



District 38 "Board Briefs" for the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2015

The information below summarizes highlights from the Kenilworth School District No. 38 Board of Education meeting held on Monday, September 21, 2015. As always, the community is welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings or, for your convenience, watch them streaming live. In addition, the meetings are taped and posted to the website within 24 hours for viewing at a later date. Finally, the Board posts to the website its agendas 48 hours in advance of meetings, and [Board Packets](#) prior to each meeting and board minutes once approved.

Public Hearing

- Dr. Crystal LeRoy [summarized](#) and gave a [presentation](#) on the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget. The budget, which shows a planned deficit of \$2.2 million, includes \$3.3 million allotted for potential priority building projects such as the installation of air conditioning and the improvement of the school lunchroom solution.

Public Comment

- A number of parents spoke regarding the 6th grade schedule and their concerns about student placement. Parents also put forth suggestions on how the administration could better group classes.

Administrative Reports

- [Superintendent's Report](#) - Dr. LeRoy explained the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act and how it relates to the District. The Act is part of a new law that requires Illinois schools to appoint a concussion oversight team to ensure student athletes complete concussion test protocols before returning to play. The District will implement the law this year to ensure compliance for the 2016-2017 school year.

Dr. LeRoy also shared a draft of the [Community School Contact Reference Guide](#) with the Board. The guide serves as a reference for parents and community members for whom to contact should they have a question on District or School matters. A similar guide will be created and shared with

Sears faculty and staff.

Dr. LeRoy concluded her report by referencing the upcoming meet and greet event, *Cookies and Conversation*, which takes place from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on September 29 in the Multipurpose Room. Parents are invited to discuss the new administrative organizational leadership structure with school administrators.

- [Chief School Business Officer's Report](#) - Dr. LeRoy reviewed a proposal to have the District's investment services combined and managed by PMA Financial. This would be done in order to provide more flexibility with investments and to ensure the District remains in compliance with state investment regulations.
- [Principal's Report](#) - Mrs. Kendra Wallace discussed student enrollment. Enrollment has increased to 490 students largely due to a number of former Sears students that have returned to the District. Mrs. Wallace also discussed the Master Schedule. Mrs. Wallace said she has received positive feedback from core content teachers regarding the extra time they have been afforded for instruction. Mrs. Wallace also led a board discussion on the 6th grade schedule (see below.)

Mrs. Wallace shared findings from the New Trier Township Freshman Preparedness Survey. Mrs. Wallace noted that the students surveyed were from the Sears Class of 2014. High School preparedness scores for Sears freshman exceeded the township average in English/Language Arts, Writing, Reading, Social Studies and World Language. Sears' preparedness scores were in line with township averages in Math and below township averages in Science.

- [Director of Student Services' Report](#) - Ms. Jones led a discussion on Deerfield District 109's decision to withdraw from NSSD (see below). Ms. Jones also updated the Board on gifted and advanced learner services. A written summary of services, including the process for student identification, is on track to be presented to the Board by Oct. 31.

Board Action

- The Board unanimously moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the [meeting minutes from August 17, 2015](#); investment reports for August 2015; accounts payable from August 18, 2015 to September 21, 2015; monthly financials for August 2015; annual application for recognition of schools; the [2015 salary and benefits report](#); authorization for the bill reviewer to approve October accounts payable; authorization for administrators to begin preparing the FY 17 budget; acceptance of the resignations of Mr. Robert Bialk

and Mrs. Shea Almendarez; and acceptance of a request for employee retirement.

- The Board unanimously approved [the 2015-2016 FY Budget](#).
- The Board unanimously voted against the consensual withdrawal of Deerfield District 109 from NSSD.
- The Board unanimously approved the release of various Closed Session minutes from May 2011 to July 2015.
- The Board unanimously approved the hiring of Spanish teacher Ms. Luisa Panishian, Technology Facilitator Mrs. Enza Fox and Instructional Assistant Mrs. Debbie Kruse. The Board also approved an FTE increase for Mrs. Natalie McLemore, whose teaching duties have increased.
- The Board unanimously approved PMA as the District's single financial network for investment services.

Board Discussion

- Mrs. Kendra Wallace led a Board discussion on the 6th grade class groupings. Mrs. Wallace explained the process used in generating school schedules as well as the factors that went into the math matrix used in determining math placement. Mrs. Wallace said students would continue to be evaluated through October and class groupings would be revised accordingly.

The Board offered to help the Administration by facilitating a discussion with administrators and 6th grade parents. The Board determined President Scott Wallace and potentially other board members would plan a meeting with administrators and 6th grade parents in the coming weeks. Parents would be notified of the meeting time once it has been scheduled.

- The Board discussed the consensual withdrawal on Deerfield District 109 from NSSD. Board members generally expressed concern that they would not be able to accurately determine whether District 109 has the ability to provide services for students on its own. The Board also considered statements from NSSD on the issue before coming to a decision.

Questions -- Please direct your questions or comments to the Kenilworth School District No. 38 **Sounding Board** that was created to provide community members the chance to share comments, questions, compliments and concerns. All messages are sent to the Board of Education Members, Superintendent, Business Services and Human Resources Manager, Principal and Director of Student Services. We are listening and you can communicate with us by sending an email to listen@kenilworth38.org. We ask that you do not reply directly to this email because such replies cannot be answered. Thank you!

Scott Wallace, President
Kenilworth Board of Education