

## Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, October 19, 2017, 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.

### Recognition

The Board of Education recognized 31 students from Palatine, William Fremd, James B. Conant, Schaumburg, and Hoffman Estates High Schools for being named National Merit Scholars. These students were presented the Robert Creek Excellence Award (medallion). The complete list of District 211 National Merit Scholars is available [here](#).

Seven High School District 211 students were recognized by the Board of Education for earning a score of 36 on the American College Test (ACT) exam, the highest possible composite score: James B. Conant High School student **Rajat Mittal**; and William Fremd High School students **Gautham Arun, Hannah Chen, Kristina Chen, Jonathon Lee, Edward Li, and Adhith Palla**. On average, less than one-tenth of one percent of all ACT test takers earns a top score. Since 1998, High School District 211 has had 104 students accomplish this outstanding achievement. A complete list of those District 211 students earning a 36 on the ACT is available [here](#).

### Energy Star Recognition

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. District 211 received notification that all five high schools have earned the EPA's 2017 Energy Star building recognition. District 211 high schools represent five of only 14 schools in Illinois to receive this designation for 2017.

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

Additional information is available [here](#).

### Presentation: 2017 Tax Levy

The Board of Education viewed a [presentation on the 2017 Tax Levy](#) by Chief Operating Officer **Lauren Hummel** and Controller and Treasurer **Barbara Peterson**.

The Board received tax levy information at the meeting, including tax levy background information, 2017 tax levy considerations, a 2017 tax levy recommendation, Cook County homeowner exemptions, the District's committed reserve funds, financial projection information, and the 2017 tax levy calendar.

For the 2017 levy, the Tax Cap limit of 2.4% (2.1% CPI-U + 0.3% new property) establishes the allowable increase for the Aggregate Operating Extension of Capped Funds levy. Since there is no need for a Debt Service levy, the recommended levy amount is \$222.8 million, a 2.4% increase over the prior year levy amount.

The Tax Cap determines the amount by which the total levy may increase over the total levy amount for the aggregate operating funds from the prior year. While the total 2017 levy may not exceed an increase of more than 2.4% over the prior year amount, the District may levy according to its financial needs, by fund, each year. For the 2017 levy, the recommended levy amounts increase the educational and operations and maintenance funds by 0.7% and 1.1% respectively to support general operating costs for the coming year. The Educational Fund and Operations and Maintenance Fund levies support the continuation of quality instructional programming and services that students are currently provided and the maintenance and upkeep of facilities. The Transportation Fund levy is recommended to increase by 13.6%, or \$1 million, to make a purchase of additional school buses for the 2018-2019 school year to replace existing buses that will surpass their targeted life. A replacement of 25-30 of the existing 163 buses is recommended to replace buses that exceed 12 years of age. The levies for the Illinois Municipal Retirement and Social Security Fund provides the necessary funds to support employer costs and make additional payments to reduce the District liability and annual costs. The 2017 levy also includes an allocation into the Working Cash Fund for the purpose of paying for Life Safety projects. In the past, the District has paid for required Life Safety work through the issuance of bonds. One of the District's strategic initiatives is to become and remain debt free. To achieve this priority, the District must pay for future Life Safety projects either through fund transfers or by levying for these funds directly. As a result, a levy into the Working Cash Fund fund is proposed as part of the 2017 levy. Funds levied into the Working Cash Fund will remain allocated specifically for approved Life Safety projects and will be transferred to the Life Safety Fund in the upcoming budget year.

At the next regular Board meeting on November 9, 2017, tax levy information will be presented again for further review and discussion. Also at that meeting, the Board will review a resolution to determine the proposed levy amount for 2017. According to the levy calendar, a public hearing on the proposed 2017 levy amount will be held at the December 14, 2017 Board meeting, with adoption of the 2017 levy also scheduled to take place at that meeting. The last day to file the 2017 levy with the Cook County Clerk's office is December 26, 2017.

The tax levy information the Board received is available [here](#).

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [September 28, 2017](#).

## **2017 Summer School Enrollment/Cost Analysis**

The Board received an update on Summer School 2017. District 211 provided learning opportunities for 11,871 students during Summer School 2017, with 6,867 students participating in classroom experiences during both semesters and 4,995 involved in athletic camps.

Summer School 2017 operated at a net cost of \$1,939,542 to High School District 211. This included waiver of fees for 567 Incoming Freshman Academy students, 198 Sophomore Academy students, and 306 ESL Academy students. Additionally, reduced fees (\$30 per student) were collected from 747 three-week Freshman Invitational Mathematics program students and 464 Project Excel students.

Additional information on Summer School 2017 is available [here](#).

## **Post-High School Planning Nights**

High School District 211 offers multiple events designed to support students and their families as students prepare for their individualized post-high school experiences. Three of these annual events are scheduled early in the school year and offer opportunities for students with varied sets of needs to learn new details and about options and pathways. These three events are the First Generation College Symposium, the District 211 College Night, and the Directions College and Career Fair.

These events are the result of multiple departments including transportation, student services, custodial maintenance, and special education, each of which contribute efforts in the planning, design, and delivery of quality programming for our students.

Additional information on Post-High School Planning Nights is available [here](#).

## **2017-2018 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility**

The Board of Education received information on District 211's participation in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, federally assisted meal programs that provide qualifying students with access to nutritionally balanced, low-cost, or free meals during the school day. A student with a household income at or below 130% of the

poverty level is eligible for free meals; those with income between 131% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals (30¢ for breakfast and 40¢ for lunch as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture).

In District 211, eligibility for meal benefits is reviewed and determined annually based upon the most current qualifying guidelines established by the USDA. The number of students eligible for meal benefits across District 211 has increased by 75% over the past 10 years, with data reported as of September 29, 2017.

All District 211 high schools show an increase in students eligible for meal benefits this school year. However, the dispersion of low-income students is not consistent from school to school. Current data shows that the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in each school ranges from a low of 16% at Fremd High School to a high of 55% at Palatine High School.

Eligibility for meal benefits provides students with access to several services during the school day. This includes not only receiving nutritionally-balanced meals twice a day, but additional meal services are provided to qualifying schools for free breakfast and lunch programs for all students attending summer school at Palatine, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools, and an after-school snack program at Palatine High School. Students qualifying for meal benefits may also qualify for academic fee waivers per Illinois School Code and Board of Education Policy JN. Further, Hoffman Estates and Palatine High Schools qualify for additional funding through the Federal Title I grant.

Additional information on free and reduced-price meal eligibility is available [here](#).

### **District 211 Professional Development Opportunities**

The Board of Education received a professional development report highlighting staff development opportunities available for District 211 certified staff. The report included information about graduate coursework, conferences and workshops, administrator academies, and required trainings. Also included in the report was information about established workshops/programs facilitated by District 211 faculty and staff, including instructional coaches, the four-year new teacher induction program, the new administrator workshop, the annual summer administrative leadership workshop, the annual training of leadership teams in the selection and hiring of professional staff, revolving meetings, institute days and morning work sessions, time grants, in-district courses, the positive coaching alliance, Apple Educator Training, and geometry in construction. A copy of the report is available [here](#).

By offering professional development in various formats, District 211 faculty is able to access information, mentors, and best practices to improve the instructional classroom and school experience for students.

## Community Connections Newsletter – Strategic Plan Update

The sixth edition of [Community Connections](#), a quarterly newsletter designed to provide additional information about High School District 211 to the communities served, was distributed in mid-October. As communicated in the 2016 Strategic Plan, the District places a priority on providing updates to the community about programs and events taking place within the District. The sixth edition of *Community Connections* featured the following articles: District 211's Student Readiness Plan; Board to continue discussing optimized use of 60+ acres in October, and Community Education update.

*Community Connections* is emailed to District 211 parents, students, and staff, as well as community members who have provided their contact information. All six editions of the newsletter are [available on the District website](#).

## 60+ Acre Property: Optimization of Land Use

The Board of Education has established a priority to optimize District-owned assets. To help determine how the District might optimize the undeveloped parcel of 60+ acres held in Schaumburg, the Board requested that the administration provide information specific to a progressive series of questions over the span of numerous months. They diligently reviewed input from hundreds of community members, considered the potential benefits in relation to guiding decisional factors, considered precise geographical attributes of the land gathered and reported via extensive civil engineering reports, and reviewed possible next steps that would follow any decision pertaining to the land. At its July 20, 2017 meeting, the Board reached consensus that the next step would be a determination whether to retain or sell the land at the October 19, 2017 Board meeting.

At the October 19, 2017 meeting, the Board took action authorizing the sale of the property and directing the administration to begin the process of all the necessary steps to prepare for the sale. Information detailing the necessary steps to enable the sale will be presented at a future Board meeting.

Additional information on the 60+ acres is available [here](#).

## Proposed Policy Revision

As part of its ongoing Policy Manual review, the Board of Education reviews proposed policy revisions, proposed policy deletions, and proposed new policies from the Administrative Board Policy Group. The Group is comprised of Board President **Mucia Burke**, Board Member **Robert LeFevre**, Associate Superintendent **Lisa Small**, Director of Administrative Services **Matthew Hildebrand**, and Assistant to the Superintendent **Kathe Lingl**.

After initially reviewing the proposed policy revisions at its September 28, 2017 meeting, the Board approved the revisions to Board policy file: [IGDB Participation in Athletics or Extracurricular Activities](#).

## **Illinois Association of School Boards Resolutions 2017**

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Delegate Assembly is the policy-making body of IASB. The Delegate Assembly is comprised of one voting delegate from each member district. Board of Education Secretary **Anna Klimkowicz** serves as a member of the 2017 Resolutions Committee. At the joint annual conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards/Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois Association of School Business Officials, the Delegate Assembly of IASB will review, discuss, and vote on proposed resolutions submitted by member districts. Board Member **Steven Rosenblum** will represent District 211 as the voting voice for the Board of Education. The results from the proposed resolutions will guide IASB's position statements and staff in ongoing legislative efforts.

This year, there are five proposed new resolutions:

1. Student Safety and Protection
2. School as Polling Place Reimbursement
3. 1% Sales Tax Statewide
4. Open Meetings-Discuss Shared Staff
5. PARCC Testing Results

The resolutions were initially presented at the September 28, 2017 meeting for Board discussion and were reviewed again at the October meeting, prior to being voted upon by the Delegate Assembly at the upcoming IASB conference on November 18, 2017.

Additional information is available [here](#), along with a copy of the [2017 Resolutions Committee Report](#).

## **School Calendar for 2019-2020**

The Board of Education approved a school calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. Consistent with school code, the calendar provides for 181 days of instruction and four teacher institute days. The school year begins with three teacher institute days, August 7-9, 2019. These institute days will support typical new school-year orientation tasks while also providing dedicated time for District-wide departmental curriculum collaboration and alignment activities, as well as targeted in-school initiatives. Students begin attending classes on August 12, 2019; first semester concludes on December 20, 2019; classes resume on January 7, 2020, with a teacher institute day scheduled for January 6, 2020; and the last day of school is May 22, 2020. A copy of the approved 2019-2020 school calendar is available [here](#).

## **Summer School Calendar for 2019 and 2020**

The District 211 Summer School calendar is developed annually to support students' instructional needs as they earn credits toward graduation and develop academic skills required to advance to higher levels of curriculum. In 2014, District 211 aligned its Summer School calendar according to two 13-day summer semesters with classes meeting Monday through Thursday each week.

Effective with the 2016-2017 school year, District 211 transitioned to the collegiate calendar model for the regular school year, with the school year ending on the Friday preceding the Memorial Day holiday. In line with tradition, the summer school calendar continued to begin on the second work day following the end of final exams. This schedule was observed in the summer of 2016 and 2017. The Board of Education previously approved calendars for 2018 and 2019 Summer School following this pattern.

Based on successive year's experience with the Summer School calendar as described, benefits could be realized by delaying the start of the summer term by one week. These benefits include increased time for school counselors to process second semester grades and register students for summer course work that may be needed to recoup credits, greater access to qualified and interested Summer School teachers whose primary school district employers are not following a collegiate school year calendar, and a full week of non-instructional time for students between the end of the regular school year and the start of the summer term.

Although it is not feasible to reconstruct the 2018 summer school calendar, the Board approved the proposed revisions to the [2019 Summer School calendar](#). The approved revisions provide for 26 days of instruction, with an in-service day on Monday, June 3, 2019. The first summer term will begin on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 and conclude on Tuesday, June 25, 2019; and the second summer term will begin on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 and conclude on Thursday, July 18, 2019.

The Board also approved the proposed the [2020 Summer School calendar](#), which provides for 26 days of instruction, with an in-service day on Monday, June 1, 2020. The first summer term begins on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 and concludes on Tuesday, June 23, 2020; and the second summer term begins on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 and concludes on Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

## **Alternative Fuel School Buses**

District 211's existing fleet of school buses is primarily comprised of diesel-fueled buses; however, over the past six years, the District has begun purchasing small buses fueled by gasoline. Gasoline is one of several alternative fuel solutions offered by the

United States Department of Energy for school buses. Additional fuel options for school buses include propane, compressed natural gas, and electric. The Board of Education received information on alternative fuel solutions researched extensively by the District for consideration in preparation for bus purchases for the 2018-2019 school year.

Alternative fuel buses have many advantages over their diesel counterparts, but must be measured based upon utilization of the fleet, typical distance traveled, accessibility of fuel, and age and assessment of its technology and mechanics. For these reasons, propane and gasoline are the two alternative fuel solutions found to best serve the District's transportation needs.

For standard large school buses, propane is the recommended alternative fuel source for the District's future purchases. Propane technology has been in place for school buses for more than a decade whereas large gasoline school buses are newer to the marketplace. Propane buses possess the same engine as their gasoline counterparts providing familiarity for District mechanics as well as reliability in performance. The District has the ability to establish fuel accounts with local suppliers within District boundaries. The District is currently identifying a re-design solution for the parking lot at Hoffman Estates High School and would have the ability to add propane infrastructure on-site during that time. Fuel tanks are above ground and require placement on a concrete slab with protective bollards. Propane tanks are commonly provided from fuel suppliers. Propane prices are estimated to be discounted by 15% because of the fuel infrastructure already on District property. Many routine maintenance procedures occur on diesel school buses that are not required of propane buses. Examples include additional weather-related fuels and additives, block heaters during cold weather, more complicated emission control procedures, and regeneration through a diesel particulate filter. Propane buses do not require heaters or risk fuel gelling in the winter, but rather function similar to a gasoline vehicle. Currently, the District must start school buses well in advance of leave time to provide more reliable performance in extreme cold weather. This is not required of propane buses. Propane buses offer several environmental advantages over diesel counterparts as well with significantly reduced emissions. Propane buses are the same design and offer the same safety standards as existing diesel buses. The fuel tank on a propane bus is measured as being 20 times stronger than a diesel tank, is encased, and contains a preventative erosion coating.

The District continues to recommend gasoline as the alternative fuel solution for its small buses (capacity of 12-28 passengers). The technology on these buses has been in the marketplace for several generations. It offers a cleaner environmental solution to diesel with significantly reduced emissions. Gasoline buses offer the same benefits during cold weather in that they do not require fuel additive or electric block heaters for functionality. The District currently possesses infrastructure on our grounds for gasoline buses.

Each year, the District's transportation fleet is assessed for age, mechanical status, and additional vehicle needs to identify capital equipment replacement schedules for the following year. The District targets an average replacement age of 10-12 years. The

maintenance schedule for vehicles has allowed the District to increase its replacement cycle while continuing to provide a safe means of transportation for students. Currently, 25% of the fleet surpasses its targeted replacement age. The District has increased its purchases over the past three years by 1-3 buses per year above the historical replacement cycle to account for an aging fleet. In order to replace the oldest buses, it is recommended that a purchase of 25-30 buses be considered for the 2018-2019 school year. Replacement needs include both small and large buses.

The District bids its buses each November with a bid recommendation presented to the Board in December or January. Purchasing the buses well in advance of the upcoming school year ensures that the manufacturer will be able to build and deliver the new vehicles in advance of the start of the following school year.

Additional information on alternative fuel school buses is available [here](#).

### **Request for Foreign Exchange Trips**

The Board of Education approved participation in the following six foreign exchange trips for the summer of 2018 (Note: District 211 reserves the right to cancel any travel that it deems unsafe or not in the best interest of the District):

Krefeld, Germany – May 28-June 9, 2018  
*Palatine High School*

Berlin and Munich, Germany; Vienna, Austria (with a stop in Reykjavik, Iceland) – May 30-June 10, 2018  
*Hoffman Estates High School*

China – May 31-June 11, 2018  
*Conant and Schaumburg High Schools*

Barcelona and Madrid, Spain – June 1-15, 2018  
*Hoffman Estates High School*

Strasbourg and Paris, France – May 26-June 12, 2018  
*Fremd, Conant, Palatine, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools*

Madrid, Toledo, Segovia, Sevilla, and Costa del Sol, Spain – May 26-June 10, 2018  
*Palatine and Schaumburg High Schools*

### **Next Board of Education Meeting**

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2017, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.