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Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, March 16, 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.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized students from James B. Conant, Hoffman Estates, William Fremd, and Palatine High Schools who earned honors in statewide activity and athletic competitions. The recognitions included students competing in Chess, Speech, Bowling, Wrestling, Boys Diving, and Girls Gymnastics, as well as the Conant High School Cheerleading Squad that finished second in the state. The complete list of state award winners recognized is available [here](#).

Also recognized at the meeting were 14 [Illinois Music Educators Association](#) (ILMEA) all-state honorees from James B. Conant, Fremd, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, and Schaumburg High Schools. These students earned all-state honors in band, chorus, jazz combo, and orchestra.

Presentation: Equal Opportunity Schools

Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) is a national, non-profit initiative designed to serve students and school districts by closing the Advanced Placement (AP) participation gap of underrepresented student populations. The value for students earning early college credit by completing AP coursework represents engagement in college-level rigor while still in high school and substantial financial savings to the student. High School District 211 continues to grow in the overall percentage of students enrolled in AP courses, but an enrollment gap exists among student groups. With the significance of students potentially earning college credit, District 211 is committed to ensuring that students across all student groups enroll in AP courses. The EOS partnership provides assistance in closing the enrollment gaps.

Over the past year, each District 211 school leadership team has been working closely with EOS representatives, students, parents, and teachers through a four-step process: 1) analyze gaps in the number of students currently enrolled in

AP coursework; 2) gather unique identifiers about students' potential and mindset; 3) reach out to students who have not taken an AP class but have the mindset to do so; and 4) design future classroom supports for both students and teachers. Associate Superintendent for Instruction **Lisa Small**, Director of Instructional Improvement **Danielle Hauser**, Fremd High School Assistant Principal **Kim Glaser**, and Schaumburg High School Guidance Department Chair **Michele Napier** presented details of the EOS process and the progress District 211 schools have made towards closing the achievement gap.

Additional information is available [here](#), along with a copy of the [presentation](#).

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [February 16, 2017](#).

Community Connections Newsletter – Strategic Plan Update

In July 2016, the first issue of ***Community Connections***, a quarterly newsletter designed to provide additional information about Township High School District 211 to the communities we serve was distributed. Since then, a second and third edition of *Community Connections* have been produced and distributed.

As communicated in the 2016 Strategic Plan, the District places priority on providing updates to the community about programs and events taking place within District 211 and its schools. The fourth edition of the [Community Connections](#) newsletter was produced and distributed earlier this week to the community. This edition provides information on a number of topics, including Advanced Placement enrollment, Dual Credit expansion, the Power of 15, Career Pathways and Career Clusters, budget reductions, upcoming Community Education sessions, swimming pool and media center renovations, and an update on the Student Readiness Plan, as well as several other informational articles.

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

Enrollment Projections

The Board of Education received information on enrollment projections through the 2024-2025 school year. Enrollment projections are based on data received

from Districts 15 and 54, and assume attendance boundaries as defined in October 2001 with no significant shifts of families within the District. The projections include students who will attend the District's five high schools. Off-campus projections are based on enrollments at District 211 North Campus, Higgins Education Center, and private facilities for the 2016-2017 school year and on a five-year average for the remaining years. Not included in the projections are the number of students who may enroll in District schools based upon their families specifically moving into District 211 boundaries for its educational excellence.

Projections indicate that the District's enrollment at its five high schools will remain stable for the upcoming school year, declining a negligible 0.6% in 2017-2018. After a second year of a small decline, the District will experience six consecutive years of increasing enrollments. Enrollment at the District's five large high schools is projected to increase to a high of 12,110 in 2024-2025, with a total enrollment approaching 12,340 in the District.

Additional information on enrollment projections is available [here](#).

60-Acre Land Questionnaire Analysis Parameters

At its January 19, 2017 meeting, the Board of Education reviewed an introductory summary of ideas gathered in an open-ended invitation seeking ideas about the potential best use of more than 60 acres of undeveloped land in Schaumburg owned by the District for the past 45 years. Response was exceptional, with more than 1,400 individual submissions received.

The Board received a [report](#) providing possible analysis parameters to assist in formulating a relative comparison index among the large number of open-ended responses, and to assist the Board in narrowing the initial unrefined list of ideas. Upon proposing potential parameters, the framework of sorting factors is then applied to the list of responses in order to illustrate relative comparisons among the ideas.

The ideas contained within the report presented to the Board offered assistance to facilitate further analysis and discussion. The Board asked the Superintendent to obtain a professional appraisal of the land's value within the current market. In addition, the Board requested information as to the land's maximum buildable capacity.

Three-Year Ombudsman Program Contract

For many years, High School District 211 has utilized Ombudsman Educational Services as an alternative educational program. The Ombudsman program is a

viable alternative for students who have struggled in the regular high school setting, mostly for those with attendance problems and those who are at-risk of dropping out of school, and in some cases as a result of disciplinary violations.

The Board of Education approved a three-year contractual agreement with Ombudsman Educational Services at a cost of \$201,915 for 2017-2018; \$207,970 for 2018-2019; and \$214,200 for 2019-2020.

Additional information is available [here](#).

Institute and In-Service Dates for 2017-2018

At its October 15, 2015 meeting, the Board of Education approved the school calendar for 2017-2018, with 181 student attendance days; three institute days; and one additional institute day to be determined at a later date.

The Board approved October 10, 2017 as a teacher institute day for the 2017-2018 school year. Additionally, the Board approved November 3, 2017; February 16, 2018; May 11, 2018; and May 18, 2018 as shortened days for in-service training of certified staff and special events. In-service programs also will be scheduled for staff on Thursday, August 31, 2017 (Parent Open House) and Wednesday, October 11, 2017 (District 211 College Night), when students will attend school for 4½ hours on these days.

2017-2019 Student Building Construction Program

High School District 211 has offered an academic building construction program for students for more than three decades that has provided them with the foundational skills necessary to enter an area of architecture, construction, or building trades post-graduation. Since 2001, the program has served nine communities through the development and sale of 40 homes. As the District furthers its pursuit of college and career pathways, the building construction program is an integral part of the architectural and construction pathway, and can be paired with the instructional opportunities offered through several of the technical dual credit or District academic courses in order to best prepare students for the future pathways. Additionally, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, District 211 CAD classes have been engaged in competitions to design the latest two sets of homes for the 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 projects.

To continue building construction opportunities for students, the Board of Education approved construction of houses during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years on two District-owned lots. Further, the Board approved the following amounts be budgeted for these projects over the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 fiscal years: construction costs for Palatine and Fremd High Schools in the

amount of \$425,000, plus an established contingency and consulting service fund of \$40,000; and construction costs for Hoffman Estates, Conant, and Schaumburg High Schools in the amount of \$485,000, plus an established contingency and consulting service fund of \$40,000.

Additional information on the building construction program is available [here](#).

2017-2018 Tentative Budget: Non-Operating Funds

The Board of Education received the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 tentative budget for all three non-operating funds for review. This included the Debt Service Fund, the Capital Projects Fund, and the Fire Prevention Life Safety Fund.

The 2017-2018 tentative budget for these funds was developed in accordance with the Illinois Program for Accounting Manual and presents revenue and expenditures by category and fund.

The following budget parameters were established and incorporated into the 2017-2018 budget development process for the District's non-operating funds:

- Allocate costs associated with achieving District academic goals and strategic plan
- Utilize \$2.7 million of existing Working Cash reserves to reduce the levy in the Debt Service Fund as approved with the 2016 levy
- Allocate \$1 million in the Life Safety Fund for approved projects from the Working Cash Fund

A copy of the tentative budget document the Board of Education received is available [here](#).

School Facility Rental Fee Introduction

The Board of Education received information on facility rentals. In accordance with Board Policy KG Community Use of School Facilities, the District rents segments of its facilities to outside eligible groups during times that do not conflict with school educational or extracurricular use. Rental fees are established for various inside and outside facilities; pool use; park districts; feeder groups; universities; weekday rates; Saturday and Sunday use; and Holiday use rates. Over the course of a school year, District facilities accommodate over 80 different rental groups.

As a component of the District's strategic plan, an analysis of rental rates was identified as a priority for the 2016-2017 school year. The District has conducted an analysis of its current rental rates along with a comparison of the rental fee structure for several surrounding school districts. The current facility rental rates

have been in place since the 2010-2011 school year. According to Board policy, rental fees should be based on the approximate cost for the group to hold the event on District property. Recognized school parent groups that support the District are authorized to use designated school facilities without paying the applicable rental rate.

District 211 received approximately \$150,000-\$200,000 in facility rental fees annually. Rental rates for pools account for the necessary staffing of mandatory life guards to be provided by the District. Some rental requests require custodial service fees at \$36 per hour associated with the necessary set-up, clean up, and accommodations for other general needs. The current fee structure accounts for the costs associated with the general facility set-up, clean up, utility and material costs, and general building wear and tear. A large majority of the District's rental agreements are with feeder programs. The District has always been mindful of balancing the value that its facilities can serve among community members in relation to the charges assessed and the costs incurred. Conscientious efforts have been made to provide facility rentals near the point of cost neutrality.

Following this [introductory report](#), the District will present additional information on facility rental agreements and propose rates for the 2017-2018 school year at an upcoming Board meeting.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.

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