



MINUTES OF AN OPEN SESSION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 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 RD., KENILWORTH, ILLINOIS, AT 6:00 P.M. ON THE 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.

Board President Kate Tarbert called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Ms. Adrienne Eynon, Ms. Lisa Graham, Mr. Eric Hayes, Ms. Jessica Katz, Ms. Kate Tarbert, Mr. Brian VanKlombenberg, and Ms. Mileva Zunjic.

Administrators and staff present: Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent; Mr. Nathan McBride, Chief Operations Officer; 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; SECURITY PROCEDURES AND SCHOOL BUILDING SAFETY AND SECURITY, STUDENT DISCIPLINARY CASES; AND MATTERS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS [5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1, 9, 10, 11)].

Ms. Tarbert entertained a motion to go into closed session for consideration of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; security procedures and school building safety and security, student disciplinary cases; and matters relating to individual students [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1, 9, 10, 11)].

A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Mr. Hayes, to go into Closed Session at 6:01 p.m. The motion was carried with a voice vote of 7 to 0.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 7:07 p.m.

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

Administrators and staff present: Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent; Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal; Mr. Nathan McBride, Chief Operations Officer; and Ms. Rachel White, Board Recording Secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Tarbert invited public comment.



Tayna Brown, parent of a current Sears student, expressed her hope that the District will continue its collaborative relationship with TrueNorth. She shared that, as the parent of a student who has benefited from these services, she deeply values the expertise and support provided by the TrueNorth staff and community

INFORMATION

Learning Environment Presentation

On behalf of the Learning Environment Committee, Mr. McBride provided the Board with an update on the Committee's ongoing efforts to support the District's Strategic Plan, which aims to create a safe, supportive, and innovative learning environment that fosters collaboration among students and staff.

He highlighted key accomplishments, including the development of Learning Environment guidelines and the adoption of furniture for all grade levels, common spaces, and administrative offices. Ongoing initiatives focus on sustainability in partnership with local organizations, expanding programs such as Planet Panther, and developing a toolkit with visuals to guide teachers in strategic classroom setup.

Mr. McBride additionally reviewed the District's five-year facilities plan, an annually updated roadmap that informs maintenance, upgrades, and long-term improvements in alignment with the District's mission.

TrueNorth Update

Ms. Donegan provided an update on the pending reorganization of TrueNorth Cooperative 804, noting that the TrueNorth Leadership Council is scheduled to take action to amend the Cooperative's Articles of Agreement on November 19. She reviewed the proposed amendments and indicated that the Board will need to decide whether the District will continue its membership in the Cooperative. Ms. Donegan stated that she will present a recommendation at the November Board meeting to approve a resolution rescinding the District's intent to withdraw from the Cooperative.

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. Graham, seconded by Ms. Katz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.
The motion passed with a voice vote of all ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

All Ayes.

Attest for Distribution: _____
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary

Approved: _____
Ms. Kathryn Tarbert, President

ATTEST: _____
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary