



**District 38 "Board Briefs" for  
May 21, 2018 and May 24, 2018**

The information below summarizes highlights from the regular board meeting held on May 21, 2018 and the special board meeting held on May 24, 2018. We invite you to watch the video recordings from both meetings on the district website.

**May 24, 2018 Special Meeting**

**Statement from the Board**

Mrs. Mindy Kelly delivered the following statement on behalf of the Board:

To the Faculty, Families, Friends and Community Members of The Joseph Sears School:

We called this meeting to take action on the resignation letter tendered by Mrs. Wallace. Thank you for bearing with us during this lengthy process.

As you have seen in yesterday's email from Mrs. Wallace, she has accepted a new position in the area. On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank Mrs. Wallace for her four years of service as Principal of The Joseph Sears School and we wish her the very best in the new role. So many of you have come forward and shared stories of the impact Mrs. Wallace has made on not only your children, but on our entire school community. We very much appreciate all Mrs. Wallace has done for the children and families of Kenilworth.

In the coming weeks, we will begin a comprehensive search process to find the best possible candidate to fill the open principal vacancy. Given the timing of our search, and the full and robust search process we hope to employ, we may not have our long-term principal in place before the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Should this be the case, and our search does not immediately produce an outstanding candidate to fill the position, we will hire an interim principal and rely upon the experience of our teachers and administrators to ensure Sears continues to operate at a high level. We will involve all of our constituents in our search – parents, teachers and residents – in order to arrive at the best possible outcome.

Organizational stability remains the highest priority for the Board of Education. Mrs. Wallace's resignation has laid bare long-standing cultural issues within our school community. Frequent administrative turnover is counterproductive to our mission. Beginning this summer and continuing throughout the 2018-2019 school year, we will

work to identify the issues that have led to high administrative turnover over the past decade. Please know we are very committed to understanding and addressing these issues over the course of the coming months and where appropriate, we will engage high quality external resources to assist us in this process.

We take very seriously our responsibility to act on your behalf and to keep you engaged along the way. Throughout this process, we have struggled to find the right balance between privacy and full disclosure. We have learned some hard lessons out of this and many of you have given us clear and direct feedback on areas we can improve on. In July, we will be having a day-long board offsite meeting where we will address these issues. We will share with you any changes that we may make at that time.

We believe it is appropriate to acknowledge to the community something simple, yet powerful. A great majority of you expressed a strong desire that Mrs. Wallace continue on as our Principal. We are board members elected through a democratic process to work on behalf of the people who elected us. Yet we have an outcome counter to the desire expressed by many of our constituents. We completely understand the sense of unfairness that some of you may feel. We apologize and very much feel the weight of our obligation to the community. Reflecting on this, we plan to identify opportunities to dialogue with the community. We will identify these opportunities to have a more robust dialogue on the path forward. Further details will be forthcoming.

Finally, Sears remains an outstanding school thanks to the dedicated families, teachers and administrators that make up our school community. Further, starting in July, our Administrative team will be greatly strengthened by the addition of Dr. Lisa Leali and Ms. Zuica Donev in their respective roles as Chief Education Officer and Director of Student Services. We also are assisted by our Superintendent, Dr. Crystal LeRoy. While we undergo a period of transition in the short-term, we are confident that the future of our school district is secure under the vision and leadership of our new Administrative team.

Thank you all for coming out tonight and thank you for your continued passion for Sears. We look forward to working collaboratively as partners this year and into the future.

#### Board Action

- The Board voted to accept the resignation of Mrs. Wallace by a vote of 4 yeses, 1 no and 1 abstain. One board member was absent.
- The Board unanimously approved the [revised Village House Development Agreement between Kenilworth School District No. 38 and the Kenilworth Park District](#). During discussion, it was noted that the revised agreement explicitly states that project construction will not begin until all funds for the project have been raised.

***May 21, 2018 Regular Meeting***

## Administrative Reports

- Superintendent's Report - Dr. LeRoy led the Board in a discussion about the board committee structure (below). Dr. LeRoy also discussed the [transition plan](#) for the new Chief Education Officer and the new Director of Student Services.
- Chief School Business Official's Report - Dr. LeRoy reviewed questions and concerns related to the monthly financial and investment reports.
- Principal's Report - Mrs. Wallace gave a status update on the district's curriculum renewal process. Mrs. Wallace also noted that the Discipline and Ethics Committee met to review and suggest revisions to the school handbook.

## Board Action

- The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda to include the approval of: [minutes from the May 3, 2018 Board of Education Meeting](#) and Closed Session; monthly financial reports for April 2018; investment reports for April 2018; accounts payable from April 17, 2018 to May 21, 2018; authorization to destroy closed session recordings from November 2016.
- The Board unanimously approved the adoption of Schoolwide K-5 Literacy Resources for Reading and Writing.
- The Board unanimously approved the [2018-2019 Board Regular Meeting Schedule](#).
- The Board unanimously approved the [District's Educational Philosophy](#).
- The Board unanimously approved the carryover and payout of vacation days for Dr. Crystal LeRoy, Mrs. Kendra Wallace and Mr. Besset Sabourin.
- The Board unanimously approved the addition of a 1-year, 0.5 FTE Spanish teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Wallace noted that the position would allow for additional support of the World Language Department as they move through the curriculum renewal process.

## Board Discussion

- Dr. Biancalana, Mrs. Rodriguez, Mrs. Singer and Mrs. Wallace gave a presentation on the adoption of K-5 Schoolwide Resources for Reading and Writing.
- Dr. LeRoy led the Board in a discussion of the board's committee structure. The Board considered the merits of changing the existing board committee structure and returning to standing committees. The Board will discuss the idea further during their strategic retreat during the summer.

**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 members, Superintendent/CSBO, Principal and Director of Student Services. We are listening and you can communicate with us by sending an email to [listen@kenilworth38.org](mailto:listen@kenilworth38.org). Thank you!

Mindy Kelly  
President  
Kenilworth Board of Education

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Responsibility, Kindness, Honesty, Respect