



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

ELMHURST COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

November 16, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

Here are highlights from the Nov. 16, 2021 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](#).

RECONITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

The Board recognized and celebrated students, teams, staff and coaches, including:

The 1st Place IHSA State York High School Soccer Team members, who were honored with a proclamation

The 1st Place IHSA Girls Cross Country Team members, who were honored with a proclamation

The Board also honored two Hawthorne Elementary School students who created an all-school Make-A-Wish fundraiser.



The Girls' Cross Country State Champions (left) and the Boy's Soccer State Champions were honored by the Board and each student was presented a proclamation.

ASSESSMENT DATA USED TO DRIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The Board heard its third report this fall on Key Performance Indicators, which centered on student assessment comparisons and an overview of School Improvement Plans. Some key indicators reviewed included: 8th Grade Passing Algebra, 9th Grade on Track with course credits, Graduation rate and Enrollment in college or coursework. These statistics are all indicative of student and school success. Additional information on how school teams are working on School Improvement Plans, specifically to improve student growth and performance was outlined in the [presentation here](#) and the [video](#) here.

FACILITIES UPDATE

The Board heard an update on three facilities projects:

Lincoln Elementary School - Substantial progress is being made to the construction of Lincoln School with completion scheduled for August 2022.

York Turf and Stormwater Detention - Completion will be in early December.

The Transition Center - The Center, for students with special needs age 18-21, is substantially complete and now open. A ribbon cutting and open house was held Nov. 15. In related news, the Board approved a name for the facility – [District 205 Bridges Transition Center](#).

Upcoming plans are to receive and review bids for reconstructing Field School; and bids related to renovations at Jackson, Jefferson and Fischer, as part of the referendum promise to create updated, future-ready schools.

View the presentation [here](#) and the video [here](#).

FORWARD TOGETHER PLAN REVIEWED

The Board heard an update on COVID metrics and the Forward Together Plan for 2021-22. Most mitigations have been lifted, however the state still requires visitors, students, and staff in K-12 schools to wear masks. The Board heard about significant changes since July 2021 report, which include:

- Substantial reductions in the number of students in quarantine
- The roll-out of a voluntary testing program for students and staff
- Elimination of previous facility restrictions, such as restricted locker use and drinking fountains, among others
- Return of all extracurricular activities for students

See the report [here](#) and the video [here](#).

BOARD STATEMENT ON BALANCED CURRICULUM

On behalf of the Board, President Kara Caforio read a statement addressing inquiries about curriculum and political bias in District 205 schools. The statement noted how Board policy guides discussion of potential controversial issues in the classroom and how the goal is to engage students in a curriculum that is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards and one that teaches students how to think, not what to think. Here is the [full statement](#).

CHANGE IN NEXT YEAR'S 2022-23 CALENDAR

The Board approved changes in the next year's 2022-23 calendar following the state legislature's move to set November 8, 2022 (election day) as a state holiday. As a result the following changes were made:

November 8, 2022 will now be a school holiday

April 7, 2023 will change from a non attendance day to a student attendance day.

May 26, 2023 will remain as the last day of school.