

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, November 13, 2014, 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.

Military Recognition

The Board of Education honored Corporal **Neph Ramos**, a 2012 Conant High School graduate who is now serving in the United States Marine Corps. Corporal Ramos led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions

The Board recognized High School District 211's "*Those Who Excel*" Award recipients, including William Fremd High School Applied Technology Teacher **Steven Elza**, who was named 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year. The Illinois State Board of Education annually sponsors the "*Those Who Excel*" awards to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the state's public and non-public schools. High School District 211 award-winners are (listed alphabetically):

Secretary to the Superintendent **Sally Cimmarusti** (educational service personnel category)
Schaumburg High School Head Librarian **Susan Elk** (student support personnel category)

Instructional Coaching Presentation

Following implementation of a small-scale pilot during second semester of the 2013-2014 school year, seven instructional coaches, one per school, were funded through grant money for the start of the 2014-2015 school year. The goal of the Instructional Coaching program is to provide daily, job-embedded professional learning for all teachers to improve their classroom instructional practices.

Alina Morelli, Schaumburg High School Instructional Coach and **Katie Giegler**, Fremd High School Instructional Coach, presented the Board of Education with information on interactions coaches have experienced during the first quarter of the school year. In the past nine weeks, coaches have met with teachers in small groups, as professional learning teams, drop-in sessions, department meetings and via formal coaching cycles. **Christopher Bays**, Palatine High School; **Patricia Ertl**, Conant High School; **Kerri Largo**, Hoffman Estates High School; **David O'Connor**, Academy-South; and **Amy Laskiewicz**, Academy-North are the instructional coaches at the other District schools.

Approval of Minutes

The Board of Education approved the minutes from its regular meeting on [October 16, 2014](#).

Curriculum Committee Report

The fall round of the 2014-2015 Curriculum Committee meetings has been completed with 16 department meetings taking place. The committees welcomed 13 new department chairs and three new District department chairs to leadership positions.

Near the end of the 2013-2014 school year, the District Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) Joint Committee presented the first-round of criteria outlining how teachers were to

In order to assist teachers with this process, continual professional development in Mastery Manager, Depth of Knowledge, and assessment creation have occurred as needed with schools, departments, and individuals. **Danielle Hauser**, director of instructional improvement; school professional development administrators; technology coordinators; and the newly appointed instructional coaches have been able to assist teachers through a variety of one-on-one and small group sessions.

A discussion occurred at each curriculum committee meeting with the chairs explaining some of the exciting department-specific technology opportunities that are occurring for students in their classrooms because of the One-

program. The group will meet again in November 2014 to review the next level of curriculum and revise the Sophomore Academy English curriculum.

The Applied Technology Department continued to offer a special program entitled "Project Lead the Way Summer Engineering Academy," which is designed to provide selected young students with an opportunity to participate in a three-week course that explores engineering and architecture concepts. In 2014, the non-credit course was offered only to students in the summer prior to 8th grade who have shown an interest and have performed well in mathematics and science.

Additional information is available at:

Additional information is available [here](#).

Proposed Policy Revisions and New Policies

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

The Board initially reviewed proposed policy revisions to Board policy files: [G CBD Professional Staff Leaves and Absences](#); [GBCC Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace](#); and [GBCE Drug and Alcohol Test Program](#). No action was taken at the meeting.

The Board also initially reviewed two new proposed policies, [Copyright](#) and [Prevention of and Response to Student Bullying](#). No action was taken at the meeting.

Administrative Appointment

The Board of Education approved the appointment of **Nicholas Jahnke** facilities engineer, effective December 1, 2014. Mr. Jahnke has worked extensively with building automation systems that are responsible for controlling the energy within large institutional buildings for Johnson Controls, Inc., a leading manufacturer in energy management systems, since 2008. His ability to utilize the technical dynamics of building-wide system controls and direct teams of installers led to a managerial position at Johnson Controls, Inc. There, his responsibilities included assessing financial viability of building automation projects; overseeing the installation of equipment, training and staff development of end users; and developing energy conservation strategies at large institutional facilities such as the Chicago Public Schools and Cook County jail facilities. Mr. Jahnke has produced innovative solutions that have resulted in significant energy conservation and cost savings for his clients. He earned a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a master's degree in business administration from DeVry University.

Mr. Jahnke replaces Energy Manager **Reece Thome**, who is retiring after working for more than 40 years in District 211. Before being named energy manager in 2004, Mr. Thome served as an applied technology teacher and department chair; a football, basketball, and baseball coach; a computer club sponsor; and career development coordinator. During Mr. Thome's tenure as energy manager, District 211 has saved approximately \$11.4 million in energy costs.

Next Board of Education Meeting

The next scheduled regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.