

**KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
November 9, 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 Auditorium at Lincoln Cultural Center, 240 Warren Avenue, Kankakee, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Members present: John Coghlan
 Amelia Davis, Vice President
 Jess Gathing
 Angela Shea
 Barbara A. Wells, Secretary

Members absent: Joseph Lightfoot (*entered at 6:09 PM)
 Karen Johnston, President (*entered at 6:17 PM)

A quorum was declared present.

Closed Session

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

The closed session was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

At 7:23 p.m. the regular session was reconvened.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from LCC. The students then sang the song "*Stinky Pirates.*"

Meeting with the Board were:

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

Mr. John Dykstra, reporter from *The Daily Journal*, was present.

Amendment to the Consent Agenda

President Johnston-Gentry requested a motion to remove Item G.11. from the Consent Agenda and vote on them separately.

Motion was made by Coghlan, seconded by Davis, to remove Item G.11. and vote on them separately as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Coghlan, Davis, Gathing, Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, and Johnston. Nays: none. Motion carried.

President Johnston requested a motion to remove Item H.1. from the action items and place it under information.

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Shea, to remove Item H.1. and place it under information as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Davis, Gathing, Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, Coghlan, and Johnston.

Roll
Call

Closed
Session

Reconvene

Pledge

Amendment to
the Agenda

Nays: none. Motion carried.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Walters reported the following information:

◆ **Good News**

| School | Event | Explanation |
|------------|----------|---|
| Aroma Park | Donation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norm Grimsley donated two nooks and two \$20 Barnes and Nobles Gift Certificates to be given to deserving students at Aroma Park. |

Superintendent's Report

Principal’s Report – Ms. Debra Dilks, Montessori Principal

Ms. Dilks began her presentation by reviewing the Montessori Magnet’s School Improvement Plan (SIP): Student Performance, Culture/Climate, Financial Resources, Building/Grounds, and District Accountability. She stated that the goal for student performance in the SIP plan is that 80% of their students will meet their growth goal (ROI) in AIMSWeb RCBM (Fluency) for the 2nd quarter and that 80% of the students will meet their ROI growth goal in aims MCOMP in the 2nd quarter. She then reviewed the AIMSWeb data. Ms. Dilks also reviewed the steps they are taking to improve the school culture, how they are using their financial resources, and what they are doing for District Accountability.

Principal's Report

Ms. Dilks concluded her presentation by introducing her staff. She recognized Gena Gregoire and Aubry Wilson for 10 years of service and Deb Adams for 20 years of service. Ms. Dilks also presented Susan Neeb flowers as she will retire at the end of this school year.

Public Comments

- The following public comments were made:

| Speaker | Topic |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Mayor Fowler, Village of Aroma Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asked the Board to not close the Aroma Park Primary School as it will be devastating and detrimental to the community. |
| Johnnie Graham-Wicks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated her concerns about an incident at KHS. |

Public Comments

Consent Agenda

The following items were presented:

- The following Board minutes were presented for approval:
 - October 21, 2015 – Special Meeting** (Regular Minutes)
 - October 26, 2015 – Regular Meeting** (Regular & Executive Session Minutes)
 - November 2, 2015 – Special Meeting** (Regular & Executive 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 **KHS Overnight Trip Request** was presented for approval.
- The **Head Start Policy Council Documents** were presented for approval.
- The following personnel items were presented for approval:

Consent Agenda

Minutes

Bills

Trip Request

Head Start

Personnel

| Name | Position | Effective Date |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Resignations-Support Personnel | | |
| Yesika Morales | Head Start Teacher Assistant/Dual Language | November 6, 2015 |
| Carol Wehrle | Head Cook 2 at Proegler | December 31, 2015 |
| Brian Shea | Head Groundsman at LCC | November 6, 2015 |
| Appointments-Certified Personnel | | |
| Maria Glasgow | Part-time Reading Interventionist at Edison | August 17, 2015 |
| Kathleen Reynolds | Part-time Reading Interventionist at Aroma Park | August 17, 2015 |
| Carolyn Serene | Part-time Reading Interventionist at Edison | August 17, 2015 |
| Christine Vaughn | Permanent Substitute at Lafayette | August 17, 2015 |

Resignations

Appointments

| Appointments-Extra-Curricular Personnel | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sean Dailor | Mathletes at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Shane Foster | KJHS Drama Club | November 9, 2015 |
| Devin Glover-Johnson | Freshman Basketball at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Neal Grimes | Project Unify Sponsor at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Cynthia Harris | KJHS Art Club | November 9, 2015 |
| Guy Jasmin | Assistant Boys' Golf at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Reggie Jones | Assistant Football at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Kendra Leftridge | Volleyball at Kennedy | November 9, 2015 |
| Brian Manering | Assistant Girls' Tennis at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Nicole McKean | Junior Class Sponsor at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Taylor Pryor | JV Cheer Coach – Winter at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Taylor Pryor | JV Cheer Coach – Fall at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| David Robinson | JV Soccer at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Julie Tomisek | Orchestra Director at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Jason Worden | Special Olympics Asst. Coach at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Christine Williams | Assistant Girls' Basketball at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Jerry Wills | Asst. Boys' Basketball at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Albert Zika | Asst. Girls' Track at KHS | November 9, 2015 |
| Leave of Absence (Certified Personnel) | | |
| Leslie Smith | Teacher/Special Education at King | 11/12/15 – 1/22/16 |

Leave of Absence

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Coghlan, to approve the above listed consent agenda items as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Gathing, Lightfoot (abstained only from Item G.10.), Shea, Wells, Coghlan, Davis, and Johnston. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Termination (Certified Personnel)

Terminations

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Davis, to approve the termination of a KHS math teacher (Frank Magidson) as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, Gathing, and Johnston. Nays: Coghlan and Davis. Motion carried.

Termination (Support Personnel)

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Shea, to approve the termination of a HR support staff member (Charlene Penny) as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Shea, Wells, Gathing, and Johnston. Nays: Coghlan, Davis, and Lightfoot. Motion carried.

Closing of Aroma Park Primary School

Closing of Aroma Park

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Shea, to close Aroma Park Primary School as presented.

Mr. Coghlan asked for a discussion. President Johnston then asked if there was any discussion on the closing of Aroma Park Primary School.

Mr. Coghlan stated that sometimes it is not about the dollars. Sometimes it is about an environment, a community or about all sorts of other things. He said that he realizes the District is in a financial crisis; however, thanks to the good work of Dr. Walters and Mr. Grossi we were able to reduce over \$2 million dollars of that deficit. When we went into this we thought we could save \$700,000 to \$800,000 a year. So what we are looking at is about 35-40% of that deficit in one year. The numbers we have come up with for the closing of Aroma Park are approximate. He has heard \$200,000 to over \$300,000. He does not think that when we are looking at those numbers within a \$64 million budget that it justifies closing the school. This is a school that has largely been supported by the community where time and time again the citizens of the community come and support the school. Mr. Coghlan stated that he knows the education there has been excellent. He said that we have heard time and time again how much that school means to the people of Aroma Park and to the people of Kankakee and that is because of the education provided from that school. Mr. Coghlan said to save dollars in that way is not the right decision, so he respectfully asked the Board to vote no and do not close Aroma Park Primary School.

Mr. Gathing said that the Board is faced with a decision tonight. The Board is faced with people from a community that would like to see the school in their town stay open. Each one of these Board members feels for the people. It is a decision that each one of has to make and live with. Mr. Gathing said the question I have to ask myself is am I man enough to step up and do what we have to do as a district, we have a job to do and this is a decision that each and every one of us have to make. I love this district; I was born and raised in this district. Aroma Park is a part Kankakee School District 111 and we are all in this together. The Board will make a decision tonight. A month, two months, three months from now the Board will have other decisions to make and somebody's livelihood will be affected. We are doing this because we have a bottom line we have to cover. We have to be honest with ourselves and whatever the decision is, hopefully it comes from the heart and we are doing the right thing.

Mr. Lightfoot stated that after serious deliberation and careful constant consideration, this decision tugs at all of our hearts. Whenever cuts are required, the question always comes back to where do you start. When you cut so many, nobody is ever satisfied 100%. This is an extremely difficult situation to be in. Mr. Lightfoot said the reason he is grateful that he was elected to this Board is because children are his passion, children are his heart and soul, and children are our future. He said he looks in the eyes of Dr. Walters and he embraces this line from her - every decision she makes has to be for what benefits the children. Dr. Walters has the children in mind and he said he can't speak for anyone else, but he has the same sentiment as Dr. Walters. Mr. Lightfoot said when it comes to the tough decisions, at the end of the day, it comes down to what is best for the children and not what is best for adults, not what is best for businesses, not what is best for a certain constituent, but what is best for the children.

ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Davis, Gathing, Lightfoot, Shea, Wells, and Johnston. Nays: Coghlan. Motion carried.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Information and Proposals

The following items were provided for information:

1. 2015 Tentative Tax Levy
Mr. Grossi, Director of Business Services, spoke briefly on the tentative tax levy. He stated the final tax levy will be brought before the Board at the December 14th Board meeting. Mr. Grossi said there is not much that a school district can do to affect the revenue that it brings in and this is a perfect example. Because Kankakee County is a tax cap county the tax extension that the district receives can only increase vs. last year by the rate of inflation. Last year the rate of inflation was 0.8%.
2. Board Committee Minutes
 - Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting ~ September 24, 2015
3. 150th Anniversary
President Johnston stated that the District's 150th Anniversary is coming soon and we have been talking about putting together a foundation. She said Mr. Coghlan was working on it and asked for a statement. Mr. Coghlan said that currently applications are being made and they are filing a 501(c)(3).
4. Head Start Policy Council Information
5. FOIA Response
6. State & Federal Revenue Update
7. Budget Update
8. Staff Absence Report

Dr. Walters announced that there will be a Strategic Planning Meeting on December 5th. She said we can only have a certain number of participants so we have invited a number of people from the community, teachers, and other staff members. We are going to post this as a board meeting so more than two board members can participate. Invitations will be going out very soon.

Old
Business

Information:

2015 Tax Levy
Student Activity
Report
Committee Minutes
150th Anniversary
Head Start
FOIA Response
Financial Reports
Staff Absence Report

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

Adjourn

SIGNED: _____
Karen Johnston, President

ATTEST: _____
Barbara A. Wells, Secretary

vs

Approved: December 14, 2015