

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, October 20, 2016, 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 24 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](#).

The Board also recognized Hoffman Estates High School senior **Alfonso Arellano** for being selected as a National Hispanic Scholar as part of the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program. Each year, 5,000 of the 250,000 Hispanic and Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT exam are recognized for achieving the minimum required PSAT/NMSQT selection index score and earning a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher by the middle of their junior year.

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 Conant, Fremd, and Palatine High Schools have each again earned the EPA's 2016 Energy Star building recognition, joining Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates High Schools which were recognized as achieving this status in spring 2016. District 211 high schools represent five of only 12 schools in Illinois to receive this designation for 2016.

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](#).

Public Hearing – Columbus Day

In accordance with Illinois Public Act 96-640, which allows boards of education to hold school on legal school holidays, the Board of Education held a public hearing to hear

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [September 22, 2016](#).

Request for Policy Exemption

Board Policy File KA: School Community Relations Goals states that door-to-door solicitation of funds, goods, or services by students in the name of the school or school organization for school or charitable organizations will be permitted only upon approval of the Board. Schaumburg High School National Honor Society (NHS) students proposed the collection of non-perishable canned goods for the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry, with the collections being conducted on Monday, October 31, 2016. The Board of Education approved the request for policy exemption to permit Schaumburg High School's NHS solicitation of charity items.

Summer School Enrollment/Cost Analysis

The Board received an update on Summer School 2016. District 211 provided learning opportunities for 11,982 students during Summer School 2016, with 6,891 students participating in classroom experiences during both semesters and 5,091 involved in extracurricular camps.

A highlight of the summer program was the increase in enrollment for the incoming freshman invitational course, Preparation for Algebra 1. For the first time, this course was offered in both a classroom setting and online. In the summer of 2015, 96 incoming freshmen participated in the course, while this past summer, 246 incoming freshmen took the classroom model and another 75 enrolled in the online model.

The Incoming Freshman Academy was offered for the 12th year, while the Sophomore Summer Academy was offered for an 11th year. Student academies are offered to selected students at no cost and are designed to accelerate student learning in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Additional information is available at:

- [2016 Summer School Enrollment and Cost Analysis](#)
- [Project Lead the Way Cost Analysis/Comparison](#)
- [Summer School Cost Analysis](#)

Placement Testing of Incoming Freshmen

The Board received information on this year's placement testing. On October 1, 2016, placement tests were administered to 2,552 of the anticipated 2,788 incoming freshmen. An additional 108 students attended a make-up test session on October 8, 2016. Of the 128 students who were not tested, 30 of the students were withheld from testing per their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Students who were unable to attend either the initial or make-up testing will be scheduled for an individual make-up session. Results of the PSAT 8/9 assessment will be used as part of a comprehensive system that includes recommendations from junior high school teachers to place students in courses for the 2017-2018 school year.

The success of the testing program and subsequent placement process is the result of a coordinated effort involving District 211 transportation, student services, and technology services staff, as well as staff at the junior high schools.

The PSAT 8/9 serves as the first test in District 211's newly adopted SAT Suite of Assessments. Test results will provide clear indicators of current academic strengths and areas for growth. In the spring of their freshman year, these students will take the PSAT 8/9 again, and as sophomores they will take the PSAT 10. Each assessment will help prepare students for the junior year SAT assessment which serves as the State of Illinois' required student achievement exam and will provide a valid college entrance test score.

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 74% over the past 10 years, with data reported as of September 30, 2016.

For the second year in a row, District 211 has seen a decline in students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals. While the prevalence of low-income students has declined in the District, Palatine High School continues to see a consistent increase in students eligible for meal benefits. Current data shows the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in each school ranges from a low of 14% at Fremd High School to a high of 51% eligibility at Palatine High School.

Negotiations Chapter Four: Communication Throughout the Bargaining Process

At the May 12, 2016 Board of Education meeting, the Board requested information

Request for Foreign Exchange Trips

The Board of Education approved participation in the following 10 foreign exchange trips for the summer of 2017 (Note: District 211 reserves the right to cancel any airline travel that it deems unsafe or not in the best interest of the District):

Munich, Germany – June 19-30, 2017
Conant and Schaumburg High Schools

Madrid and Toledo, Spain; and Paris, France – May 31-June 7, 2017
Conant High School

Beijing, Xi'an, Guilin, Yangshuo, and Shanghai, China – June 4-14, 2017
Fremd and Schaumburg High Schools

Malaga and Madrid, Spain – May 27-June 14, 2017
Fremd High School

Rinteln and Berlin, Germany – May 31-June 21, 2017
Fremd High School

Strasbourg and Paris, France – June 1-16, 2017
Fremd, Conant, Palatine, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg High Schools

Antigua, Guatemala – June 3-17, 2017
Palatine and Schaumburg High Schools

Krefeld, Germany – June 3-17, 2017
Palatine High School

Antigua, Guatemala – June 4-12, 2017
Hoffman Estates High School

Madrid and Barcelona, Spain – May 30-June 14, 2017
Hoffman Estates High School

Administrative Appointment

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Diana Mikelski** as director of transportation, effective July 1, 2017. Ms. Mikelski will replace **James Fleischman**, who will retire in June 2017 after serving as director of transportation since July 2015 and working in High School District 211 since 1997. Ms. Mikelski has 24 years of experience in student transportation, including serving as the District 211 assistant to the director of transportation since March 2015. Prior to this, she was the supervisor of transportation for Community Unit School District 118 in Wauconda, Ill., from 2003-

2015. She also served as that district's head driver and router from 1999-2003, and as a school bus driver from 1992-1999. Ms. Mikelski has been certified through the State of Illinois as a school bus driver instructor since 2010.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2016, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.