



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 19TH DAY OF MAY 2025.

President, Ms. Kate Tarbert, called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Ms. Adrienne Eynon, Ms. Jessica Katz, Ms. Kate Tarbert, and Ms. Mileva Zunjic.

Ms. Tarbert entertained a motion to approve Board Members Lisa Graham and Eric Hayes to attend the meeting by videoconference for reasons permitted by the Open Meetings Act and Board Policy 2:220.

Ms. Zunjic moved to approve Board Members Lisa Graham and Eric Hayes to attend the meeting by videoconference for reasons permitted by the Open Meetings Act and Board Policy 2:220. Ms. Eynon seconded the motion. The motion carried with a roll call vote of 4 to 0.

Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Ms. Adrienne Eynon, Ms. Lisa Graham (Zoom), Mr. Eric Hayes (Zoom), Ms. Jessica Katz, Ms. Kate Tarbert, and Ms. Mileva Zunjic.

The following Board members were absent: Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg

Administrators and staff present: Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent, and Ms. Rachel White, Board 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)]

Ms. Tarbert entertained a motion to adjourn to 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. Katz, seconded by Ms. Eynon, to go into Closed Session at 5:07 p.m. The motion carried with a voice vote of 6 to 0.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 7:03 p.m.



President Tarbert called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Ms. Adrienne Eynon, Ms. Jessica Katz, Ms. Kate Tarbert, Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg, and Ms. Mileva Zunjic.

The following members were absent: Ms. Lisa Graham and Mr. Eric Hayes.

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

Ms. Tarbert invited public comment.

There was no public comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

Curriculum Adoption Presentation

The Performing Arts Department presented findings from their comprehensive curriculum review, designed to support student inquiry, differentiation, and more authentic, meaningful music learning experiences. In particular, this year's review focused on the curriculum's alignment with the *Portrait of a Sears Graduate* and Illinois Fine Arts Standards. The Department's research suggested that certain pedagogical shifts could further promote student creativity, autonomy, and comprehensive musicianship. More specifically, general music classes will integrate more of the Kodály approach to support music literacy and student expression, while band, choir, and orchestra programs will implement the Comprehensive Musicianship Through Performance framework to deepen students' musical understanding. None of these shifts will require additional materials.

The team stated that their curriculum review process began in 2023, with full implementation planned for 2025–2026. Teachers are currently piloting changes and receiving targeted professional development to implement the program shifts.

Suspension Report

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



Business Office Update

Mr. McBride reported that at the May 8, 2025, Building and Finance Committee meeting, the Committee received a presentation from Satori Energy on the potential for solar implementation in the District. The proposal included a conceptual design for the schoolhouse, financial analysis, projected energy output, and available incentives. Next steps include developing a project timeline and payment schedule, with an anticipated start in summer 2026.

He also shared that recent reports suggest a possible delay in the issuance and collection of Cook County property tax bills. While the extent of the delay is still unclear, it may impact the District's FY26 cash flow. In response, the District is reviewing cash flow projections under various delay scenarios to evaluate financial flexibility and identify potential mitigation strategies.

Building Report

Dr. Helfand shared highlights from several key events since the last regular meeting. She commended the eighth-grade class for their outstanding performance of *Disney's Descendants: The Musical* and celebrated the strong participation in Walk, Bike & Roll to School Week, calling it a tremendous success. She also highlighted the annual Fine Arts Night, which showcased and celebrated students' artistic achievements. Lastly, Dr. Helfand recognized Teacher Appreciation Week, held May 5–9, expressing gratitude for the dedicated educators who make Sears such a special community. She also thanked the JSSPVA for their efforts in making the week especially meaningful for staff.

TrueNorth Update

Ms. Donegan reported that the TrueNorth Leadership Council met on May 7, 2025, primarily focusing on ongoing discussions regarding Districts 225 and 34 and their intent to withdraw from the Cooperative.

Ed-Red Update

In Mr. Hayes' absence, Ms. Tarbert noted that while there is no formal update at this time, the Board may refer to the weekly legislative session update from Ed-Red included in the Board packet.



JSSPVA Update

Ms. Katz reported that the JSSPVA recently met to discuss upcoming support for Junior and Senior Field Days. She shared that the JSSPVA is also partnering with the Kenilworth Park District to host a food truck night featuring family-friendly activities such as face painting. Additionally, the JSSPVA will hold a 2025 Board transition meeting to welcome new members and recognize those concluding their terms. Finally, Ms. Katz noted that the JSSPVA will work with Dr. Helfand and Mr. Perlman over the summer to finalize plans for the 2025–2026 school year and begin the initial phase of the long-term strategic plan.

BOARD COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Building and Finance Committee Report

Ms. Zunjic reported that the Building and Finance Committee met on May 8, 2025. She shared key highlights from the meeting, including a presentation and discussion on the potential implementation of solar energy within the District. The Committee also received an update on the Phase III construction project, which will begin after the school year ends, and reviewed the District's five-year facilities plan. Lastly, Ms. Zunjic noted that Mr. McBride provided an overview of the FY26 budget timeline and outlined the steps the Committee can expect as the process moves forward.

Board Policy Committee

In Mr. Hayes' absence, Ms. Tarbert provided an update on the Board Policy Committee. She reported that the Committee met on May 13, 2025, to review recommended policy updates from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). She explained that these recommendations, typically issued quarterly, reflect recent legislative changes at the state level.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Resolution Regarding the Proposed Withdrawal of District 225 From The TrueNorth Educational Cooperative

Ms. Tarbert entertained a motion to approve the resolution supporting District 225's petition to withdraw from the TrueNorth Educational Cooperative.

A motion was made by Ms. Zunjic, seconded by Mr. Van Klompenberg, to approve the resolution.

The motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.



Approval of Salary Adjustment Recommendation

Ms. Tarbert entertained a motion to approve the salary adjustment recommendation as presented in closed session.

A motion was made by Ms. Zunjic, seconded by Ms. Katz, to approve the recommendation.

The motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

First Reading of Policy Updates

Ms. Tarbert reviewed the recommended policy updates from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), which reflect recent legislative changes. She noted that several updates pertain to Title IX regulations, including the requirement for the District to designate a specific Title IX Coordinator. The Committee recommends appointing Ms. Donegan to this role. Other notable updates include the addition of language addressing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled tools in the District. Additionally, she noted the update to Policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, which added a definition of “sexting” and its inclusion among prohibited student conduct.

Section 2 - Board of Education

2:260 - Uniform Grievance Procedure - *Draft Update*

2:265 - Title IX Grievance Procedure - *Rewritten*

Section 4 - Operational Services

4:15 - Identity Protection - *Draft Update*

4:80 - Accounting and Audits - *Draft Update*

Section 5 - Personnel

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

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

5:60 - Expenses - *Draft Update*

5:100 - Staff Development Program - *Draft Update*

Section 6 - Instruction

6:150 - Home and Hospital Instruction - *Draft Update*

6:235 - Access to Electronic Networks - *Draft Update*

Section 7 - Students

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

7:20 - Harassment of Students Prohibited - *Draft Update*

7:60 - Residence - *Draft Update*

7:70 - Attendance and Truancy - *Draft Update*



7:180 - Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment - *Draft Update*
7:185 - Teen Dating Violence Prohibited - *Draft Update*
7:190 - Student Behavior - *Draft Update*
7:200 - Suspension Procedures - *Draft Update*
7:210 - Expulsion Procedures - *Draft Update*
7:250 - Student Support Services - *Draft Update*
7:270 - Administering Medicine to Students - *Draft Update*
7:310 - Restrictions on Publications - *Draft Update*
7:340 - Student Records - *Draft Update*

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A motion was made by Mr. Van Klompenberg, seconded by Ms. Zunjic, 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 April 23, 2025
- Closed Session Minutes of a Regular Meeting on April 23, 2025
- Monthly Financial Reports from April 2025
- Monthly Investment Reports from April 2025
- Accounts Payable from April 24, 2025, through May 19, 2025
- Personnel Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Tarbert invited public comment. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

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

A motion was made by Ms. Zunjic, seconded by Ms. Katz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. The motion passed with a voice vote of all ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

All Ayes.

Attest for Distribution: _____
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary



Approved: _____
Ms. Kathryn Tarbert, President

ATTEST: _____
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary