



MINUTES OF AN OPEN SESSION REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 38, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS; HELD IN THE CAFENASIUM AT THE JOSEPH SEARS SCHOOL, 542 ABBOTSFORD ROAD, KENILWORTH, ILLINOIS, AT 5:30 P.M. ON THE 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2024.

President Paul Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Mr. Paul Anderson, Mr. Bill Graham, Mr. Eric Hayes, Ms. Kate Tarbert, and Mr. Steve Potter.

The following members were absent: Ms. Lisa Graham and Mr. Ashish Kaura.

Also present were Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent and Ms. Rachel White, Recording Secretary.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES [5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1)]

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to go into closed session for consideration of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees [5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)]

A motion was made by Ms. Tarbert, seconded by Mr. Potter, to go into Closed Session at 5:36 p.m. The motion carried with a voice vote of 5 to 0.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 7:08 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Mr. Paul Anderson, Mr. Bill Graham, Mr. Eric Hayes, Ms. Kate Tarbert, and Mr. Steve Potter.

The following members were absent: Ms. Lisa Graham and Mr. Ashish Kaura.

Also present were Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent; Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, Director of Student Services; Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal; Mr. Nathan McBride, Chief Operating Officer; and Ms. Rachel White, Recording Secretary.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Anderson invited public comment. There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

Freedom of Information Act Requests

Ms. Donegan reported that there had not been any FOIA requests since the last meeting on November 18, 2024.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Project Lead the Way Presentation

Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mr. Nathan McBride, and Innovative Technology teacher, Ms. Allison Drew, showcased how the District has implemented Project Lead The Way (PLTW) to deliver a comprehensive STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) curriculum. PLTW promotes collaboration, critical thinking, and hands-on learning, equipping students with essential skills for the future.

Mr. McBride and Ms. Drew described the engineering design process of students in PLTW. This process is a key problem-solving strategy applied in STEM education and real-world engineering, and it allows students to refine their designs based on prior successes and adjust their strategies when their designs do not meet governing criteria and constraints.

To illustrate the impact of PLTW, several students shared their experiences with the Board. Sixth graders Sam and Sonja described how they analyzed problems and developed mobile app solutions to create and code different games. Similarly, eighth graders Maria Elena and Thomas explained how they designed and built a dragster race car. They discussed the design criteria and constraints they faced while using coding to bring their car to life.

Learning Environment Presentation

On behalf of the Learning Environment Committee, Mr. McBride provided the Board with a detailed update on the Committee's ongoing efforts to support the District's Strategic Plan. As part of this plan, the District seeks to build a safe, supportive, innovative learning environment that encourages all students and staff to work together toward shared goals.

Mr. McBride highlighted key accomplishments, including the creation of Learning Environment guidelines and furniture adoption for grades 3-8, Band, Orchestra, Music, and common spaces. The Committee's next steps include furniture adoption for grades K-2 and refining instructional best practices to maximize the effective use of the learning spaces.



Business Office Update

Mr. McBride reported that the District had successfully signed a new two-year electricity contract with SmartestEnergy with a fixed rate of \$0.07088 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), representing a significant cost savings for the District.

Mr. McBride also reported that discussions have begun on the creation of an ongoing five-year facilities plan which is a proactive step to ensure the District's facilities remain well-maintained and aligned with the needs of the District.

Finally, Mr. McBride provided an update on a recent phishing attack that impacted the school and compromised a Google account with the District's domain. He stated that in response to the attack, the technology team has taken proactive steps to strengthen the District's defenses by adding additional layers to the security of the school's domain.

Building Report

Principal Dr. Stephanie Helfand provided an update on several key events since the last regular meeting. She highlighted the Trimester One Panther Pride Award winners—an honor given to two junior high students per grade level for demonstrating outstanding character. She also congratulated the Sears Orchestra and Band students on their successful fall concerts. Additionally, Dr. Helfand shared details about the *Understanding Math* presentation, which informed the school community about the math sequence and placement process and how it supports student success at Sears.

TrueNorth Update

Ms. Donegan reminded the Board that District 34 had notified the cooperative of its intent to withdraw. As outlined in the cooperative's articles of agreement, this withdrawal requires approval from each of the 18 member boards. She noted that the Board will likely need to take action on this matter in January or February.

ED-RED Update

Mr. Hayes stated there were no updates at this time.

JSSPVA Update

Ms. Tarbert shared that the JSSPVA has been actively organizing the holiday parties and will shift its focus to planning the Polar Plunge starting in January. She also announced that the JSSPVA will host a casual benefit in early spring.



BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Finance Committee Report

Mr. Graham reported that the Committee met on December 5 to initiate discussions on the five-year facilities plan. He noted that the Committee reviewed financial projections and explored various funding models to support the plan. The administration will collaborate with DLA and FQC to develop a list of potential projects, including necessary facility improvements not addressed in the Master Facilities Plan. Once a draft is completed, it will be presented to the Committee for further discussion and refinement.

Board Policy Committee

Mr. Hayes noted that the agenda included several IASB-recommended board policy changes for a first reading and provided an overview of the proposed updates.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of 205-2026 School Fees

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve the 2025-2026 student fee schedule. A motion was made by Mr. Potter, seconded by Mr. Hayes, to approve the 2025-2026 student fee schedule as presented.

The motion carried with a voice vote of 5 to 0.

First reading of School Board Policies

Mr. Hayes presented the current IASB-recommended Board policy changes for first reading. He stated that the policies will be considered for approval at the January meeting.

Section 2 - Board of Education

2:105 - Ethics and Gift Ban - *Draft Update*

2:120 - Board Member Development - *Draft Update*

Section 4 - Operational Services

4:30 - Revenue and Investments - *Draft Update*

4:60 - Purchases and Contracts - *Draft Update*

4:150 - Facility Management and Building Programs - *Draft Update*

4:170 - Safety - *Draft Update*

Section 5 - Personnel

5:10 - Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment - *Draft Update*

5:20 - Workplace Harassment Prohibited - *Draft Update*

5:90 - Abused and Neglected Child Reporting - *Draft Update*



5:125 - Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct - *Draft Update*

5:230 - Maintaining Student Discipline - *Draft Update*

Section 6 - Instruction

6:60 - Curriculum Content - *Draft Update*

6:135 - Accelerated Placement Program - *Draft Update*

6:270 - Guidance and Counseling Program - *Draft Update*

Section 7 - Students

7:10 - Equal Educational Opportunities - *Draft Update*

7:100 - Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students - *Draft Update*

7:160 - Student Appearance - *Draft Update*

7:180 - Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment - *Draft Update*

7:200 - Suspension Procedures - *Draft Update*

Section 8 - Community Relations

8:10 - Connection with the Community - *Draft Update*

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Anderson asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the Consent Agenda items. Without comment, he entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Potter, seconded by Mr. Graham, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

Included in the Consent Agenda are the following:

- Open Session Minutes of a Regular Meeting on November 18, 2024
- Closed Session Minutes of a Regular Meeting on November 18, 2024
- Monthly Financial Reports from November 2024
- Monthly Investment Reports from November 2024
- Accounts Payable from November 19, 2024, through December 16, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Anderson invited public comment. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Tarbert, seconded by Mr. Hayes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5 to 0.



Attest for Distribution: _____
Mr. Ashish Kaura, Secretary

Approved: _____
Mr. Paul Anderson, President

ATTEST: _____
Mr. Ashish Kaura, Secretary