

## District appoints Dr. Nancy Robb as Thornton's successor

Sean Leahy  
Editor-in-Chief

District 211's search for a new superintendent came to an end last Thursday as the Board of Education named Nancy Robb to replace Roger Thornton when he retires in December.

Robb has been in the district for 28 years and has served in a number of different capacities, most recently as associate superintendent for instruction.

"I want to enhance the educational excellence of the students, something that has become a hallmark of the district," said Robb, a longtime resident of the district. "I know the expectations of the community."

Robb's career in D211 includes stints as a career coun-

selor and student services director at Schaumburg High School before becoming principal of Palatine High School, a position she held for 12 years.

Robb wants to take that extensive background in education and apply it toward building future success for district students.

"Students need to be prepared to have success on the global level," Robb said. "We need to empower teachers to create initiatives that will help students succeed."

She said her involvement in District 211 has brought her one-on-one interaction with Fremd staff and allowed her to build relationships.

Robb's appointment pleased teachers union president and

social studies teacher Jason Spoor.

"Dr. Robb is very dedicated to the district," Spoor said. "She brings a long history of experience to District 211 and a great deal of passion for education."

Recent contract negotiations chilled relations between the board and teachers union, but Spoor hopes Robb can help facilitate a move toward better communication.

"I hope that she and I can work together to do that," Spoor said. "Hopefully, we can work together to make things much more cohesive."

As for students, some do not anticipate that having a new superintendent will change their school routines.



Photo courtesy of District 211

**A NEW ERA.** The Board of Education named Dr. Nancy Robb to replace Dr. Roger Thornton.

"It's possible, but the superintendent looks over the whole district, so one school may not change so much," junior Jeff Beaudette said.

For now, Robb is reveling in her appointment. "I was honored that the board selected me for this position," Robb said. "It is an exciting opportunity."

## Board approves artificial turf to replace old field

Jim Campbell  
Staff Writer

The Board of Education recently approved the installation of artificial turf at Fremd and Schaumburg High Schools.

"The turf is wonderful," Principal Marina Scott said. "We will be able to use the field for many more purposes such as team practices and P.E. classes."

Junior Andrew Corso says he was injured due to poor conditions at practices, which take place in back fields to preserve the main field for games.

"Seventy-five percent of the back field is hard dirt. Once I stepped in a pothole in the Freshman A field and sprained my ankle, so I couldn't play in the Elk Grove game," said Corso, a varsity football player.

Players say those conditions worsen with rain.

"When it rains, the fields are not playable. We had to move a week 1 game to Lake Zurich," Corso explained.

After the new turf field is installed, athletes will not have to worry about inclement weather damaging the field.

The idea started with the 2002 referendum but was not pursued because of the "cash crunch" that occurred, according to P.E. Department Chair and head football coach Michael Donatucci.

Donatucci is now thrilled by the reality of a dependable field. He believes this resource will have a big impact on the school and its extracurricular activities.

The new turf will cost the school \$1.4 million, according to Scott. However, last week, the district found out that the field will now cost \$2.2 million more than expected because of an error on the part of W-T Engineering, which was hired to design site plans, according to the *Daily Herald*.

Even with this setback, which increased the total cost to \$8.7 million, the district still approved the addition with a 4-3 vote.

The players believe the project is worth the cost.

"It's been a long time coming," said junior Ben Perna, a varsity football player.

Football is not the only sport that will be affected by the field. Many sports such as lacrosse and soccer will be able to use the



Logue photo by Dana Hogan

**TOUGH TURF.** Athletes say they have been at a disadvantage because of the current field. Athletes and coaches hope this will change in the fall with the installation of artificial turf.

field as well. Donatucci explained that with the new field, fewer teams, such as boy's lacrosse, will have to practice off-campus.

"There will be more time slots for teams to practice," Donatucci said.

He also emphasized that the new field will most likely reduce injuries.

"It's a consistent surface," Donatucci said. "It will help cut down ACL injuries and ankle sprains."

Although the new field may be a large undertaking, he believes it will pay off.

"It's just like the science addition or the new music wing," Donatucci said. "It's an investment."

Another strong attribute of the new field is low maintenance costs.

Donatucci explained that a machine to sweep the field comes with its installment. This sweeper only needs to be used a few times a year and will cut costs significantly.

Approved April 10, the installation will start around June 7 and will be finished by October of the 08-09 school year.

## Students compete in FED Challenge

Kayley Slezak  
Staff Writer

Imagine discussing the economy with a group of skilled economists for the chance to win scholarship money. Would you be up for the challenge?

For the first time, Fremd students participated in the academic competition called the Federal (FED) Reserve Challenge.

The five students who represented Fremd were seniors Ioana Calcev, Mahima Kishore, Neha Awati, Amy Liu and Katie Piasecki.

Macroeconomics teacher Michael Bruce says these students worked hard in preparation for the competition.

"Fremd's participation in the competition would not have become a reality if these students didn't push to make it happen," Bruce said.

Competing against 10 to 12 other teams, they presented the current state of the economy and a policy to improve it.

Teams that did well in the first round moved on to the district competition and possibly nationals. By winning nationals, students could receive scholarship money and an all-expenses paid trip.

This year's Fremd participants didn't make it to nationals, but they were the first students from FHS to experience the competition.

"We still did a lot better than we thought we would do. It was a great learning experience," Kishore said.

Bruce is proud of the students for competing in the challenge.

"As a teacher, it is always rewarding to see your former students apply your subject matter outside of the classroom. Each of the students worked very hard and enthusiastically in putting together a thoughtful and lively presentation," Bruce said.

The competition took place on April 28 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

## Senior final exemption requirement is dropped

Jackie Wallentin  
Lead News Editor

Earlier this month, the Board of Education rescinded the policy requiring seniors to meet standards on the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) in order to be exempt from final exams.

In a letter to the district, Superintendent Roger Thornton stated he recommended that the policy be set aside.

"Because of the seeming disparity for so many of our students between their ACT scores and their failure to pass the PSAE, it seems disingenuous for us to require passage of the PSAE as a condition of exemption from final examinations," Thornton said.

District-wide, 440 students in the Class of 2008 failed to pass the PSAE, according to Thornton.

Seniors must still meet other standards in order to be excused from finals, including having at least a "C" average in the course, no truantries and less than six absences.

## Students participate in Relay For Life to raise money to benefit cancer

Nick Stoner  
Staff Writer

Students are joining the nation in the race to combat the leading cause of death in the United States. Cancer claimed the lives of 559,650 people in 2007, according to the American Cancer Society. Fremd students are trying to decrease those statistics.

Relay For Life is an annual event in which teams walk to raise money for cancer. Last year, three million people participated in the United States, and walking took place in over 18 countries.

Junior Patrick Kennedy is in charge of organizing the entertainment for the local event.

"It's a great time, and we raise a ton of money for cancer," Kennedy said.

A lot of the preliminary planning is being done through National Honor Society and Service Over Self, a voluntary student service club. According to Kennedy, the clubs are making individual classrooms visits to inform students about the event.

"Teachers are usually really supportive because it's such a great cause," Kennedy said.

The event that took place at Fremd last year included over 80 teams of students and families who pitched tents and spent the night walking around the track.

At midnight, participants lit luminarias and held a moment of reflection for those who had lost the battle with cancer.

"The enthusiasm for the cause was really inspiring," junior Roxanne Miller said. "The luminary was really cool."

While Fremd had the privilege of hosting the local event previously, this year the relay will take place at Palatine High School on June 13-14.