



# Township High School District 211

## Community Connections:

### A Quarterly Update of the Strategic Plan

July 2017

## Discussion Continues to Determine Optimal Use for 60+ Acres

Over the past year, District 211 has taken numerous steps to seek input about the potential ways to optimize the value of its 60-acre undeveloped property located between Plum Grove and Summit Roads in Schaumburg that was originally purchased for a sixth high school site in the 1960s. The Board of Education established a priority within the Strategic Plan to optimize the 60-acre asset. After collecting over 1,400 public suggestions as to what the Board could do with the land, the ideas were sorted into four categories: 1) retain the land as it is; 2) lease the land; 3) develop the land for District use; or 4) sell the land.



The Board recently sought additional professional analysis through a comprehensive survey of the 60-acre property to better identify possible restrictions. A land survey and feasibility study determined the land's boundaries, size, and many physical attributes. The property consists of 62 acres, of which approximately 40 acres are usable after accounting for statutory property setbacks and existing wetlands. Studies conducted surrounding the property's environmental state and potential endangered wild life identified no concerns or endangered species. Other physical attributes of the parcel include dense tree growth, including a number of invasive species, and a natural slope of more than 40 feet from end-to-end.

The Board of Education received information from the professional engineering firm that conducted the survey and the information remains available on the District website. The Board of Education initially planned to make a decision about whether it is the will of the Board to retain the property or to sell the parcel at its upcoming meeting in July. Upon the resignation of one of the seven Board of Education members, the Board will move its consideration about whether to retain the land or sell it until a later meeting. At its upcoming meeting in July, the Board will receive information about the statutory requirements that would be necessary if the Board were to consider selling the property and possible ideas as to how the proceeds from the sale could be used to optimize the value for students and our communities for decades to come.

## Exploring Career Pathways

The current employment outlook for the United States indicates that most jobs will require post-secondary education and training beyond high school. Whether a student is preparing for a four-year university, a two-year college, or the work force, the exploration of possible careers and college majors is vital. Though many students may continue to change their minds about their career or college major selections, it is valuable for students to explore multiple areas while still in high school to assist in decisions about where their skills and passions exist.

Pathways within 16 nationally recognized college majors and career clusters represent a specific series of courses to be taken during high school. Students are encouraged to explore different career clusters and pathways and to seek connections to career areas that are aligned with their passion and skills. The 16 college majors and career clusters include:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Manufacturing
- Education and Training
- Human Services
- Government and Public Administration
- Interactive and Information Technology
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
- Arts, Audio Visual Technology, and Communication
- Business Management and Communication
- Finance
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
- Marketing

During the 2016-2017 school year, over 90 District 211 teachers met with 75 local business and industry leaders to review curriculum opportunities District 211 has to offer students. The 16 business and industry meetings resulted in the pathway development of eight of the 16 college major and career clusters. The pathway course development within the District 211 curriculum will be posted and available in the fall at <http://www.d211careercluster.org>. The [d211careercluster.org](http://www.d211careercluster.org) website allows students and parents to begin exploring college majors and career clusters with specific District 211 information. Each student has access to a career exploration software application known as Career Cruising. Students are encouraged to increase their career awareness and exploration by logging into their Career Cruising account to help identify possible careers tailored to a student's interests and skills. The Career Cruising software offers a matchmaker self-assessment that gives students initial clusters to investigate and students are encouraged to take the assessment multiple times throughout their high school careers as interests may change over time.

## Internships: Hands-On Learning

An internship is a unique opportunity for a high school student to gain workplace knowledge, experience, and confidence in future college and career decisions. High school graduates face many choices and challenges upon graduation. An internship can help to ease that transition by assisting students in exploring areas they may want to study in college or pursue as a career upon graduation. District 211 internships usually occur during the summer months when students have longer periods of time available and typically are available to students after their sophomore and junior years.



Students who are interested in preparing for internships for next summer should begin in the fall by contacting their school's career advisor. Career advisors help students prepare a resume and practice interview techniques prior to meeting with companies in the early spring.

Company representatives who are interested in partnering with District 211 in providing internships to high school students can contact Jan Brottman, District 211 career advisor coordinator at [jbrottman@d211.org](mailto:jbrottman@d211.org) to discuss possible options.

Learn more about Township High School District 211 – visit <http://adc.d211.org>