



MINUTES OF AN OPEN SESSION SPECIAL 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 14TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Board President Kate Tarbert called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Ms. Adrienne Eynon (arrived at 5:34), Ms. Lisa Graham, Ms. Jessica Katz, Ms. Kate Tarbert, Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg, and Ms. Mileva Zunjic.

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

Mr. Van Klompenberg moved to approve Board Member Eric Hayes to attend the meeting by videoconference for reasons permitted by the Open Meetings Act and Board Policy 2:220. Ms. Graham seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll-call vote of 5 to 0.

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

Also present: Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent; Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, Director of Student Services; Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal; Mr. Nate McBride, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Caroline Roselli, Legal Counsel; and Ms. Rachel White, Board Recording Secretary.

Ms. Tarbert entertained a motion to adjourn to closed session for consideration of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee, or specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in an educational setting, and pending litigation [5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1, 11)]

A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Ms. Zunjic, to go into Closed Session at 5:35 p.m. The motion carried by a roll-call vote of 6 to 0.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 7:01 p.m.

President Tarbert called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as present: Ms. Adrienne Eynon, Ms. Lisa Graham, Mr. Eric Hayes (Zoom), Ms. Jessica Katz, Ms. Kate Tarbert, Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg, and Ms. Mileva Zunjic.



Administrators and staff present: Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent; Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, Director of Student Services; Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal; Mr. Nate McBride, Chief Operating Officer; and Ms. Rachel White, Board Recording Secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Tarbert invited public comment.

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Third Party to Conduct a Review of the Comprehensive Support Classroom

Ms. Donegan presented a proposed scope and process for a third-party review of the District's Comprehensive Support Classroom and recommended approval of a consultant to conduct the review.

She explained that multiple potential consultants were identified through recommendations from parents, Board members, special education administrators, and other professionals. Candidates were screened to ensure appropriate expertise and independence from prior working relationships with District administration.

Based on this process, Ms. Donegan recommended that the Board approve Dr. Christina Sepiol to conduct the review. Dr. Sepiol's professional background and experience in special education programming, administration, legal compliance, and advocacy were highlighted as qualifications supporting the recommendation. Ms. Donegan highlighted that the assessment would begin with Dr. Sepiol meeting with parents first to further inform the scope of the assessment.

Ms. Tarbert entertained a motion to approve Ms. Donegan's recommendation for Dr. Christina Sepiol to conduct a Review of the Comprehensive Needs Classroom.

A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Ms. Zunjic, to approve Ms. Donegan's recommendation for Dr. Christina Sepiol to conduct a Review of the Comprehensive Needs Classroom.

The motion carried by a roll-call vote of 7 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Tarbert invited public comment.



Kyle Gillen addressed the Board and expressed support for the District's decision to move forward with a review of the Comprehensive Support Classroom. He raised concerns that former teachers may not be included in the interview process, which could limit the completeness of the review. He also expressed hope that the scope of the review will allow the consultant to identify broader patterns across student experiences, rather than viewing concerns in isolation.

John Gottschall thanked the Board for recognizing the urgency of the situation and convening a special meeting to approve the program review. He expressed his trust that the Board and administrative team understand parent concerns and appreciated the steps being taken to address them. He added that parents expect continued diligence and commitment from both the Board and administration moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

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

A motion was made by Ms. Zunjic, seconded by Mr. Van Klompenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote, all ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Attest for Distribution: _____
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary

Approved: _____
Ms. Kathryn Tarbert, President

ATTEST: _____
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary