Associates, LLC to purchase ELlevation at a cost of \$42,317.50. The cost will be covered under District 211's allocation of Title III funds, as it follows the recommended usage of these funds.

Full information is available [here](#).

District 211 Professional Learning Opportunities

Professional learning is a link between design and implementation of educational trends and effective practices that ultimately lead to extraordinary opportunities, innovative teaching and exceptional learning. District 211 staff have the opportunity to participate in professional learning opportunities offered by outside institutions or organizations and by the District through opportunities such as in-district courses. In-district courses are taught by District 211 faculty to only District 211 faculty.

The Board reviewed proposed in-District courses and authorized the Superintendent to offer the professional learning opportunities as presented. More details are [here](#).

Panorama Education Software Platform

The P-20 Learning Renewal Resource Guide, released by the Illinois State Board of Education in March 2021, provides Illinois school districts a framework designed to support students, educators and the community as educators navigate the complexities of COVID-19 trauma. The guide includes twelve priority topic areas, including supporting students' mental wellness through social-emotional learning. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to: recognize and manage their emotions, demonstrate caring and concern for others, establish positive relationships, make responsible decisions and handle challenging situations constructively.

After a comprehensive research process, the purchase of Panorama Education was initially approved during the June 17, 2021 Board meeting. We have continued to partner with representatives from Panorama throughout the last two years, and they have been a valuable resource in helping to implement the components of the platform.

The Board approved a one-year agreement with Panorama Education at a cost of \$124,500, with the cost covered under District 211's allocation of ESSER III funds..

More details are available [here](#).

Consolidated District Plan

The Federal government provides a variety of education grant programs to support eligible school districts across the nation. In the past, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) managed access to these grants for Illinois school districts through separate and distinct application systems. Effective with the 2019-2020 school year, to comply with legislative regulations contained within the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the ISBE began managing federal grants under one Consolidated District Plan (CDP). Each Illinois school district accessing Federal grant funds must submit a single unified grant application to the ISBE after seeking approval of the CDP by its local school board. District 211 participates in the Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Federal grant programs.

The Board approved the 2023-2024 Consolidated District plan to utilize the Federal Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV and IDEA grants totaling approximately \$3,800,342 as presented and authorize the Superintendent to submit the plan as required.

Full information is available [here](#).

Spring Curriculum Committee Report

The academic program of District 211 is organized into departments that include each content area. Three times each year, department chairs from each department, along with school principals and the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, meet to focus on the content of the curriculum and instructional methods.

This year, the spring Curriculum Committee meetings focused on many modifications to course critical learning standards as well as subsequent updates to district-benchmark assessments. District 211 faculty have worked diligently throughout the year to ensure that instructional activities are connected to critical learning standards, and that we continue to focus on career readiness through strong connections to changes in industry while maintaining the rigor to ensure college readiness for all students.

The Board reviewed and approved the spring curriculum committee report and recommendations as presented. Read the complete report [here](#).

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 assistant superintendent for curriculum and

instruction. Each project includes the development of instructional materials, plans for change based on assessment data review or a proposal for curriculum change to be presented to the department chairs via the formal curriculum meeting process.

Grant funding is used to support the implementation of the summer curriculum projects.

The Board reviewed and approved the summer curriculum projects, not to exceed the following amounts per grant: \$126,000 for Title I; \$168,000 for Title II; and \$34,000 for IDEA. The full list of projects and more details are available [here](#).

Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization Budget

The Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) amended annual budget for 2022-2023 and proposed annual budget for 2023-2024 was approved by its Governing Board for transmittal to member districts on April 5, 2023. Controller and Treasurer Barbara Peterson and Director of Special Education Renée Erickson participated on the NSSEO Finance Advisory Committee that reviewed the amended 2022-2023 annual budget and developed the proposed 2023-2024 annual budget.

The Board ratified the NSSEO amended 2022-2023 annual budget and the proposed 2023-2024 annual budget and agreed to pay the District's proportionate share.

A summary document is available [here](#).

The 2023-2024 budget presentation is available [here](#).

The District 211 proportionate share chart is available [here](#).

Amendment to Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement Regarding Reciprocal Reporting Between Township High School District 211 and the Police Department of the Village of Schaumburg, County of Cook, Illinois

Board Policy JFA/KKB/ECAB Video Surveillance Monitoring authorizes the use of overt video surveillance cameras and monitors on District property including school-owned vehicles to promote the health, safety and welfare of all students, staff and visitors; and to safeguard district facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in areas of the schools where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy.

The Police Department for the Village of Schaumburg has established a Real Time Information Center (RTIC). The Schaumburg Police Department's RTIC integrates village-owned, public, and private video sources along with information from the computer-aided dispatch system to provide police officers immediate information about calls they respond to. Providing direct access to the District Camera management platform allows local law enforcement direct access to all camera views throughout the

District in a real-time framework. Officers managing this facility can convey immediate and actionable information to responding units in case of emergency.

The Board authorized the Superintendent to enter into an agreement to amend the current Agreement for Reciprocal Reporting and Cooperation Between Township High School District 211 and the Police Department of the Village of Schaumburg, County of Cook, Illinois to allow camera access to all District 211 facilities via the Real Time Information Center as presented. Full details are available [here](#).

Board Member Expenses

In accordance with board policy BHD (Board Member Expenses), the Board of Education must pre- approve the expenses of any Board Member.

The Board approved the Pre-Approval Form for Future Expense Reimbursement for Michelle Barron to complete the online training for the following courses through the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB): Open Meetings Act Training; Professional Development Leadership Training; Performance Evaluation Reform Act Training; and Basics of Governance Training; and Steven Rosenblum to complete the on-demand webinar Trauma-Informed Practices for Veteran School Board Members as submitted.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, May 25, 2023, with closed session beginning at 6:30 p.m. and open session beginning at 7:30 p.m.