

# Community Consolidated School District 15 Board of Education

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Scott B. Thompson, Ed.D.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To produce world-class learners  
by building a connected learning community.



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## BOARD BRIEFS: *November 9, 2016, Regular Meeting*

### [Meeting Video](#) and [Agenda Attachments](#)

**Pledge of Allegiance—Jane Addams School:** ([Video Clip: 00:00-03:13](#)) Christie Samojedny, Ed.D., Jane Addams School Principal, introduced members of the Jane Addams Student Council to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Recognition—Sixth-Grade District Cross Country Winners:** ([Video Clip: 03:22-06:42](#)) The Board recognized six students who won their heats in the District 15 Sixth-Grade Cross Country Meet, which was held September 27 at Salk Park in Rolling Meadows. During the meet, schools competed in one of three divisions—Green, which included Virginia Lake, Hunting Ridge, Lincoln, Lake Louise, and Stuart R. Paddock Schools; Yellow, which included Pleasant Hill, Jane Addams, Central Road, Frank C. Whiteley, and Willow Bend Schools, and Blue, which included Winston Campus Elementary, Marion Jordan, Thomas Jefferson, Gray M. Sanborn, and Kimball Hill Schools. The following students won their divisions:

- **Green Group: Paige M.** from Virginia Lake School and **Jack C.** from Lincoln School
- **Yellow Group: Leah S.** from Pleasant Hill School and **Lucas C.** from Pleasant Hill School
- **Blue Group: Morgan M.** from Winston Campus Elementary and **Nicky S.** from Marion Jordan School

Medals were awarded to the top 10 finishers in each heat, and “top flight” ribbons were given to students who finished from 11th to 20th place. Each of the more than 400 runners who completed the mile-long race received a participation ribbon at the finish line.

**Recognition—Those Who Excel:** ([Video Clip: 06:420-20:00](#)) District 15 nominees received a total of five awards this year in the Illinois State Board of Education’s prestigious “Those Who Excel” awards program.

- **Christie Samojedny, Ed.D.**, Jane Addams School Principal, received an Award of Excellence in the “School Administrator” category.
- **Kathleen Becker**, Willow Bend School Lunch Coordinator, received an Award of Excellence in the “Educational Service Personnel” category.
- **Krish Revuluri, Ph.D.**, District 15 MATHCOUNTS Coach, received an Award of Excellence in the “Community Volunteer” category.
- **Kristie Charles**, a third-grade teacher at Hunting Ridge School, received an Award of Merit in the “Classroom Teacher” category.
- **Carl Sandburg Junior High’s PBIS Green Team** received an Award of Merit in the “Team” category.

During the meeting, each of the principals who nominated these award recipients for these honors introduced them to the Board, and Scott Thompson, Ed.D., superintendent of schools, presented each of them with the District’s “Above and Beyond Award.”

**Presentation—FY2016 Final Audit:** ([Video Clip: 20:00-27:58](#)) Betsy Allen, Principal at Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd., the District’s external auditing firm, presented information and responded to questions from Board members concerning the FY2016 Audit Report. The Board voted to accept the FY2016 (2015-2016) Annual Audit later in the meeting. District 15 received an unqualified audit opinion from Miller Cooper, the highest opinion an auditor

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can grant. It indicates the auditor feels the District followed generally accepted accounting principles and that the financial reports are an accurate representation of the District's financial condition.

**Presentation—Five-Year Financial Projections:** ([Video Clip: 27:58-46:56](#)) Mr. Adamczyk presented an updated five-year forecast that indicated the District will run deficits of approximately \$5.1 million in 2016-17 and \$6.8 million in 2017-18. Those deficits are due to the District's life safety projects. The \$18.5 million of life safety bonds issued in February were recorded as additional revenue in the Amended FY2016 Budget, but the great majority of those funds (as well as the funds from the \$9 million bond issuance planned for this spring) will be spent as part of the FY2017 and FY 2018 budgets. The forecast shows the District running much smaller deficits--\$847,058 and \$149,584—in the FY2019 and FY2020 budgets, followed by a \$645,189 surplus in FY2021. This would leave the District's fund balance standing at about \$55.5 million, or approximately 35 percent of its annual expenditure budget, at the end of FY2021. The District 15 Board of Education has agreed to a minimum fund balance target of 30 percent of the District's expenditures.

**Presentation—Proposed Tax Levy:** ([Video Clip: 46:56-1:08:24](#)) In response to the Board's request for levy options, including a "flat levy," Corey Bultemeier, Director of Fiscal Services and Assistant Chief School Business Official, presented two 2016 levy proposals for the Board to consider. The first proposal includes the slight increase in property tax revenue that the tax cap allows each year for inflation and new growth. This levy proposal would likely result in a 2016 extension increase of roughly 1 percent (0.7 percent for inflation and 0.3 percent for an estimated \$10 million in new growth) to approximately \$124.72 million for all funds, including debt service. The second proposal provides for abating the value of this year's 0.7 percent inflation adjustment, which totals \$825,908, and would result in a 2016 extension of about \$123.9 million for all funds, including debt service. The Board will approve a levy proposal when it adopts the final 2016 Aggregate Tax Levy during its next regular meeting on Wednesday, December 14.

**Superintendent's Report—Referendum Results:** ([Video Clip: 1:08:24-1:10:49](#)) Dr. Thompson reported that approximately 70 percent of voters opposed District 15's plans to build an elementary school at Osage Park in northeast Palatine, and a middle school on the Ela Road property it owns in the southwest portion of the District. He thanked the Board for its support of the proposal, and said he appreciated the efforts of all residents who provided their input on these plans both at the polls and in advance of the election, during the District's information meetings and community engagement efforts. Their valuable feedback will help the District move forward and re-evaluate its plans to maintain and improve its facilities, and determine how the District's buildings can best facilitate 21st century learning.

In particular, many residents wanted to keep Gray M. Sanborn School open, and keep Osage Park a park, said Dr. Thompson. Many also expressed concern about the demographic composition of the new elementary school in northeast Palatine, and the impact that the \$130 million proposal would have on their property taxes. Also, numerous residents suggested that the District seek more community input before putting a new or revised proposal on the ballot, he said.

To that end, Dr. Thompson said the District will take some time before deciding upon its next steps. However, he also said certain components of the plan—especially the expansion to a full-day kindergarten program, the shift to a middle school structure, and the growth of the community school concept in the District—present significant long-term benefits for the District. He said he needs to do a better job of explaining those benefits and the need for the schools proposed in this plan.

**Superintendent's Report—Board Member Recognitions:** ([Video Clip: 1:13:57-1:15:05](#)) Dr. Thompson reported that several Board members had been recognized by the Illinois Association of School Boards, which recognizes board members for the time and effort they devote to IASB leadership activities and service to the public education community. IASB gives school board members points for attending division meetings, governing meetings, and legislative leadership programs, and Gerald D. Chapman, Ed.D., recently earned more than 200 points in this program and was named a Master Board Member. Peggy Babcock, Board President, was already a Master Board Member and earned enough points last year to retain that status. Additionally, James G. Ekeberg, MD, Board Vice President, was recognized as a School Board LeaderShop Academy Fellow for completing 12 LeaderShop designated workshops that promote continuous learning and professional development for school board members.

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**2018-19 School Calendar Discussion:** ([Video Clip: 1:19:49-1:20:23](#)) The Board reviewed the proposed 2018-19 school calendar, which closely aligns to Township High School District 211's proposed 2018-19 calendar. The District will now post the proposal to its website for public review and comment prior to its adoption later this school year. Key dates are as follows:

- **Beginning of the School Year:** Staff Institute Days are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, August 13 and 14, 2018. Grades 1-8 would begin classes on Wednesday, August 15, 2018. Kindergarten and early childhood classes would begin on Thursday, August 16, 2018.
- **Thanksgiving:** Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Thursday, November 22, 2018. There will be no school that week, but parent-teacher conferences will be held on Monday and Tuesday, November 19 and 20, 2018.
- **Winter Break:** There would be no school from Monday, December 24, 2018, through Friday, January 4, 2019, with schools reopening on Monday, January 7, 2019.
- **Spring Break:** There would be no school Monday, March 25, 2019, through Friday, March 29, 2019, with schools reopening Monday, April 1, 2019.
- **End of the School Year:** The last day of school—including snow days—would be Wednesday, June 5, 2019. Depending upon the number of snow days used, the last day of school will be moved back accordingly at the April 2019 Board meeting.

**President's Report:** ([Video Clip: 1:20:23-1:31:11](#)) Peggy Babcock, Board President, shared with the Board some of the following insights and observations she gained from her recent visits to each of District 15's 20 different schools.

- The District's Chromebook pilot program is allowing teachers to enhance their instruction in exciting ways that students find engaging.
- The ongoing transition to the District's rigorous new math and science curricula and the consistent, Districtwide implementation of the Reader's Workshop model for literacy instruction are all going smoothly.
- The infusion of new instructional materials and the training/support the District has provided teachers has made the shift to new Common Core State Standards for math and English/language arts an easier and more successful effort.
- It was a challenge for staff to prepare their schools and classrooms for the life safety construction work that occurred in 11 buildings this summer, and it was impressive how they met that challenge without disrupting instruction.
- Providing for some flexibility in how schools use their weekly professional development time is allowing them to better address some of their building-specific needs.
- There's a great deal of flexibility in how the District's classrooms are set up and managed, and that helps students to be both comfortable and engaged.
- Through its Illinois State University Professional Development School, the District is continuing to help education students develop into strong young teachers, many of whom join the District upon completing their yearlong internships.
- Some classes sizes in the District are larger than those in surrounding Districts, but administrators keep close tabs on those situations and provide those students and teachers with additional support if and when it is needed.
- The District must still use mobile classrooms at certain schools, and they are not ideal environments for teaching and learning.
- The District's schools are full. Any schools that have extra space are using them to accommodate different special education and early childhood programs offered by the District. Consequently, the District must closely monitor growth and assess what its needs will be in the future.

**Citizens Address the Board:** ([Video Clip: 1:31:11-1:38:06](#)) One resident addressed the Board regarding the District's five-year financial projections.

**Next Regular Board of Education Meeting:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016, at 7 p.m. at Walter R. Sundling Junior High, 1100 N. Smith Street, Palatine.