



**KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111  
BOARD OF EDUCATION ~ COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

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**Committee** Finance & Facilities Committee  
**Date:** June 25, 2015  
**Time:** 5:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Lincoln Cultural Center, Room 217

Committee Members present:  
John Coghlan  
Jess Gathing  
Karen Johnston-Gentry

Other attendees:  
Robert Grossi  
Kenneth Carr  
Ronnie Wilcox

Absent: Dr. Genevra Walters  
Mary Clow

The following discussion was held:

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Gathing. Seconded by Gentry. Motion carried.

2. District Practices for Major Capital Projects

Mr. Grossi asked for the Board's opinion on how the District goes about deciding to conduct major capital projects. He wants to look into holding off on major capital projects such as boiler repairs and roofing repairs because there is work that needs to be done on the inside of the buildings. Mr. Carr researched, for example, that it would cost the District \$30,000 - \$40,000 to extend the warranty of a roof for one year. If the district did that rather than spending \$600,000 - \$800,000 on a new roof, there would be plenty of money available for other projects. Mr. Grossi and Mr. Carr are going to work together to put together a list of potential summer projects and evaluate how necessary it would be to do them next summer when compared to the other needs around the district.

3. Athletic Facilities

Mr. Carr has continued to hold meetings regarding astroturf at the High School. The project would cost an estimated \$1.5 - \$1.7 Million. Much of this cost is due to drainage problems. The district will continue to research any solutions to the draining problem. In the meantime, the Finance Committee hopes that there will be a fundraiser to gather some of this money.

4. Food Service

The food service director resigned effective June 30. She will continue to come in 1-2 days per week until a qualified replacement is found.

5. Lobbyist

Al Ronan has been a lobbyist for the district for most of FY 2015. He is paid \$5,000 per month. Mr. Ronan pays a grant writer to work with the district on finding and writing new grants. Mr. Ronan helped the district receive around \$400,000 in Hold Harmless money after General State-Aid was cut. Administration recommended renewing Mr. Ronan's contract for FY 2016. Motion made by Gathing. Seconded by Gentry. Motion passed.

6. Housing Incentive

The District joined the city in providing a \$2,500 housing incentive for any employee who moves into the city. During this year, only 1 employee has used this housing incentive. One other employee is in the process of closing on a new house in Kankakee. It is the recommendation of administration to continue this housing incentive in FY 2016, until \$25,000 has been expended from the District. Motion made by Gentry. Seconded by Gathing. Motion passed.

7. Procedure to Rename School

The Board needs to come up with guidelines in which a person would be qualified to have a school named after them. The Board asked Mr. Grossi to reach out to different districts to learn more about the requirements to rename their buildings.

8. Other Concerns/Issues

Administration is considering making residency a requirement for the next Kankakee High School Principal. They would like to do a nationwide search for the principal and are researching local districts to determine the principal's starting salary range.

The state announced that the new General State-Aid proration for FY 2016 will be 92%, which is higher than the last 3 years. Depending on attendance and a couple other factors, Kankakee School District estimates to receive an additional \$2 Million in General State-Aid funding.

Motion to end meeting by Gentry. Seconded by Gathing. Motion carried.

ed.