



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 5:00 P.M. ON THE 23RD DAY OF APRIL 2025.

President, Mr. Paul Anderson, called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Mr. Paul Anderson, Mr. Bill Graham, Ms. Lisa Graham, Mr. Eric Hayes, and Mr. Steve Potter.

The following members were absent: Mr. Ashish Kaura and Ms. Kate Tarbert.

Administrators and staff present: Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent, and Ms. Rachel White, Board Recording Secretary.

Also present: Ms. Adrienne Eynon, Board member-elect; Ms. Jessica Katz, Board member-elect; Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg, Board member-elect; and Ms. Mileva Zunjic, Board member-elect.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES; COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS; AND STUDENT DISCIPLINARY CASES [5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1, 2, 9)]

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to adjourn to Closed Session for consideration of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; collective negotiating matters; and student disciplinary cases [5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1, 2, 9)]

A motion was made by Mr. Potter, seconded by Ms. Graham, to go into Closed Session at 5:07 p.m. The motion carried with a voice vote of 5 to 0.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 7:05 p.m.

President, Mr. Paul Anderson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Mr. Paul Anderson, Mr. Bill Graham, Ms. Lisa Graham, Mr. Eric Hayes, and Mr. Steve Potter.

The following members were absent: Mr. Ashish Kaura and Ms. Kate Tarbert.



Administrators and staff present: 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.

Several Sears School parents addressed the Board to express appreciation for the current Junior Kindergarten (J/K) program and to share concerns about proposed changes to early childhood programming. Specifically, they voiced apprehension about implementing a mixed-age model and its potential impact on instructional quality.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Donegan reported that ten Freedom of Information Act requests had been received and responded to since the last regular meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Recognition of Kenilworth Park District Executive Director, Jonathan Kiwala

Ms. Donegan took a moment to recognize Mr. Johnathan Kiwala for his many years of dedicated partnership with the District and expressed her gratitude for his exceptional leadership. After a decade of service, Mr. Kiwala recently stepped down from his role as Executive Director of the Kenilworth Park District.

TrueNorth Update

Ms. Donegan reported that the TrueNorth Leadership Council met on April 6, 2025. She noted that a significant portion of the meeting focused on District 34's recent decision to withdraw from the Cooperative and District 225's newly announced intent to do the same. She further shared that, during a recent superintendents' meeting, 11 of the 18 districts in the Cooperative indicated they had either begun discussions with their Boards of Education or had already initiated the process to vote on submitting their intent to withdraw. Ms. Donegan emphasized that the financial burden on the remaining members increases as more districts leave the Cooperative. She also cautioned that if a majority of member districts submit withdrawal notices, the Cooperative may ultimately be dissolved.

Early Childhood Programming Clarification

In response to feedback following the February presentation, Ms. Donegan offered additional clarification regarding the Early Childhood Programming initiative. To meet the legal



requirements to serve students with disabilities starting at age three, the Board of Education approved an early childhood model that includes a small number of three-year-olds in the morning of our current full-day four-year-old program, which will be supported by additional educators, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. She explained that this model also expands access to four-year-olds and aligns with research-based best practices in early childhood education.

Ms. Donegan added that the decision is the result of a multi-year planning process shaped by input from families, who made clear that they wanted a full-day program, expert consultations, and models from peer districts. It also reflects growing concern about the sustainability of the District's current special education cooperative, which is facing significant challenges.

Suspension Report

Ms. Donegan presented the Board with the suspension list from May 2025.

Business Office Update

Mr. McBride shared an update on the FY25 budget, noting that spring tax revenue was received on time, placing the District in a stronger financial position as year-end approaches. The District is now projected to close the fiscal year with a fund balance exceeding earlier estimates. He also reported that the development of the FY26 budget is underway.

Additionally, he noted that the final technology parent education event of the year was held, focusing on the role of AI in education and offering practical guidance for supporting children in the digital world.

Finally, Mr. McBride shared that furniture for Kindergarten through second grade has been ordered as part of ongoing furniture adoptions.

Building Report

Dr. Helfand shared highlights from several key events since the last regular meeting. She reported that the 2nd Annual Polar Plunge was a great success, raising over \$10,000 for Special Olympics Illinois. She also recognized School Librarian Appreciation Day, thanking Kristie Cerniglia and Alex Towers for their dedication and contributions.

In honor of Autism Acceptance Month, Dr. Helfand emphasized the importance of celebrating the diverse ways individuals think, learn, and experience the world. As part of this recognition, Mr. Towers visited classrooms to read a book centered on autism acceptance.

Additionally, Dr. Helfand shared that the school hosted its annual Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Week, encouraging students to embrace active transportation and support green initiatives.



Ed-Red Update

Mr. Hayes reported that while there is no formal ED-Red update this month, he has been monitoring developments in Springfield, where several House bills have recently been proposed.

JSSPVA Update

In Ms. Tarbert's absence, Mr. Anderson reported that the JSSPVA's April Social was well attended. The association continues to explore new ways to foster community and create meaningful connections throughout the year. In an effort to take a more strategic approach to fundraising, they have established a dedicated fundraising position to expand efforts beyond the traditional benefit events. Additionally, the association is collaborating with the school and park district to clarify which organization will take the lead on various school-related activities.

2024-2025 Master Schedule Update

Dr. Helfand reported that, as part of the District's strategic work, a study of the JK–8 master schedule was conducted to better support the academic, developmental, and operational needs of the school community. The goals include maximizing instructional time, expanding project-based learning, and promoting staff sustainability through collaborative planning and balanced days. She shared a progress timeline to date, including stakeholder input, theme identification, schedule design, and staff feedback. A revised draft has now been shared with Team Coordinators. She noted that while some staff proposals require further review, key improvements to logistics and planning time will be implemented in the 2025–2026 school year as broader analysis continues.

BOARD COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Building and Finance Committee Report

Mr. Graham reported that the Building and Finance Committee met on April 9, 2025. During the meeting, the Committee received an update on employee insurance and benefits from Allison Evors, a representative from Gallagher & Co. In addition, the Committee was briefed on Phase III of the Master Facilities Project and received an update on the front-of-school landscaping initiative.

Board Policy Committee

Mr. Hayes reported that the Policy Committee had not met since the last meeting, so there is no update now.



CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Anderson asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the Consent Agenda items. Ms. Graham requested that the open and closed session minutes from the March 17, 2025, regular meeting be pulled for separate voting due to her absence from that meeting.

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the open and closed session minutes from the March 17, 2025, Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Ms. 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:

- Monthly Financial Reports from March 2025
- Monthly Investment Reports from March 2025
- Summary of Accounts Payable from March 17, 2025 to April 23, 2025

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve the March 17, 2025, Regular meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Graham, to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2025, Regular meeting.

The motion passed with a roll call vote of 4 to 0 (Ms. Graham recused herself from the vote).

ELECTION RESULTS FROM THE APRIL 1, 2025 CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board President Paul Anderson read the election results.

Official Certificate of Results of April 1, 2025, Consolidated General Election

The Cook County Clerk, having completed a canvass of all votes cast for Kenilworth School District 38 Board of Education 4yr. terms hereby certifies the following vote totals:

Candidates	Percentage	Votes
Adrienne Eynon	24.80%	189
Jessica Katz	24.54%	187
Brian Van Klompenberg	25.20%	192



Mileva Zunjic	25.46%	194
Total	100%	762

Board President Paul Anderson stated that “Based on the fact that they received the highest number of votes for office, I declare that Adrienne Eynon, Jessica Katz, Brian Van Klompenberg, and Mileva Zunjic are elected as members of the School Board for the full term of office elected for.”

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Anderson administered the oath to the newly elected Board Members.

Four newly elected Members to the Board of Education, Adrienne Eynon, Jessica Katz, Brian Van Klompenberg, and Mileva Zunjic, stood to take the Oath at the same time.

[Oath of Office: Each Board of Education member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, took the oath of office in the following form:]

2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct

Each Board of Education member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of a member of the Board of Education of Kenilworth School District No. 38, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further swear (or affirm) that:

I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets;

I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

I shall recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting;

I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;

RESPONSIBILITY, KINDNESS, HONESTY, RESPECT



As part of the Board of Education, I shall accept the responsibility for my role in the equitable and quality education of every student in the School District;

I shall foster with the Board extensive participation of the community, formulate goals, define outcomes, and set the course for Kenilworth School District No. 38;

I shall assist in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework;

I shall strive to ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and growth and all conditions affecting the education of our children, in compliance with State law;

I shall serve as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community's school (or schools) to advance the vision for Kenilworth School District No. 38; and

I shall strive to work together with the District Superintendent to lead the School District toward fulfilling the vision the Board has created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal development.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Board President Paul Anderson asked for a motion to adjourn to sine die.

Mr. Hayes motioned to adjourn sine die. Ms. Graham seconded.

The motion passed with all Ayes.

The Board paused the meeting at 8:20 p.m. to allow the retired members of the Board of Education to leave the meeting and the newly elected members to take their seats at the Board table.

The meeting resumed at 8:33 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING – ROLL CALL

Ms. Graham served as President Pro-Tem and took roll call at 8:33 p.m. with the following Board members answering as present: Ms. Adrienne Eynon, Ms. Lisa Graham, Mr. Eric Hayes, Ms. Jessica Katz, Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg, and Mileva Zunjic.

The following members were absent: Ms. Kate Tarbert.



Administrators and staff present: 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Graham, President Pro-Tem, opened nominations for the office of President.

Mr. Hayes nominated Ms. Kate Tarbert for the office of President.

With no further nominations for the office of President, Ms. Graham declared Ms. Tarbert as elected by acclamation to serve a two-year term as President.

In Ms. Tarbert's absence, Ms. Graham continued the meeting as President Pro-Tem and opened nominations for the office of Vice President.

Mr. Hayes nominated Ms. Lisa Graham for the office of Vice President.

With no further nominations for the office of Vice President, Ms. Graham declared Ms. Graham as elected by acclamation to serve a two-year term as Vice President.

Ms. Graham opened nominations for the office of Board Secretary.

Ms. Zunjic nominated Mr. Eric Hayes for the office of Board Secretary.

With no further nominations for the office of Board Secretary, Ms. Graham declared Mr. Hayes as elected by acclamation to serve a two-year term as Board Secretary.

ASSIGNMENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPRESENTATION

Ms. Graham appointed the following Board Members to the Committees listed below:

Board of Education Standing Committees

- A. Building & Finance Committee: Ms. Mileva Zunjic (Chair); Ms. Lisa Graham, Ms. Jessica Katz, and Ms. Kate Tarbert
- B. Board Policy Committee: Mr. Eric Hayes (Chair); Ms. Adrienne Eynon, Ms. Jessica Katz, and Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg

Internal Affairs Liaisons

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Bill Reviewer | Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg |
| B. Communications | Ms. Mileva Zunjic |
| C. Discipline & Ethics | Ms. Kate Tarbert |
| D. Diversity, Equity, & Belonging | Ms. Mileva Zunjic |



E. Emergency Preparedness	Ms. Kate Tarbert
F. JSS Foundation	Ms. Lisa Graham
G. JSSPVA (& Booster Club)	Ms. Jessica Katz

External Affairs Liaison

A. ED-RED	Mr. Eric Hayes
B. IASB	Mr. Eric Hayes
C. TrueNorth:	Ms. Adrienne Eynon

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the 2025-2026 Board of Education Meetings Schedule

Ms. Graham entertained a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

A motion was made by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Van Klompenberg, to approve the 2025-2026 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

The motion carried with a roll call of 6 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Graham invited public comment. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Graham entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Van Klompenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. The motion passed with a voice vote of all ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

All Ayes.

Attest for Distribution: _____
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary

Approved: _____
Ms. Lisa Graham, President Pro-Tem



ATTEST: _____
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary