

Please do not reply to this email

Board of Education Meeting Recap

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, December 11, 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 Lance Corporal Grant Dunham , a 2013 William Fremd High School graduate who is now serving in the United States Marine Corps. Lance Corporal Dunham led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized student-athletes who earned honors in state athletic competitions, including Schaumburg High School girls cross country and the Palatine High School girls cross country team that placed second in state; Palatine and Conant High School boys cross country; and the Fremd High School boys soccer team that placed third in state. A complete list of student-athletes recognized is available [here](#).

The Board recognized Schaumburg High School soccer student-athlete Jessie Lopez , who was named an All-American by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

Fremd High School Track & Field Coach Jim Aikens was recognized for being selected as a finalist for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Coach of the Year award. The NHSACA annually recognizes coaches for their outstanding service and unselfish devotion to student-athletes.

The Board also recognized Fremd High School Boys Soccer Coach Steve Keller for being named Coach of the Year by the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association. This honor recognizes him for his leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence, as well as his team's success this past season.

Adoption of 2014 Tax Levy

entity, including school districts, to prepare and publish a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR serves as the District's official annual financial report and contains introductory information, schedules necessary to demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions, and statistical data. The purpose of the financial statements is to report on the financial position and operations of the District.

The High School District 211 CAFR was prepared by the District business office and reviewed by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP. On December 3, 2014, Board of Education Audit Liaisons Bob LeFevre and Mike Scharringhausen met independently with the supervising auditors from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, to review and ask questions about the audit process.

The 2013-2014 CAFR is posted on the District 211 website for viewing [here](#).

2016-2017 School Calendar Proposal

High School District 211 has historically followed a traditional school calendar with classes beginning in the last third of August. The first semester ends in January about one week after students return to school from winter break and the school year ends in early June.

In recent years, many school districts have recognized drawbacks to the traditional school calendar. The traditional approach to the school calendar is to schedule first semester final examinations after winter break. Upon return from winter break, teachers almost universally spend several class days reviewing previously covered content to make up for the typical learning loss that occurs when students are away from school. Additionally, students often are tasked with the completion of projects and other assignments while on break. The pressure to complete these assignments causes stress, as students attempt to balance the school-based workload with the demands of personal and family obligations during the winter holidays.

District 211 has been investigating school calendar options under which first semester ends prior to the start of winter break. Such a calendar, referred to as a collegiate-style calendar, offers multiple advantages. The collegiate-style calendar helps students with the learning process since final exams are completed before exiting school for the extended break, and

more opportunities for family activities. A collegiate-style calendar provides high school students the opportunity to seek summer employment before college students return home to compete for the same summer jobs. Adopting a collegiate-style calendar requires attention to many factors, including the alignment of the high school calendar with the calendars of local elementary school districts, the scheduling of high school graduation ceremonies, the impact of the regular school calendar on the start of summer school, the scheduling of athletic practices in August, and the availability of family vacation time during the latter weeks of summer.

Nearly 70% of high school districts in Cook, DuPage, and McHenry counties have already adopted a collegiate-style school calendar. District 211 has consulted with many of these districts and they report that the collegiate model is serving their needs very well. Students, parents, and staff have adjusted to the new schedule and it is viewed positively within their communities. The toughest part of the change was the transitional summer, which was about two weeks shorter than normal.

Furthermore, District 211 has discussed this potential change in school calendar with School Districts 15 and 54. Both elementary districts have expressed an interest in adjusting their calendars to coincide with the high school calendar as much as can possibly be done. Options for high school graduation ceremonies

a6c 0 Tw (-)Tj 0.004 Tc -0.002 Tw 15.3 0 T24.365c 0 Tw (-)Tj 0.0, /P 9.56

Administrative Appointment