



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

ELMHURST COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

We are pleased to reinstate the Board Highlights, below, which is a recap of major items from the regular Board of Education business meetings. We will distribute the Highlights to our school community within 1-2 days following the Board meetings.

Sept. 21, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

Here are highlights from the Sept. 21 regular business meeting of the Board of Education. The complete recording of the meeting can be found [here](#). The agenda and supporting materials can be found on [BoardDocs](#).

BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Board adopted the [final 2021-22 budget](#) following a presentation and a public hearing. The budget totals \$141,002,384 in operating funds with a surplus of \$1.32 million. Staff salaries make up 75.09% of the budget or \$105.88 million. Staffing costs appear higher this year due to the pandemic. The district reduced a number of staff last year, including food service staff, lunchroom supervision and stipends because they were not needed during remote learning. Thus, the District added those salaries back into this year's budget, totaling a 5.98% increase or 32.75 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions. Staffing also included reducing 8.80 certified staff members (teachers) and an addition of 6 virtual teachers to provide instruction for students in remote learning due to quarantine or other issues related to the pandemic. The middle schools increased staff by 3.25 FTE and the high school reduced 2.15 certified staff members. In addition, District 205 is ranked among the lowest, 380 out of 385 unit districts in Illinois, for [administrative cost per pupil](#) as recorded by Illinois State Board of Education FY 2020 Annual Financial Report. [Listen to the budget presentation](#).

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UPDATE

The Board heard an [update](#) on the referendum construction projects happening across the District. The multi-year work includes building two new schools, improving safety and security in the schools, providing space for all-day kindergarten, adding future-ready learning spaces at all schools and meeting other maintenance and infrastructure needs at its schools. Buildings and Grounds Director Todd Schmidt reported on projects

that are nearing completion, projects that are in the design phase and those that will begin in 2022. He noted that the total referendum budget is 6.8% over budget, with an estimated amount of \$11,441,783 over budget. This is due to expanded scope and updated budget estimates from ICI Engineers for Field, Fischer, and Jackson. Any increases in total costs will not be financed by issuing additional bonds, but will be paid with operating reserves, and/or cost containment measures. [Listen to the facilities presentation.](#)



Here is a rendering of the new Field School. Construction will begin in the summer of 2022.

COVID-19 UPDATE AND FORWARD TOGETHER PLAN

The Board heard an update on COVID-19 and the *Forward Together Fall 2021 Plan*. Superintendent Dr. Keisha Campbell noted the posting of the Dashboard on the website listing COVID-19 cases and quarantines by school and by week and the plan for a voluntary BinaxNow testing program for students and staff. She also outlined how parents will receive communications about COVID cases. [Listen to the Forward Together update.](#)

CELEBRATIONS

Bryan Middle School was awarded [GreatSchools.org's Thrive Award](#). The award recognizes schools that demonstrate positive learning environments for students and staff. Winners are chosen based on student and teacher responses to a state-wide survey that assesses a school's leadership, teaching culture, academics, family engagement, and learning environment. Research shows that these features contribute to student success.

LEARN MORE

For additional agenda items, please visit [BoardDocs](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- October 5, 2021 Finance and Operation Committee, 5:30 p.m.
- October 12, 2021 Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- October 26, 2021 Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are held in the District 205 Center, Rooms 215, 216, & 217 unless noted.