



Township High School District 211

Community Connections:

A Quarterly Update of the Strategic Plan

January 2017

Community Education Sessions

As an extension of Township High School District 211's ongoing commitment to community partnerships and outreach, District 211 is pleased to offer community education sessions designed to help community members learn about important matters of student and community wellness.

Partnering with local agencies and organizations, District 211 has already provided community education sessions to raise awareness about drug use and abuse, transgender identity, and mental health awareness and emotional wellness.

Upcoming community education sessions will provide information to parents focused on student preparation for the SAT college

admission test. The first session will be held on January 25, 2017 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at William Fremd High School's auditorium. A second session covering the same topic and information will be held in Schaumburg High School's auditorium on February 1, 2017, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

In the spring, community education sessions will address the dangers of distracted driving and promote safe driving habits within our communities. Community education sessions provide opportunities for District 211 to deepen partnerships by sharing valuable information and resources among parents, students, staff and community members.

District 211 Provides Property Tax Relief for 10th Consecutive Year

High School District 211's levy is the total amount of property taxes requested in order to provide the necessary funding to sustain quality educational opportunities, services, and facilities for all students. The Board of Education approved the 2016 levy in December, a 0.3% increase over the 2015 levy amount. The approved 2016 District 211 levy is \$3.1 million less than the allowable levy amount established by Cook County. Last year, District 211 did not request a property tax increase.

District 211 will again use its existing reserve funds (savings) to make a debt payment of \$3.1 million – rather than levy this amount from taxpayers. Over the past two years, the District has used more than \$5 million in reserve funds to provide property tax relief.

For 10 consecutive years, the Board has reduced property taxes by more than \$33 million through the use of its reserve funds.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
\$33
MILLION SINCE 2007

District 211 to be Debt Free in 2017

High School District 211 will make its final debt payment on its outstanding bonds in December 2017, and the District will then be debt free. The original debt proceeds were used to complete life and safety improvements to District facilities as required by the Illinois State Board of Education. The District will continue to make facility improvements in its buildings over the next several years and plans to fund them through the annual operating budget and existing reserves.

Facility improvement projects will include renovations to bathrooms and locker rooms, replacements of roofs and mechanical equipment, updates to outdoor facilities, and renovations to two cafeteria kitchens. Upon paying our remaining debt and becoming debt free, the District's strategic financial plan is to use yearly savings from its annual budget plan to pay for upcoming facility improvements. The District's plan to use yearly operating funds to pay for facility improvements will provide tax relief to the community by avoiding the need for additional taxpayer funds to make debt payments.

Community Questionnaire Regarding Vacant Land

Throughout the month of November, District 211 sought ideas from community members through a questionnaire about the potential use of 60 acres of undeveloped land that the District owns in Schaumburg. The land was purchased in two parcels in case the District might someday need to add an additional high school. The first parcel of 40 acres was purchased in 1966 and in 1971, a second section of 20 acres was acquired. Though the District's enrollment grew significantly, through effective planning and use of existing resources, the District has not needed the land for another high school.

Seeking to optimize all assets, the District is examining potential options for the use of the land through the questionnaire that was made available to the community. The community responded to the invitation to share ideas with great interest and we received more than 1,400 unique responses. An initial report summarizing the ideas will be presented to the Board of Education at its meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017. The report will consider the potential benefits, challenges and impact that could result from the suggested uses. The consideration of options is at the beginning stages and no final decisions regarding the use of land, if any, will be made in January. A report summarizing the ideas gathered will be made available to the public two days prior to the meeting and will remain available after the meeting, as are all materials provided at Board of Education meetings.

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