

# **Board of Education Meeting Recap**

The Township High School District 211 Board of Education met on Thursday, July 21, 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.

## **Progress Toward Meeting District Goals**

Academic Goals for the 2015-2016 school year were established in 2012 under the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Multiple Measures of Accountability. The goals include defining academic areas of graduation, academic growth, college and career readiness, and proficiency on the critical learning standards. Throughout the past four years, the goals are used to evaluate academic progress of students. Though State-required standardized testing has typically been presented, the absence of a clearly defined junior assessment for the Class of 2017 has left a gap in this year's data. The Class of 2018 will be assessed using the State-required Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Academic Goals are assessed at multiple levels including District, school, course, and subgroup.

- Students: 8,185 individuals (70% of student population)
- School Personnel: 1,427 individuals (84% of school personnel)
- Parents: 1,664 individuals (17% of parent population)

The Board of Education received a summary of survey results and analysis, including a comparison between 2015 and 2016 and areas for improvement. A complete copy of that report is available [here](#).

### **Employee Wellness Program Update**

For many years, High School District 211 has supported an employee wellness program that provides for an annual physical examination benefit. In an effort to promote prevention and early detection of health concerns, the Board of Education has supported policy that encourages employees and spouses to have physical examinations on a regular basis. As an alternative, employees may elect to receive a comprehensive wellness screening provided through the District wellness provider.

In November 2013, the Board approved the District's participation in a wellness program administered by Interactive Health Solutions that provides for an annual on-site biometric screening and health assessment, health coaching for at-risk individuals, six-month additional screening, and access to useful on-line tools and resources for all participants. Employees who participate in the wellness program receive a current health assessment at a rate that is less expensive than a similar screening in a standard healthcare physician's office.

Under the current wellness plan structure, approximately 90% of employees and 115

## **Community Connections Newsletter – Finance Edition**

District 211 recently distributed an informational newsletter called

This issue is the first in a series of communications designed to provide additional information for the community surrounding events taking place within District 211.

The newsletters will cover a range of topics, most directly linked to the priorities and direction to be defined within the components of the Strategic Plan. Given that property tax bills were recently mailed to residents and businesses, the first issue centered on the topic of property taxes requested by District 211. Last December, the Board of Education took action not to request additional property taxes relative to the previous year. Additionally, the Board took action to use existing reserve funds to decrease the amount of property taxes requested compared to the amount that was authorized by Cook County.

As efforts continue for District 211 to foster deeper partnerships through informed communication, similar periodic newsletters that are responsive to suggestions from community members will be produced to communicate information about the District.

A copy of the Community Connections Newsletter – Finance Edition is available [here](#).

## **Strategic Plan Development**

Since January 2016, the Board of Education and administration have sought public input through a comprehensive community engagement initiative to gather information. The citizen-led community engagement process included four different vehicles for seeking information from local community members, parents, students, and staff.

future Board of Education meeting. Information surrounding collective bargaining, as it pertains to educational employees, will be presented over the next several meetings.

Collective bargaining relations between educational employees and employers in Illinois are regulated by statute as the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act (IELRA). The IELRA establishes requirements for mandated areas of bargaining, good faith bargaining, and provides governance under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board (IELRB) for interpretation of the Act and to resolve labor disputes. Collective bargaining requirements under the IELRA are mandated for all educational employers and establish the legal framework by which negotiations may occur between educational employees and employers. [The legal framework information](#) that has been provided serves as the first chapter of information surrounding the educational collective bargaining process.

### **Proposed Policy Revisions**

As part of its ongoing Policy Manual review, the Board of Education reviews proposed



Section 105 ILCS 5/17-2A of the Illinois School Code authorizes a school district, by proper resolution and following a public hearing, to permanently transfer monies from and between its three primary operating funds (Educational Fund, Operations & Maintenance Fund, and Transportation Fund) for non-recurring expenses.

The Board approved a resolution providing for an interfund transfer of \$2 million from Working Cash to Debt Service, and the transfer of \$3 million from Working Cash to the Life Safety Fund.

The Board also directed publication of a notice of a public hearing at its August 18, 2016 meeting to consider the permanent interfund transfer of \$12.5 million from the Transportation Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund.

Additional information on interfund transfers and a copy of the approved resolution are available [here](#).

### **Purchasing Card Program**

District 211 administration reviewed Purchasing Card (P-Cards) programs issued by four large commercial lenders. After consideration of card acceptance, flexibility of administration, fraud protection, rebate percentage and payment terms, the Harris Bank (Bank of Montreal) program was recommended to the Board of Education. Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), Bank of Montreal, and over 300 Illinois school districts have partnered to provide a purchasing card solution utilizing MasterCard. Working as a consortium allows card services and rebate returns in excess of what could be achieved by an individual district. This card program can be administered online, providing great flexibility for individual credit limit changes, card issuance and cancellation, reporting, and monitoring. The terms of the Bank of Montreal P-Card returns 1% cash back on annual purchases with 21-day payment terms. The District will continue to identify areas of expenditures that can be paid using a P-Card without additional processing fees in order to receive the applicable rebate for purchases

The Board of Education approved the resolution as presented and authorized the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with the Bank of Montreal for a purchasing card program on its behalf.

Additional information on P-Cards and a copy of the approved resolution are available [here](#).

### **Mastery Manager Software Subscription Renewal**

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, District 211 has used an assessment management system, Mastery Manager, to analyze student academic performance. Mastery Manager is a web-based system and allows teachers to produce customized assessment answer documents, online assessments, performance-based assessments, instant scoring, item banking, and access specialized reporting tools.



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 18, 2016, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Koller Board Meeting Room at the G.A. McElroy Administration Center.

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