

_____ was made by District
administration regarding the implementation of the proposed Districtwide program for
the 2015-2016 school year.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [June 11, 2015](#).

Communications Audit Report

At its meeting on June 15, 2015, the Board of Education authorized a communications audit of school districts and communities. The goal of the audit is to determine how strategic communications can best support the District and its mission and serve the District's stakeholders.

The Board was presented a comprehensive report prepared by Unicom-Arc, conveying the findings and recommendations resulting from the audit of the District's communications to students, parents, staff, and the community-at-large. The report provides a separate section for each of the components of the audit: focus group sessions, online survey results, materials and document review and evaluation, and professional analysis of the District's and schools' websites, as well as the District's social media presence and a review of information conveyed relative to the tax levy.

Overall, the communications audit report shows a favorable perception of District 211 communications among stakeholder groups. The report highlights strengths and provides suggestions for better communications, planning, and strategy between the District and its community members.

Additional information on the communications audit report is available [here](#), and a copy of the audit report can be accessed [here](#).

Early Morning Work Sessions

The Board of Education approved 12 early morning work sessions (student late start days) during the 2015-2016 school year that allow staff shared time for professional learning teams to conduct their work towards increasing the number of students meeting Critical Learning Standards (CLS) by changing instructional practices that are focused on closing achievement gaps. The format is a continuation of the format used during the past two school years. Each morning work session will be 75 minutes in length on the following Tuesdays: September 8, 2015; September 22, 2015; October 6, 2015; October 20, 2015; November 3, 2015; November 17, 2015; December 8, 2015; February 9, 2016; February 23, 2016; March 8, 2016; April 5, 2016; and April 19, 2016.

Additional information on early morning work sessions is available [here](#).

Community Engagement and Strategic Plan: Request for Proposals

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposal to identify firms capable of facilitating a community engagement and strategic planning initiative. Given the varied challenges facing many District 211 students and families, the invaluable benefit of quality educational programming and applied experiences, the District's changing demographics, the nature of current economic conditions, and the positive impact that can result when school districts connect with local businesses, a comprehensive community engagement will provide essential insights, partnerships, and understanding in order to establish and define a strategic plan for the upcoming five-year period. The community engagement and strategic planning sequence will provide an open exchange of information that will serve as a key source to articulate to all constituents and partners (parents, students, staff, local employers, and community members) the following outcomes:

- The vision, mission, priorities, and initiatives that District 211 will strive to accomplish in the coming five years
- A comprehensive plan of financial priorities and indicators aligned with the vision, priorities, and initiatives that will sustain District 211's financial stability, and demonstrate responsible stewardship of the community's resources
- An integrated set of plans and directions within a public statement document that will guide the District's future direction

Additional information on the Requests for Proposals for a community engagement and strategic plan initiative can be found [here](#).

During the 2014-2015 school year, plans were solidified for services in the southern portion of the District that paralleled those services in the northern portion.

In August 2009, revisions to Public Acts 96-0769 and 96-0783 were enacted which clarified the structure and authority of special education joint agreements, also known as cooperatives. In December 2009, the Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (N.S.S.E.O.) policy committee began a review of the Articles of Agreement, and in March 2010, revisions reflective of the recommendations of member districts and the committee were approved by the N.S.S.E.O. governing board.

In April 2015, the Illinois State Board of Education issued revised guidance relating to special education cooperative articles of agreement. This revised guidance was intended to assist member districts and cooperatives in determining whether Public Acts 96-0769 and 96-0783, along with recent directives regarding the use of IDEA Part B funds, require amendments to a given cooperative's existing Articles of Agreement. Following receipt of this memorandum, N.S.S.E.O. reviewed this guidance with their legal counsel and has subsequently proposed three minor amendments to the existing Articles of Agreement, specifically Article V – Withdrawal/Dissolution.

The Adult Transition Program (ATP) provides specific instruction and community-based experiences to help facilitate the independent transition of 18-21 year-old students with cognitive disabilities and other significant transitional needs.

2015-2016 Education Research Development/Legislative Renewal

The Board of Education approved renewal of its membership in ED-RED for the 2015-2016 school year at a fee of \$5,000. Education Research Development (ED-RED) was formed in 1971 as a high school district advocacy organization. ED-RED now serves elementary districts, high school districts, special education cooperatives, and the Intermediate Service Centers. ED-RED has established a dues structure for high school and elementary districts. Elementary districts will be assessed based on student population, and high school districts will be assessed a fixed amount, regardless of student enrollment. Last year, District 211 paid \$4,643.75 for its ED-RED membership.

National School Boards Association National Connection Fees

The Board of Education approved the National Connection fees of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) for a period of one year, beginning October 1, 2015, at a cost of \$5,335. There is no increase in fees from the previous year. District 211 has been a member of NSBA since 1971.

NSBA's National Connection is a partnership of state school boards associations and NSBA, and it offers benefits that will keep school administrators and school board members informed of national education issues. A list of additional benefits for NSBA members is available [here](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2015, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.