

**TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211  
Palatine, Illinois**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
December 7, 2015  
7:30 p.m.  
(Official)**

A special meeting of the Board of Education, Township High School District 211, Cook County, Illinois was held on December 7, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at James B. Conant High School at 700 East Cougar Trail, Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL**

On a roll call, the following officers and members were:

Physically Present:	Peter R. Dombrowski, Member Will Hinshaw, Member Anna Klimkowicz, Secretary and Member Robert LeFevre, Vice President and Member Lauanna Recker, Member Mike Scharringhausen, Member Mucia A. Burke, President and Member
---------------------	---

Present By Other Means:	None
-------------------------	------

Absent:	None
---------	------

Also present were:

our teenage students and their experiences. This must be at the center of our mind, so that all exchanges tonight will be respectful and productive.

This matter can simultaneously be ideological, political, religious, and financial. But above all, this matter is human and impacts real people – young people and their families.

Regardless of your perspective, your children – our students – and their experiences in this District have been – and will always be –

However, earlier today, our lawyers received a letter dated December 7, 2015 from OCR's public spokesperson Catherine Llamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, in which OCR has issued an official clarification – stating ‘...the agreement provisions specific to locker room access apply only to Student A and the District's agreement to provide Student A access to locker rooms is based on the student's representation that (the student) will change in private changing stations.’ The letter goes on to state that the agreement explicitly recognizes that the District does not admit any violation of federal law or regulation.

We are disappointed that the OCR has made an already very difficult, passionate, and emotional issue very confusing with their apparent misstatements and lack of clarity in describing the agreement. We are gratified, however, to receive the letter today that provides official clarity and removes any confusion surrounding the plan our Board approved early on December 3.

As a result of all of the confusion, we are reopening discussion on this issue and will determine tonight our position relative to the agreement we had entered into, in good faith, with the OCR.

With the eyes of many upon us tonight, we will listen to your voices and your perspective. We have heard from hundreds about this matter, and your thoughts tonight are just one aspect of the many factors and considerations that go in to our decision-making.

Independent of the decision and direction tonight, we will be providing transgender information and awareness sessions throughout our schools and to our communities, as this is clearly is an important topic.

We must not let this matter divide us. We must work beyond existing preconceptions and use both understanding and sensitivity as we work with all of our young people going forward.

As superintendent, I call upon all of us to heed the importance of this moment by making a commitment to acknowledge all perspectives – and to work together to identify solutions that accomplish our shared mission of genuine care and support for all students and their experiences in Township High School District 211. We can and we must accomplish this respectfully if we want to set the right example for our young people. Thank you.”

### **Citizens' Petitions and Appearances**

President Burke made the following remarks:

“As a large number of people wish to speak, we have used a random system to determine those who will address the Board prior to 9:30 p.m. We will allow a period of three minutes for each person to address the Board.

We are pleased to listen to your comments this evening.

It is important to know this is a public Board meeting and not a dialogue, so Board members will not be answering questions or responding to your comments.

We ask that you value the procedures and decorum of our meeting and be respectful of anyone speaking so they can be heard.

As we do have some items of business that need to be addressed this evening, we will take public comments until 9:30 p.m.

I will call two numbers from the list each time. I ask the first person to come to the podium and

Denise Logan, Palatine resident, addressed the Board regarding their upholding the OCR agreement to allow the transgender student access to the locker room of the gender for which the student identifies, a person's gender being that which the person identifies for themselves even before they transition, her transgender son's struggles with his identity until he transitioned as a transgender, struggles transgender people face, and having the Board use their position to advance understanding and acceptance for transgender students.

Roger Fraser, Rolling Meadows resident, addressed the Board regarding his alarm that the OCR ruling and agreement polarized the community and the need for the Board and faculty to build up the transgender student so the student does not face harassment or fear.

### **Recess**

The Board took a brief recess from 8:05 p.m. to 8:10 p.m. while a citizen who was disruptive during the meeting and who refused to stop being disruptive or to leave the meeting on his own was escorted from the meeting by the Hoffman Estates Police Department. President Burke reminded those

for District 211 to create a welcoming environment for the transgender student, and having equality for all students.

A



for transgender students is to raise them in the way God made them,



The privacy and comfort of all of our students is paramount. We are pleased to proceed with the plan as agreed that is in the best interest of all of the students that we serve, and we anticipate respect and clarity in any issues with the OCR going forward.”

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, President Burke thereupon declared the meeting adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---