



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 6:00 P.M. ON THE 18TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.

President Paul Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Mr. Paul Anderson, Mr. Bill Graham, Ms. Lisa Graham, Mr. Eric Hayes, Mr. Ashish Kaura, and Ms. Kate Tarbert.

The following members were absent: Mr. Steve Potter.

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; COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS; STUDENT DISCIPLINARY CASES; AND PENDING LITIGATION.[5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1, 2, 9, 10)]

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

A motion was made by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Ms. Tarbert, to go into Closed Session at 6:07 p.m. The motion carried with a voice vote of 6 to 0.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.

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

The following members were absent: Mr. Steve Potter.

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.

Mr. Tom Del Carlo addressed the Board to express his interest in understanding the role of technology in the classroom. He voiced concerns about the increasing reliance on technology, questioning whether it might be fostering an over-dependence. Mr. Del Carlo also raised doubts about the necessity of technology, particularly in the younger grades, and sought clarification on its role in early education.

Ms. Halie Braden expressed her interest in gaining a deeper understanding of how technology is integrated into the classroom, particularly the apps used in the elementary school program and the process for evaluating their effectiveness.

FINANCIAL

Public Hearing for 2024 Tax Levy

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to open a public hearing for consideration of the 2024 Tax Levy. A motion was made by Ms. Tarbert, seconded by Ms. Graham, to go into a public hearing regarding the proposed 2024 Tax Levy.

The motion carried with a roll call vote of members present voting 6-0.

Mr. Anderson invited any public comment related to the consideration of the 2024 Tax Levy.

There being no public comment, Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to close the public hearing. A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Mr. Hayes, to close the public hearing regarding the proposed 2024 Tax Levy. The motion carried with a roll call vote of members presented voting 6-0.

Mr. McBride presented the estimate of the 2024 Tax Levy. He outlined the process and recommended that the District request an extension of 4.49% for All Funds and 4.99% for Operating Funds for the 2024 Fiscal Year.

Approval of the 2024 Tax Levy

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve the 2024 Tax Levy as presented. A motion was made by Ms. Tarbert, seconded by Ms. Graham, to approve the 2024 Tax Levy.

The motion carried with a roll call vote of members present voting 6-0.



CORRESPONDENCE

Freedom of Information Act Requests

Ms. Donegan reported that there had been three FOIA requests since the last meeting on September 23, 2024.

- Casey, Katherine; Science of Reading Illinois. K-3rd grade core curricula to teacher reading. Received on October 4, 2024. Responded to on October 7, 2024.
- Campbell, Marie. Portable toilet rental and service to portable toilets from 1/1/2023 through 10/1/2023. Received on October 24, 2024. Responded to on October 25, 2024.
- Reid, Sheri; SmartProcure. General purchasing records from 8/5/2024 through 11/5/2024. Received on November 5, 2024. Responded to on November 11, 2024.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Technology Usage Presentation

Ms. Donegan reported that there had been community questions regarding technology usage within the District, particularly regarding the amount of time students spend on their devices. In response, the administration provided an overview of technology usage, supported by data and key initiatives to address these inquiries.

The team reviewed the findings of a staff audit that examined technology use and screen time across grade levels and content areas. The administration also outlined the District's comprehensive approach to monitoring technology usage, which includes ongoing collaboration with local, state, and national organizations to ensure alignment with best practices. Additionally, the District conducts annual reviews of digital resources by grade level and content teams and maintains a thorough approval process for all new resource requests to ensure they align with District policies.

Enrollment Report

Superintendent Kate Donegan shared the third and final enrollment/class size reports for the 2024-2025 school year. She explained that the report and demographic data would help the District determine areas most impacted by projected growth or decline and provide insight into the District's long-term needs.

Business Office Update

Chief Operating Officer Nate McBride reported that the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) audit, conducted by GW and Associates, P.C. during the week of August 19th, has been successfully



completed. Both the audit and the Annual Financial Report have been submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education and the North Cook Regional Office of Education.

Mr. McBride also provided an update on the Phase III construction project, noting that the team is actively addressing the remaining punch list items from the summer 2024 phase. Additionally, early planning efforts are underway for the summer 2025 phase of the project.

In his technology update, Mr. McBride highlighted the department's participation in the first of three parent education sessions aimed at equipping parents with the knowledge and tools to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of technology in education.

Building Report

Principal Dr. Stephanie Helfand provided an update on several notable events that have occurred since the last regular meeting. She highlighted Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Week, held from September 30 to October 4, encouraging students to engage in healthier, eco-friendly commuting options. Dr. Helfand also shared that Sears School observed Compassionate Citizen Month in October, aligning with National Bullying Prevention Month. This initiative is part of the District's broader strategy to cultivate a nurturing school environment where every student feels safe, respected, and valued.

In addition, Dr. Helfand reported on the eighth-grade Washington, D.C. trip at the end of October. During the trip, students visited iconic landmarks, gaining firsthand experience of American history and government.

Finally, Dr. Helfand spoke about the District's Veterans Day celebration, where students could hear from local veterans and express their gratitude by presenting them with handmade cards.

TrueNorth Update

Mr. Graham shared key updates from the November 13, 2024, TrueNorth Leadership Council meeting, including renewing the Superintendent's contract. He noted that the primary focus of recent discussions is District 34's notification of its intent to withdraw from the cooperative.

ED-RED Update

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

JSSPVA Update

Ms. Tarbert shared that this year, the JSSPVA organized a Halloween lunch party in the Cafenadium for students who preferred not to go home for lunch to change into their costumes. The event was highly successful, and they hope to make it an annual tradition. She also noted



that the Caring Parent Community continues to be a valuable and appreciated part of the parent community.

School Report Card and Benchmark Data Presentation

Principal Dr. Stephanie Helfand presented the Board with information about the 2024 Illinois School Report Card, an annual report released by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). She explained that the Illinois Report Card shows how the state and each school and district are progressing on a wide range of educational goals and provides a summative designation based on ISBE's indicators of student success. District 38 earned the Commendable designation this year and maintains the goal of achieving the Exemplary designation, awarded to the top 10% of schools in the state.

Committee Liaison Updates

Mr. Anderson announced a leadership transition within the District's committees. Mr. Bill Graham will assume the role of Chairperson for the Building and Finance Committee, succeeding Ms. Lisa Graham. In turn, Ms. Lisa Graham will take over as the District's representative on the Joseph Sears School Foundation, a position previously held by Mr. Bill Graham.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Finance Committee Report

Ms. Graham provided a report on the Building and Finance Committee meeting held on November 7, 2024. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed and discussed the 2024 annual financial audit and the 2024 tax levy. She also noted that the Committee examined the District's current electricity contract and explored the possibility of securing a new contract at a lower rate, given the fluctuations in the energy market.

Board Policy Committee

Mr. Hayes stated he would be attending the IASB Joint Annual Conference on November 22, 2024, where he will serve as the District representative at the IASB Delegate Assembly. He explained that representatives from schools across the state attend the meeting to vote on several resolutions.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of PSRP Classified Staff Union Contract



Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve a five-year contract between the Board of Education of Kenilworth School District No. 38 and the Kenilworth 38 PSRP Council, which will run from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030.

A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Ms. Tarbert, to approve the contract as presented.

The motion passed with a roll call vote of 6 to 0.

Approval of Superintendent Contract and Salary Adjustment

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve a contract between the Board of Education of Kenilworth School District No. 38 and the Superintendent, Kate Donegan, which will run from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030.

A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Ms. Tarbert, to approve the contract as presented.

The motion passed with a roll call vote of 6 to 0.

Approval of 2023-2024 Certified Staff Tuition Reimbursement Requests

Ms. Donegan reported that per the contract between the Kenilworth Education Association (KEA) and the District, teachers will be reimbursed for graduate course tuition up to \$2,000 each year for non-priority area courses and up to \$2,500 for priority areas courses. Requests for such reimbursement are submitted to the Board for approval in November of the following school year. Ms. Donegan presented the 2023-2024 school year certified staff tuition reimbursement requests and recommended their approval.

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve 2023-2024 certified staff tuition reimbursement requests. A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Ms. Tarbert, to approve the 2023-2024 certified staff tuition reimbursement requests as presented.

The motion carried with a roll call vote of members present voting 6-0.

Approval of Authority to Act on Electrical Supply Pricing Proposal

Mr. McBride reported that the District's current two-year electricity contract with Constellation expires at the end of June 2025 and presented the Committee with an electricity supply pricing proposal from Santori Energy. He stated that the electricity market is highly volatile but presents an opportunity for the District to execute a contract at a lower rate. He said that upon the recommendation of the Building and Finance Committee, he is requesting authority to execute an electricity contract at a rate below \$0.07200 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).



Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to delegate authority to Mr. McBride to execute an electricity contract at a rate below \$0.07200 per kWh.

A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Mr. Hayes, to approve the authority as presented.

The motion passed with a roll call vote of 6 to 0.

Approval of the School Maintenance Project Grant

Mr. McBride reported that to support Phase 3 construction, the District has applied for the School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG), a dollar-for-dollar state matching grant program that will provide awards of up to \$50,000 to grantees exclusively for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings for educational purposes. Mr. McBride stated that the administration is recommending that these funds be used to fund the removal of asbestos-containing materials and the renovation of the kindergarten bathrooms.

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve the certification of the School Maintenance Project Grant. A motion was made by Mr. Graham, seconded by Ms. Graham, to approve the certification of the School Maintenance Project Grants as presented.

The motion carried with a voice vote of 6 to 0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Anderson asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the Consent Agenda items. Mr. Graham requested that the minutes from the October 14, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting be pulled from the Consent Agenda to be voted on independently since he was not in attendance and, therefore, would like to recuse himself from the vote.

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the open and closed session minutes from the October 14, 2024, Committee of the Whole 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 6 to 0.

Included in the Consent Agenda are the following:

- Open Session Minutes of a Regular Meeting on September 23, 2024
- Closed Session Minutes of a Regular Meeting on September 23, 2024
- Monthly Financial Reports from September and October 2024
- Monthly Investment Reports from September and October 2024
- Accounts Payable from September 24, 2024, through November 18, 2024



- Approval of Personnel Report from September 24, 2024 through November 18, 2024
- Open Session Minutes of a Committee of the Whole Meeting on October 14, 2024
- Closed Session Minutes of a Committee of the Whole Meeting on October 14, 2024

Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to approve the open and closed session minutes from the October 14, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Tarbert, seconded by Mr. Hayes, to approve the open and closed session minutes from the October 14, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5 to 0 (Mr. Graham recused himself from the vote).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Anderson invited public comment.

Mr. Tom Del Carlo thanked the administration for providing information on technology use within the District. He expressed concerns about the level of technology exposure students are receiving, particularly at the younger grade levels. Mr. Del Carlo urged the Board and administration to reevaluate the role of technology in the classroom and consider whether its current usage is appropriate for students, especially in the early grades.

Ms. Halie Braden shared that she has been seeking transparency around technology usage in the District for over a year. Specifically, she is interested in understanding how much time, on average, students at each grade level spend on devices each day, as well as the District's overall philosophy on integrating technology into the curriculum.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Anderson entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Ms. Graham, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

The motion passed with a roll call vote of 6 to 0.

Attest for Distribution: _____
Mr. Ashish Kaura, Secretary

Approved: _____
Mr. Paul Anderson, President

ATTEST: _____
Mr. Ashish Kaura, Secretary