

**KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**September 14, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Kankakee School District No. 111, Kankakee County, Illinois, was held at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Mark Twain Primary School, 2250 East Court Street, Kankakee, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Members present:     John Coghlan  
                              Jess Gathing, Jr.  
                              Karen Johnston-Gentry, President  
                              Angela Shea

Members absent:     Amelia Davis, Vice President  
                              Joseph Lightfoot (\*entered at 6:16 PM)  
                              Barbara Wells (\*entered at 6:11 PM)

A quorum was declared present.

**Closed Session**

At 6:02 p.m., motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Coghlan, to adjourn to the Library for closed session to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Coghlan, Gathing, Shea, and Johnston-Gentry. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The closed session was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

At 7:10 p.m. the regular session was reconvened.

President Johnston-Gentry announced that the meeting would be adjourned at this time for a public hearing concerning the 2015-2016 School Budget.

Motion was made by Coghlan, seconded by Wells, to adjourn the meeting for a Public Hearing concerning the 2015-2016 School Budget. All ayes; motion carried.

**Public Hearing - School Budget**

Mr. Grossi presented the budget as follows:

➤ **Revenues:**

- R/E Taxes will increase approximately 1.0% due to modest increases in the consumer price index and little growth in new taxable property.
- General State-Aid will increase \$1.3 million due to an increase in proration from 87% to 92%.
- State grant revenues will increase due to timing of State payments.

➤ **Expenses:**

- Total salaries are projected to increase 1.2%. This is a combination of contractual increases, savings from retirements, and a slight increase in staff size.
- Employee benefits are projected to increase 2.2% due primarily to the increase in staff size and increase in health insurance premiums.
- \$500,000 in textbook purchases will be paid from the capital projects fund.

Mr. Grossi said that total expenses, excluding one-time expenses charged to the capital projects fund, are budgeted to increase approximately 0.6% versus FY 2015. Mr. Grossi reviewed the breakdown of the total budget by funds, the breakdown of budgeted expenditures by type, revenues vs. expenses, surpluses/deficits, historical and budgeted fund balances, and the deficit reduction plan summary.

Roll  
Call

Closed  
Session

Reconvene

Public Hearing

➤ **Summary of Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget**

- Excluding Capital Projects Fund, total expenses are expected to exceed total revenues by approximately \$2.8 million. This compares to a deficit of \$4.5 million in FY 2015.
- The total all funds deficit (expenses over revenues) is projected to be \$6.0 million. This compares to an all funds deficit of \$6.5 million in FY15.
- The projected deficit in the Education Fund is \$2.5 million versus \$2.9 million in FY15.
- Total fund balances are projected to decrease from \$13 million to \$7 million.
- The District will need to budget \$1.7 million of general State-aid revenues into various funds to eliminate expected negative ending balances.
- The District will need to budget permanent working cash fund balance transfers of \$2.5 million to the Education Fund and \$500,000 to the Operations and Maintenance Fund in order to eliminate expected negative ending balances.

**Public Comments**

Mrs. Billie Burrell asked if the budget was online. Mr. Grossi responded by saying that he will have it posted on our website.

At 7:20 p.m., motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Shea, to adjourn the public hearing. All ayes; motion carried.

President Johnston-Gentry reconvened the regular meeting with the following Board members responding to roll call: Coghlan, Gathing, Shea, Wells, and Johnston-Gentry. Mr. Lightfoot left at 7:14 PM and entered at 7:42 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Mark Twain Primary School. The students performed two songs, "*Bienvenido*" and "*My Country Tis of Thee*".

Pledge

Meeting with the Board were:

Dr. Geneva A. Walters, Superintendent  
 Laura Fisher, Assistant Superintendent  
 Robert Grossi, Director of Business Services  
 John Thomas, Assistant Superintendent  
 Vicki Scott, Recording Secretary

News reporter John Dykstra was present from *The Daily Journal*.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Walters called upon the principal's to share the following good news:

School	Event	Explanation
Proegler	Donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle &amp; Charles Ovando donated \$500 to the Head Start program specifically for the purchase of uniforms.</li> </ul>
Edison Mark Twain Steuben Taft	Donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edison, Mark Twain, Steuben, and Taft received book bags and school supplies from Mr. &amp; Mrs. Larry Linman, owners of local McDonald's Restaurants, and the Golden State Foods Foundation, supplier of food to McDonald's, for all 1<sup>st</sup> grade students.</li> <li>• Fully loaded book bags were also supplied to several students from Karen Zigrossi, founder of "Get Your Backpack On" organization.</li> <li>• Mrs. Way reported that Mark Twain received grant funding for two separate gardens. There is a vegetable garden with 10 raised beds and a perennial garden near the pre-k entrance. The gardens were planted and maintained with help from Mark</li> </ul>

Superintendent's  
Report

		Twain's new Garden Club, formed by Karen Dannenhauer and Angela Floramo. Families met this summer to plant, weed, and harvest in the gardens. The Garden Club will meet throughout the school year and they hope to invite experts to speak on various aspects of gardening. This summer Mark Twain had the help of Melinda Maass, Teresa Fuentes, and Christine Case and their families. All are participants in the dual language program. The students passed out baggies full of fresh vegetables from the garden to all the Board Members.
Lafayette	Donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert &amp; Rhonda Bond donated \$50 to be used to purchase uniforms.</li> <li>• The New Jerusalem SDA Church donated \$300 to purchase uniforms.</li> <li>• Joyce Shoemaker donated \$100 to be used for the purchase of uniforms and school supplies.</li> <li>• Caldwell Chapel donated \$300 to be used for the purchase of uniforms and school supplies.</li> <li>• Lafayette Primary School also received book bags from Mr. &amp; Mrs. Linman from McDonald's.</li> <li>• FedEx donated school supplies to Lafayette. Mrs. Holmes is using the supplies for homeless students.</li> </ul>
Kennedy	Donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamie Kotovsky, music teacher at Kennedy, recently received notification of funding from DonorsChoose.org and purchased 60 letter size clipboards for her music classroom.</li> <li>• St. Mark's United Methodist Church donated five large boxes of school supplies for Kennedy students.</li> <li>• New Jerusalem SDA Church in Bradley hosted a back-to-school pizza party for three self-contained special education classes at Kennedy.</li> </ul>
KJHS KHS Edison	Donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dave Leschnik, the new manager of Ultra Foods in Kankakee, recently attended the KHS Open House and a KJHS staff meeting and presented a \$500 check to both schools on behalf of Ultra Foods. He also presented a \$500 check to Edison. Mr. Leschnik is new to the area and wants to support our schools.</li> <li>• Mr. Hensley reported that well over 700 people attended the KJHS Open House on August 17<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>

- **Update on Goals/Objectives** – Dr. Walters said that the Board gave her five goals/objectives to work on and they are:

1. **Student performance/programming**
2. **Culture/Climate**
3. **Finance**
4. **Buildings/Grounds**
5. **District Accountability**

Dr. Walters stated that in terms of student performance and programming, the administration is specifically looking at the Freshman Academy. Dr. Walters said that the District knows that if freshmen are given a strong foundation, they increase the chances of graduating and graduating on time. She reviewed the freshman data from last year, the CIPS program, and the 2015-2016 freshmen based on their data from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She also explained the AIMSweb data system used for monitoring the students. The following supports and interventions that have been put into place will be continued: algebra recovery classes, READ 180, double blocked reading, double blocked algebra, and CIPS.

**Principal's Report**

- Mrs. Way stated that Mark Twain's mission is to build success together. This year they set a goal that they will view their school with an equity lens to create a learning environment that is both rigorous and joyful. Mrs. Way said that by utilizing every minute of the day as a learning opportunity, they will increase student engagement and close the achievement gap. She said the way to close the achievement gap is by first studying their data. The supports that Mark Twain has in place are: social/emotional support, a new dual language model, co-teaching, technology, use of curriculum, mentoring, and academic support.

Using the data to drive the new curriculum, the goal continues to be engagement this year. Another goal is to improve the culture and the climate. They have set a goal of 90% of their students responding to Tier I support which means that 90% of the students would have 0-1 referrals. They will also be working on their "soft skills", like learning how to respond when someone tells you "no".

Mrs. Way concluded by saying that with hard work, they can accomplish anything.

**Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**Consent Agenda**

The following items were presented:

1. The minutes of the following Board of Education meeting were presented for approval:
  - **August 24, 2015-Regular Meeting** (Regular & Closed Session)
2. The **Regular Bills** were presented for approval. (See Insert A.)
3. The **Payroll and Related Bills** were presented for approval. (See Insert B.)
4. The **KHS Trip Request** to Greece, Italy, and Spain was presented for approval.
5. The following personnel items were presented for approval:

Staff Member	Position	Effective Date
<b>Resignations (Certified Personnel)</b>		
Melissa Evans	School Psychologist at LCC	2015-16 School Year
Jeanne Benson	Vocal Music/Piano Instructor at KJHS/KHS	End of the 2015-16 School Year
Rene Santiago	Assistant Principal at KHS	September 1, 2015
<b>Resignations (Support Personnel)</b>		
Robin Funk	Paraprofessional at Mark Twain	2015-16 School Year
Ella Jean Willard	Paraprofessional at Taft	August 31, 2015
Betty Boundy	Kitchen Helper at Lafayette	June 19, 2015
Juan Luvian	Night Custodian at KHS	August 16, 2015
Salomon Varela	Head Day Custodian at Kennedy	August 16, 2015
Juanita Jordan	Door Monitor at Montessori School/LCC	September 15, 2015
<b>Appointments (Certified Personnel)</b>		
Donya Tetrault	Physical Education Teacher at KHS	September 15, 2015
Joseph Fuhrmann	Academic Interventionist, Part-time at Steuben	October 5, 2015
Stella Chingas	Academic Interventionist, Part-time at Mark Twain	October 5, 2015
<b>Appointments (Support Personnel)</b>		
Jocelyn Robinson	Paraprofessional, Part-time at Taft	September 15, 2015
Autumn Llorens	Paraprofessional, Part-time at Taft	September 15, 2015
Jessica Beland	Head Start Education Support at Proegler	September 15, 2015
Yesika Morales	Head Start Teacher Assistant at Proegler	September 15, 2015
Rochella Glover	Paraprofessional/Special Education at Taft	September 15, 2015
Jerry Wills, Jr.	Paraprofessional/Special Education at Edison	September 15, 2015
Juan Luvian	Head Custodian at KHS	August 17, 2015
Salomon Varela	Head Custodian at Steuben	August 17, 2015
Zoe White	Paraprofessional, Part-time/Hall Monitor at LCC	September 15, 2015
Rhonda Ayala	Paraprofessional/Special Education at Kennedy	September 21, 2015

Principal's Report

Public Comments

Consent Agenda

Board Minutes

Bills

Trip Request

Personnel

Resignations

Appointments

<b>Appointments (Extra-Curricular Personnel)</b>		
Brent Johnson	KJHS Robotics	September 14, 2015
Brian Fatka	KJHS Robotics Assistant	September 14, 2015
Elizabeth Benoit	KJHS Newspaper/Yearbook	September 14, 2015
Amanda Grace	S.A.D.D. Sponsor	September 14, 2015
Linh Williams	Freshman Class Sponsor	September 14, 2015
Heather Fitzsimmons	Sophomore Class Sponsor	September 14, 2015
Gabrielle Garrett	Student Council Sponsor	September 14, 2015
Gabrielle Garrett	Pep Club Sponsor	September 14, 2015
Geoff Gross	Yearbook Publisher	September 14, 2015
Geoff Gross	Newspaper Publisher	September 14, 2015
David Knudson	Yearbook Art Publisher	September 14, 2015
David Knudson	Newspaper Art Publisher	September 14, 2015
<b>Salary Adjustment (Support Personnel)</b>		
Anthony Sykes	Increase in Job Responsibilities	July 1, 2015

Salary Adjustment

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Coghlan, to approve the above listed Consent Agenda items as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE - Ayes: Gathing, Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, Coghlan and Johnston-Gentry. Nays: none. Motion carried.

**Action Items**

- **Approval of FY16 School Budget**

FY16 Budget

Motion was made by Coghlan, seconded by Wells to approve the FY16 School Budget as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE—Ayes: Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, Coghlan, Gathing, and Johnston-Gentry. Nays: none. Motion carried.

- **Intergovernmental Agreement with the YWCA**

Agreement with YWCA

Dr. Walters stated that the Kankakee School District and the YWCA have agreed to partner for the 2015–16 school year. The YWCA will provide one classroom for the First Taste Program at no charge. In exchange for this, the District has agreed to provide transportation for YWCA participants both to school in the morning and from school in the afternoon at no charge.

Motion was made by Wells, seconded by Shea to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the YWCA as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE—Ayes: Shea, Wells, Coghlan, Gathing, Lightfoot, and Johnston-Gentry. Nays: none. Motion carried.

- **Renaming Lafayette Primary School to Avis Huff College and Career Academy**

Renaming Lafayette

President Johnston-Gentry asked if there was any discussion on the name change.

Mr. Coghlan said that at the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting that the renaming was discussed and it was decided to bring it forth before the Board, but there was no mention of the committee recommending the name change to be responsible for raising the funds prior to the school’s official name change. He wasn’t sure where the \$30,000 estimated figure came from because he felt that we do not need a state-of-the-art sign.

Ms. Rebecca Winquest, who is on the renaming committee, said that she had a quote for \$11,000 from Friendly Signs. The quote is for a similar sign that they installed at Lafayette and is still in use. Mr. Coghlan said that isn’t important because we would have to bid out the process.

Discussion continued on who would fund the name change. President Johnston-Gentry wanted to officially

determine who would pay the costs associated with renaming the school. She stated that she cannot in good conscience spend money that the board doesn't have when we are cutting programs and staff. She also said she could not spend taxpayers money to rename a school when we are in a spending deficit.

The members of the renaming committee that were present at the meeting offered to fundraise for the cost of replacing the sign. Mr. Coghlan didn't think it was appropriate to rename the school on the condition of requiring the group to pay. He felt like it shouldn't be passed based on whether some community group wants to raise money for it.

After further discussion, it was decided to vote on the changing of the name with no financial obligation from the community renaming committee. If the vote passes, the name will be changed in 2016.

Motion was made by Coghlan, seconded by Gathing, to approve the name change of Lafayette Primary School to the Avis Huff College and Career Academy in 2016 as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE—Ayes: Coghlan, Gathing, Lightfoot, Shea, Wells and Johnston-Gentry. Nays: none. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business discussed.

### **Information and Proposals**

The following items were provided for information:

1. **Presentation on the 2015 Europe Trip**  
Mr. Bob de Oliveira gave a presentation on the 2015 Europe Trip. Dr. Walters said the students were absolutely fantastic. Mr. de Oliveira stated that next year's trip will be to Spain, South of France, and Northern Italy. The trip in the summer of 2017 will be to Greece, Italy, and Spain. Mr. de Oliveira said that within a week the 2017 trip sold out with 42 travelers and seven chaperones.
2. **Discussion about Budget (September 28<sup>th</sup>)**  
Dr. Walters announced an upcoming community forum for public opinion on the District's budget. The forum will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM in Lincoln Cultural Center's auditorium. The possible cuts or reduction in funding to be discussed are: preschool, grade centers, magnet, gifted, athletic programs, closing of an elementary school, staffing, and altering administrative structures.
3. **Personnel Transfer (Certified Personnel)**
  - Emily McDaniel, transferred to Lafayette Primary School, third grade teacher, effective August 17, 2015
4. **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
5. **Board Committee Minutes**
  - Curriculum Committee Meeting – April 29, 2015
  - Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – July 30, 2015
6. **FOIA Request/Response**
7. **Quarterly Student Activity Report**
8. **Preferred Vendor Discount Program for 2015-2016**
9. **Employee Start Date to Affect Raises**
10. **State & Federal Revenue Report**
11. **Budget Update**

At 8:35 p.m. motion was made by Coghlan, seconded by Gathing, to adjourn to the Library for closed session. ROLL CALL VOTE—Ayes: Gathing, Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, Coghlan, and Johnston-Gentry. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The closed session was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

At 9:26 p.m. the regular session was reconvened.

No action was taken.

Old  
Business

Information

Trip Presentation  
Open Forum  
Personnel Transfer  
Committee Minutes  
FOIA Request  
Student Activity  
Report  
Preferred Vendors  
Employee Start Date  
State & Federal  
Revenue Report  
Budget Update

Adjourn to Closed  
Session

Reconvene

At 9:27 p.m., motion was made by Coghlan, seconded by Gathing, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

Adjourn

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Johnston-Gentry, President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara A. Wells, Secretary

vs

**Approved: September 28, 2015**