



**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 27TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.**

Board President Kate Tarbert called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 Van Klompenberg, and Ms. Mileva Zunjic.

Also present: Mr. Jeff Rosen, Assistant Principal, 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 specific employees and Security procedures and school building safety [5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1, 8)]

A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Ms. Katz, to go into Closed Session at 6:04 p.m. The motion carried by a roll-call vote of 7 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. Lisa Graham, Mr. Eric Hayes, Ms. Jessica Katz, Ms. Kate Tarbert, Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg, and Ms. Mileva Zunjic.

Administrators and staff present: 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 none.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

In Ms. Donegan's absence, Ms. Tarbert directed the Board to the Board packet for information about the Freedom of Information Act requests that had been received and responded to since the last regular meeting.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**



### **Recognition of Boys Volleyball Conference Championship Winners**

The Board recognized the varsity boys' volleyball team for winning the conference championship. Ms. Tarbert congratulated the team and Coach Sheridan on an outstanding season, with an impressive 11–1 record, and the excellent sportsmanship the student athletes demonstrated throughout the year.

### **Kenilworth Park District Update**

Michael Hixenbaugh, who joined the Kenilworth Park District in June 2025, formally introduced himself as the Park District's new Executive Director and provided a high-level update on current initiatives and future plans. He shared that one primary focus of the Park District this year is community beautification, including planting new trees, collaborating with local garden clubs, and partnering with the Village of Kenilworth on improvements to fountain landscaping and flower pots throughout the area. He added that looking ahead, long-term plans include enhancements to Pee-Wee Park and Townley Field. He also announced the official establishment of the Kenilworth Park Foundation, which will provide additional support and funding opportunities to help advance these projects.

### **Superintendent Update**

In Ms. Donegan's absence, Ms. Tarbert provided an update on the third-party review of the Comprehensive Support Classroom. She noted that all parent meetings had been scheduled, with the first meetings beginning on April 27.

### **Business Office Update**

Mr. McBride provided an update on the Cook County property tax delay, reporting that the District has begun receiving Levy Year 2025 tax funds and remains in a strong cash flow position despite continued uncertainty regarding the allocation of payments between levy years. He noted that the District will continue to monitor the situation closely as additional information becomes available.

Mr. McBride also shared an update on the implementation of the District's new self-service open enrollment portal for employee benefits, which will launch for the 2026–2027 plan year. He noted that the new system is intended to improve employee access and streamline the benefits enrollment process.

### **Building Report**



Dr. Helfand shared updates on the many events and activities that have taken place since the last regular Board meeting. She highlighted the student-versus-staff volleyball game, during which the eighth-grade students faced off against Sears staff and earned a well-deserved victory. She also recognized the World Culture Club for hosting a meaningful Eid celebration for students, explaining that Eid is celebrated by Muslim communities around the world and marks a time of joy, gratitude, and community.

In addition, Dr. Helfand highlighted the work of Planet Panther members, including a sixth-grade student who promoted sustainability efforts by speaking with students during lunch periods about the group's ongoing green initiatives. Dr. Helfand noted that the Planet Panther Club also organized several Earth Day activities, including a schoolwide plastic recycling initiative and grade-level competition.

Dr. Helfand also congratulated the eighth-grade students and Mr. Gordon on their production of *Annie* and thanked the students, staff, and production crew for an outstanding performance.

### **TrueNorth Update**

Ms. Eynon reported that the TrueNorth Leadership Council had not met since the last regular Board meeting and noted that she expects to provide an update at the May meeting.

### **ED-Red Update**

In Ms. Donegan's absence, Ms. Tarbert reported that there was no update at this time.

### **JSSPVA Update**

Ms. Katz reported that the JSSPVA has been preparing for the upcoming school year and continuing to collaborate with the District on strategic planning efforts. She noted that the organization has been focused on establishing intentional, impact-driven goals for next year. Ms. Katz also shared that the JSSPVA is partnering with the school and Park District to host an end-of-year Panther Zone event in conjunction with a community food truck event.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Building and Finance Committee Report**

Ms. Zunjic reported that the Building and Finance Committee met on April 9 and received updates on the Cook County tax delay and the in-house food service program. She also stated that a representative from Gallagher & Co. presented information regarding the District's health insurance renewal projections, current healthcare market trends, and employee wellness resources and incentive programs available through the Educational Benefit Cooperative (EBC).



## **Board Policy Committee**

Mr. Hayes reported that the Policy Committee has not met since the last regular meeting, so there was nothing to report at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Non-Certified Staff and Administrative Salary Increases for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Mr. McBride reported that non-union classified employees and administrators are not covered under a collective bargaining agreement with the Board; therefore, salary adjustments for these positions require annual Board approval. He recommended a 4.5% salary increase for these employees, effective July 1, 2026, consistent with the increases established in the certified and classified union contracts. He noted that this recommendation aligns with past practice, which has been to match salary increases for non-union employees to those approved through the collective bargaining agreements.

Ms. Tarbert entertained a motion to approve a 4.5% salary increase for non-certified and administrative staff, effective July 1, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Ms. Zunjic, to approve the non-certified and administrative salary increase for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented.

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

### **Approval Food Service Pricing for the 2026-2027 School Year**

Mr. McBride presented the proposed pricing structure for the District's new in-house food service program, set to launch in the 2026–2027 school year. He explained that the new pricing model is designed to be more affordable than the current lunch program while also incorporating a small margin to help offset increased electrical costs associated with the warming kitchen renovation.

Ms. Tarbert entertained a motion to approve the proposed food service pricing for the 2026-2027 school year.

A motion was made by Ms. Graham, seconded by Ms. Katz, to approve the food service pricing structure for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented.

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

## **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 carried by a roll-call vote of 7 to 0.

Included in the Consent Agenda are the following:

- Open Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2026
- Closed Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2026
- Open Session Minutes of the Special Meeting on April 14, 2026
- Closed Session Minutes of the Special Meeting on April 14, 2026
- Monthly Financial Report for March 2026
- Monthly Investment Report for March 2026
- Accounts Payable from March 24, 2026, through April 27, 2026
- Personnel Report from April 2026

### **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. Graham, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote, all ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Attest for Distribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Kathryn Tarbert, President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary