



# SEARS Community

QUARTERLY NEWS FROM KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT 38

SUMMER 2022

## A Partnership in Education: CONTRACT AGREEMENT REACHED WITH KEA

### CALENDAR

**June 13, 2022**

Regular Board of  
Education Meeting  
7:30 P.M.

**June 16, 2022**

Building & Finance  
Committee Meeting  
9:00 A.M.

**July 7, 2022**

Building & Finance  
Committee Meeting  
9:00 A.M.

**August 24, 2022**

Confirm Residency  
Document Intake Day  
8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

**August 29, 2022**

Regular Board of  
Education Meeting  
7:30 P.M.

**September 1, 2022**

Teacher Institute Day

**September 7, 2022**

1st Day of School

The Board of Education of Kenilworth School District 38 and the Kenilworth Education Association (the union representing the teaching staff) entered into a new three-year Agreement following a vote at a special meeting of the Board on March 8. The Agreement, which runs from the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year through the end of the 2023-2024 school year, calls for:



- Four percent pay raises each year of the Agreement for teachers on the salary schedules.
- Continuation of the District's insurance programs including its major medical insurance plan for which the Board pays 90% of single and 75% of family of the premiums.
- Guaranteed amounts of weekly planning time. This will allow for teachers to plan collaboratively, problem-solve around individual students, prepare lessons, and communicate with families among other things. This time is essential for quality teaching and learning.
- An early release of students once a week in order to facilitate ongoing professional development for staff. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, students will be released every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to allow substantive, dedicated immersion on a variety of topics toward continuous improvement in schoolwide programming and classroom teaching. The District will work with outside agencies to provide opportunities for our students to participate in extracurricular activities during this time.
- Teachers' regular work day to begin and end 15 minutes before and after the regular student day. This time, more defined than in prior agreements, will be used by teachers to do a variety of activities to meet student needs. Teachers may utilize this time to prepare for student-centered activities, tasks, and needs.

The parties also agreed to modifications of the District retirement program, extra-duty pay, and tuition reimbursement plan. Both the Board of Education and the Kenilworth Education Association have committed to continuing discussions during the life of the Agreement about modifying the teacher evaluation process and creating new teacher job descriptions.

The Board and Association expressed their appreciation for the patience and dedication displayed by the parties and their representatives during this lengthy negotiation process. They are also grateful for the patience of the parents and community members.

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 2

RESPONSIBILITY • KINDNESS • HONESTY • RESPECT

# An Update on our Master Facilities Plan



Phase One of the Master Facilities Plan (MFP) was completed in the summer of 2021 with a renovation of the multipurpose space and the Junior Kindergarten classroom into two Junior Kindergarten classrooms and a Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten learning hub.

Phase Two of the MFP has now begun. In late March, construction began and fences were erected around the blacktop at the back of the school.

“We have begun Phase Two of the MFP which runs from the middle of April until the fall of 2023,” said Superintendent Kate Donegan. This phase includes the renovation of the Baker Building, the addition of the cafenasium and the renovations of portions of the original building.

“This summer, people can expect to see the Baker Building completely renovated. So, by the fall of 2022 when students return the middle school classrooms will be renovated,” Donegan said. “We are reconfiguring the building so that the center of the building is where all of our shared spaces will be housed, for elementary and middle school.” These spaces include a new art room, and other new shared spaces. During the school year, work on the addition will continue, Donegan explained.

“Students can expect the library to be partially available next year. The cafenasium will not be complete until fall 2023. So next school year, the gymnasium and the Village House will still be used for lunch and recess,” said Donegan. “In the summer of 2023, heating and air conditioning throughout the entire building will be completed, as well as the rest of the learning hubs, the green roof and outdoor garden,” Phase Two will be completed in the fall of 2023 at which time the blacktop in the back of the school will be accessible, Phase Three has not been scheduled and includes updating the finishes in the original building.



The haul road for construction is going to be down Cumnor Road, Donegan explained, adding that parking will be in The Joseph Sears School lot during the summer and offsite on Green Bay Road. This should not affect Kenilworth residents.

“We are so thankful for the partnership with the Village of Kenilworth and the Kenilworth Park District,” Donegan said. “We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with the park district in order to share spaces and provide programming for students, families, and community members.

## PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)

“I believe the parties have reached an agreement that is fair for our teachers, parents, and taxpayers,” said President of the Board Bill Graham. “I’m hopeful we look back at this experience as a reinforcement of our collective mission to provide the best education possible to our District’s students and families.”

Toula Sideris, co-President of the Kenilworth Education said, “The KEA is grateful to have reached a resolution to this fair Agreement. It is fiscally responsible, while continuing to provide an excellent foundation for our students. We look forward to continuing to honor the mission and four cornerstones of The Joseph Sears School in collaboration with the administrative team and the Board of Education.”

# Celebrating Milestones 2021–2022



## 20 Years of Service

Julie Fontana  
Bill Gordon

## 10 Years of Service

Karolina Bajkowska

The Joseph Sears School is incredibly lucky to have a team of teachers that are truly dedicated to their craft of education. Teachers play an integral role in our society; they give children purpose and help set them up for success later in life. Everyone can think back to a teacher they had in their youth that impacted their life in a positive way. In this issue, we are celebrating three individuals who have shown dedication to children and education during their tenure at Joseph Sears School. Congratulations!



Left to right: Karolina Bajkowska, Bill Gordon, Julie Fontana

## 2022 Springfield Trips

On May 16 (7th Grade) and May 23 (8th Grade), students took day trips to Springfield, IL. On this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, students explored some of Illinois's most important historical sites and experienced incomparable learning moments, including:

- Touring the Illinois State Capitol Building and seeing the state legislative process
- Visiting the childhood home of one of our nation's most influential presidents, Abraham Lincoln
- Reliving the 19th century through visits to log houses, taverns, and mills
- Paying respects to our veterans and Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Tomb

This was a trip that Sears students will be talking about for years to come!





## THE JOSEPH SEARS SCHOOL

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### Kenilworth Board of Education

Mr. Bill Graham (President)  
Dr. Lisa Metzger Mugg (Vice President)  
Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs (Secretary)  
Mr. Paul Anderson  
Mr. Ashish Kaura  
Mr. John Gottschall  
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### Kenilworth SD38 Administration

Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent  
Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal  
Mr. Martin Heffner, Assistant Principal  
Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, Director of Student Services  
Mr. Nathan McBride, Director of Technology & Innovation  
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# Congratulations to The Joseph Sears School Class of 2022!

On behalf of the entire District 38 school community, we would like to say congratulations and extend our best wishes to The Joseph Sears School Class of 2022. We wish you the best as you move on in the next chapter of your educational journey. Once a Panther Always a Panther!

