

**KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
June 13, 2016**

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 Library at Kankakee High School, 1200 West Jeffery Street, Kankakee, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Amelia Davis, Vice President  
Karen Johnston, President  
Angela Shea  
Barbara Wells, Secretary

Members absent: John Coghlan (\*entered at 6:53 PM)  
Jess Gathing (\*entered at 6:05 PM)  
Joseph Lightfoot (\*entered at 6:05 PM)

A quorum was declared present.

**Closed Session**

At 6:04 p.m., motion was made by Shea, seconded by Davis, to adjourn to the teachers' lounge for closed session to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and negotiations. All ayes; motion carried.

The closed session was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

At 7:14 p.m. the regular session was reconvened.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Karen Johnston.

Meeting with the Board were:

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

John Dykstra from The Daily Journal was present.

**Superintendent's Report – Dr. Geneva A. Walters**

**1. Good News**

School	Event	Explanation
Aroma Park	Book Rewards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melody Orth has been promoting literacy within the Aroma Park School for many years. Because of the thousands of books she has given away and the bookstore she organized and operated, Ms. Orth is also known as the book lady. She has sold books at school events, including Family Reading Nights, and has written and received numerous grants, including more than ten for literacy within the Kankakee School District.</li> </ul> <p>Both Orth and one of the organizations she works with, Friends of Reading, purchase books and accept donations in order to give books to those who have none and to those who earn them as literacy rewards.</p>

Roll Call

Closed Session

Reconvene

Pledge

Superintendent's Report

Good News

Aroma Park Edison	Donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Thomas and Maureen O'Connor Family Foundation bought 16 bikes and locks for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from Aroma Park and Edison. They have been doing this for over 10 years.</li> </ul>
Edison	Donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Kinkade donated her daughter's uniform clothes to Edison.</li> </ul>
Kennedy	Honor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terry Roundtree has won the <i>Outstanding Female Educator</i> award from the Kankakee NAACP! This is the fifth year the Kankakee NAACP Branch has granted this award in honor of Women's History Month to recognize a female educator who has impacted her students on an academic and personal level. Kennedy is very proud of Ms. Roundtree and all that she does for their students and staff. Ms. Roundtree sets high expectations for all stakeholders – students, staff, parents, and the community. Congratulations!</li> <li>Kennedy held a fundraiser this year and the money went towards an outside basketball hoop and soccer goals. Dr. Lambert said that is what the students requested.</li> </ul>
King	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King teachers Tracy Selock and Janet Martin were awarded the ESP (Energizing Student Potential) grant this past school year. The ESP grant is in conjunction with the NEED (National Energy Educational Development) program and its sponsors include the Exelon Foundation, ComEd, BP, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas. This program brought together a STEM focus with Energy and combine classroom and community efforts in unique and engaging ways for our students. King Middle School received a \$750 grant to support the STEM Challenge project, \$3,000 of hands-on kits and curriculum, and an Energizing Student Potential Energy Fair Kit.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, a representative group attended an Energizing Student Potential Celebration at the Field Museum where they were highlighted along with Kennedy Middle School and received an award. They are traveling to Washington D.C. on June 24<sup>th</sup>, representing KSD111, to participate in the 2016 National Recognition Ceremony. We thank The School Board, the Superintendent and Laura Fisher for their support.</p>
KJHS	Honor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kankakee Junior High School has achieved <i>2016 National Beta School of Merit</i> status. This prestigious honor is a true indication of their dedication to academic excellence, leadership development, and commitment to celebrating their student's achievements. The junior high earned this award by offering National Beta to all eligible grades on their campus.</li> </ul>

2. **Inspire Award**

Dr. Walters showed the Inspire Award to the Board from Presence St. Mary's Hospital. She said Presence St. Mary's awarded the students of Kankakee River Valley with the Inspire Award because the students inspire them to do well. Our district created a video, "What Makes a Healthy Community," and it highlighted our students talking about what makes a healthy community. Dr. Walters stated that she is very pleased that St. Mary's honored Kankakee School District as well as the rest of the community.

Award

3. **District Strategic Plan**

Dr. Walters said that one of the activities that she was requested to do this school year was a Strategic Plan. In December, she started the process of gathering the information from multiple stakeholders. At a workshop were students, teachers, administrators, board members, and a number of parents.

Strategic Plan

One of the things she wanted to focus on is the partnership with the Illinois Center of School Improvement. The district has been in a relationship with the Center since December 2013. Dr. Walters actually met with them in March 2014 and they have been working with the district to

help increase student performance.

Marci Driver, Director for District Services Area IV, stated that the work they do with the school district is centered on three functions: Management and Operations, Learning or Instructional Infrastructure, and District & School Continuous Improvement. CSI's goal is to grow the district's capacity to do this work on our own. Lyn Carter from CSI reviewed the roles of the District Leadership Team, School Leadership Teams, and Instructional Leadership Teams.

Dr. Walters said the next step will be during a week-long leadership training where one of those days, July 27<sup>th</sup>, our school leadership teams will meet to align the school improvement plans to the district improvement plan.

Dr. Walters concluded the presentation with her favorite quote from Muhammad Ali, "Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing." Dr. Walters said it is not impossible be become a high minority, high poverty, high performing district, but it will take five to seven years to turn the district around.

**Public Comments**

The following public comments were made:

Name	Topic
Gloria Kennedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Found out her name was put on a list that separates her from the rest of the team as someone to be careful of and not to depend on for help. She asked for a meeting with the Board, the Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent Laura Fisher.</li> </ul>
Robert Ellington-Snipes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questioned the list that Mrs. Kennedy referred to.</li> <li>Spoke on the leadership at KHS and asked the Board to give the new leadership 3-5 years to turn the school around and build a committed staff.</li> </ul>
Rev. Dave Robinson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questioned the list that Mrs. Kennedy referred to and asked who would make such a list without talking to the individuals.</li> <li>Questioned the turnover rate at the high school</li> <li>Asked the Board to look into the new health insurance. He stated a lot of people are discontented.</li> </ul>

**Consent Agenda**

The following items were presented:

- The following Board minutes were presented for approval:
  - **May 9, 2016 – Regular Meeting (Regular & Closed Session Minutes)**
  - **May 26, 2016 – Special Meeting (Regular & Closed Session Minutes)**
- The **Payroll and Related Bills** were presented for approval. (See Insert A.)
- The **Regular Bills** were presented for approval. (See Insert B.)
- The **Student Fees for 2016-2017** were presented for approval.
- The **Unleaded Gasoline** bid was presented for approval. The administration recommended that the Board of Education approve an estimated price of \$2.0682 per gallon from Heritage FS of Gilman for unleaded fuel for the 2016-2017 school year.
- The **Bus Gasoline** bid was presented for approval. It was the recommendation of the administration that the Board of Education approve for the 2016-2017 school year an estimated cost of \$1.7626 per gallon for diesel fuel and \$1.8126 per gallon for winter diesel fuel from Heritage FS of Gilman.
- The **Head Start Policy Council Documents** were presented for approval.
  - April 19, 2016 minutes

Public Comments

Consent Agenda

Board Minutes

Bills

Student Fees

Unleaded Gasoline Bid

Bus Gasoline Bid

Head Start

- Supplemental Grant Application for COLA
- Base Salary Scale
- Quarterly SF425 Federal Financial Report
- Semi-Annual SF425 Federal Financial Report
- Reassignment of teacher Cynthia Baker to teacher assistant with a new salary of \$19,000

8. The following personnel items were presented for approval:

Name	Position	Effective Date
<b>Resignations/Retirements – Administrative Personnel</b>		
Jennifer Bednarczyk	Principal at KHS	June 1, 2016
Joy Chase	Assistant Principal at KHS	July 29, 2016
<b>Resignations/Retirement – Certified Personnel</b>		
Constance Beatty	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Kennedy	End of the 2016-17 School Year
Colleen Murphy	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Dual Language Teacher at Mark Twain	May 31, 2016
Jeanne Hatting	ESL Teacher at Taft	End of the 2016-17 School Year
Elizabeth Brown	Social Studies Teacher at KHS	May 31, 2016
Harry Boland	Business Teacher at KHS	May 31, 2016
Eleni Tselos	School Psychologist at LCC/Special Education	May 31, 2016
Shawna Young	Special Education Resource Teacher at Montessori	May 31, 2016
Mary Bedinger	Special Education Teacher at IMPACT	May 31, 2016
<b>Resignation/Retirements – Support Personnel</b>		
Delma Garcia	Paraprofessional/Special Ed Cross Cat at KJHS	End of the 2015-16 School Year
Rose Vickery	Paraprofessional/Reading at KJHS	End of the 2015-16 School Year
Cheryl Jenkins	Food Service/Substitute at LCC/Food Service	May 9, 2016
Linhtrang Williams	Secretary, Assistant Principal, at KHS	May 27, 2016
Alejandra Sandoval	Office Clerk at Steuben	June 1, 2016
<b>Appointments – Administrative Personnel</b>		
George Harris	Principal at KHS	July 1, 2016
Alicia Young	Principal at King	July 1, 2016
<b>Appointments – Certified Personnel</b>		
Kayla Wetzel	Speech/Language Pathologist at SSS	August 18, 2016
Amanda Thrun	Speech/Language Pathologist at SSS	August 18, 2016
Malik Temple	Music Teacher at TBD	August 18, 2016
Abigail Ragsdale	Spanish Teacher at KHS	August 18, 2016
Megan Parks	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher at KJHS	August 18, 2016
Laura Pignatiello	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade CCA Teacher at Mark Twain	August 18, 2016
Emily McDaniel	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade CCA Teacher at King	August 18, 2016
John Collins	Music Teacher at Kennedy	August 18, 2016
Paul Galassi	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade CCA Teacher at Kennedy	August 18, 2016
Dustin Rennewanz	TBD	August 18, 2016
<b>Appointments – Support Personnel</b>		
Karen Harrison	Director of Foster Grandparent Program	July 1, 2016
Valarie Snow	Volunteer Coordinator for Foster Grandparent Program	July 1, 2016
Leslie Salgado	Clerk at Taft	2016-17 School Year
Charles Longtin	Painter at LCC/Maintenance	On or before June 30, 2016
Paul Longtin	Carpenter at LCC/Maintenance	On or before June 30, 2016
Cynthia Baker	Head Start Teacher Assistant at Proegler	August 18, 2016
David Wills	Lead Mentor at KJHS	July 1, 2016
Matthew Gregoire	Carpenter at LCC/Maintenance	On or before June 30, 2016
Tewaine Wicks, Sr.	Security Officer at Avis Huff Student Support Services	August 8, 2016
Nathaniel Hill	Security Officer at Avis Huff Student Support Services	August 8, 2016
Clifton Johnson, III	Security Officer at KHS	August 8, 2016
Jevon Wesby	Security Officer at KHS	August 8, 2016
Christine Williams	Security Officer at KHS	August 8, 2016
Lee McKnight	Security Officer at KHS	August 8, 2016
Randall Pomije	Student Support Interventionist at KHS	August 18, 2016
Joseph Lightfoot, III	Student Support Interventionist at KHS	August 18, 2016
Keith Ahrens	Educational Technology Facilitator at KHS	July 1, 2016
<b>Appointments – Extra-Curricular Personnel</b>		
Ann Bernard	Green Team Sponsor at KHS	June 13, 2016
<b>Leaves of Absence – Certified Personnel</b>		
Megan Reiter	Pre-K Teacher at Mark Twain	3/14/16-7/25/16

Personnel

Resignations/  
Retirement

Appointments

Leaves of Absence

Jeffrey Anderson	PE Teacher/Traveling	4/25/16-5/31/16
<b>Leaves of Absence – Support Personnel</b>		
Danielle Wilkey	Special Education/Cross Cat Teacher at Kennedy	05/16/16-05/31/16

President Johnston asked if there were any questions on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, President Johnston asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Wells, to approve the above listed Consent Agenda items as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Coghlan (abstained from Item F.11. only), Davis, Gathing, Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, and Johnston. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Strategic Plan

**Action Items:**

1. **District Strategic Plan**

President Johnston asked if there were any questions on the District Strategic Plan. Hearing none, President Johnston asked for a motion to approve the District Strategic Plan.

Motion was made by Wells, seconded by Shea to approve the District Strategic Plan as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE—Ayes: Gathing, Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, Coghlan, and Johnston. Abstained: Davis. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Old Business

**Old Business**

Mr. Lightfoot inquired about the 150 year celebration. Dr. Walters explained that the district tried to hold a dance tied to the Homecoming dates, but only 5 tickets were sold. She said we held a golf outing that brought in approximately \$15,000 and the district aligned the fine arts performances with the celebration to rename Lafayette Primary School to Avis Huff.

Mrs. Davis asked if we have a Foundation Board. Dr. Walters said we are waiting for the Foundation to be approved and then a Board will be formed.

President Johnston announced that the IASB-IASA-IASBO Joint Annual Conference will be held November 18-20, 2016. The hotel registration opened up June 13<sup>th</sup>. She said to let Ms. Scott know if you plan on attend.

Information

Personnel Transfer  
Policy Changes  
FOIA  
Budget Update  
Financial  
Staff Absence Report

**Information and Proposals**

The following items were provided for information:

1. **Transfer**

Name	Transferred To	Effective Date
<b>Certified Personnel</b>		
Deanna Gaytan	Attendance Clerk at KJHS	2016-17 School Year

2. Board of Education Policy Manual Changes (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)
3. Responses to FOIA Requests
4. Budget Update
5. State & Federal Revenue Report
6. Staff Absence Report

Adjourn

At 7:58 p.m. motion was made by Coghlan, seconded by Gathing, to go back into Closed Session to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

ROLL CALL VOTE – Ayes: Gathing, Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, Coghlan, Davis, and Johnston. Nays: none. Motion carried.

At 8:27 p.m. motion was made by Coghlan, seconded by Gathing, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion

carried.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Johnston, President

ATTEST:

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

vs

**Approved: June 27, 2016**