

KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38

January 23, 2015

The Education Committee of the Board of Education of Kenilworth School District Number 38, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 23rd day of January 2015, at 11:39 a.m., in the Room 218 of The Joseph Sears School, 542 Abbotsford Road, Kenilworth, Illinois. Members present included: Mrs. Suzanne Nelson, Mrs. Betsy Moerschel, Mrs. Stacey Van Metre, Dr. Kelley Kalinich and Mrs. Kendra Wallace. Also present was teacher, Mrs. Toula Sideris and parents/community members, Mrs. Leslie Armstrong, Mr. George Kocalis and Mrs. Katie Nahrwold (arrived at 11:50 a.m.).

Review of Meeting Minutes from December 5, 2014 – The minutes were approved as amended.

Public Comment – Mrs. Nelson invited public comment. A parent commented that she appreciated the opportunity to share her opinions and was disappointed that her schedule did not allow her to attend one of the parent forums. She noted that she prefers the current lunch period of 55 minutes and would be concerned if this time period were to be reduced for her children in order to go home for lunch. She also expressed that she thinks some parents are afraid to speak up. She offered appreciation to Mrs. Wallace for making some important decisions, even if she has received push back from some students or parents. A community member commented on how he valued the opportunity to go home for lunch as a student and was interested in understanding better why this might be changed at Sears School.

Review of Strategic Plan Curriculum Action Items

Master Schedule – Mrs. Wallace provided an update on the work of the Master/Bell Schedule Committee since December. Three parent forums were held in early January with participation from approximately 25 parents. She highlighted the points from her [memorandum](#). She noted that overarching question is “How do we find time for all of the needed instruction without adding time to the beginning or end of the school day?” Information to answer this question included the teachers in grades K-2 seeking ways to consistently include social/ emotional learning instruction, as well as streamlining some of their current instructional materials. Such dedicated time is being considered by reducing the World Language instruction for this population from daily to three times per week. Additionally, the lunch period may be reduced at different time segments for different grade levels and/or phasing in any changes. The Committee thanked Mrs. Wallace for her work and the work of the teachers. Mrs. Nelson shared feedback from a parent who contacted her regarding the potential schedule changes. She also noted that when a final recommendation is made she would like to make sure it includes best practice research regarding the delivery of language instruction, as well as comparison of Township language programs.

Mrs. Wallace summarized that the next steps in the process would be to finalize a menu of schedule recommendations, provide opportunity for the faculty/staff to review the schedule recommendations and provide additional feedback, followed by additional parent sessions, if needed. Mrs. Wallace will provide an update at the February 9, 2015, Board meeting.

Mrs. Toula Sideris departed the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Technology – The technology educators, Mr. R.J. Bialk, Mrs. Allison Drew and Ms. Elisabeth LeBris, presented an overview of the technology based services, resources and instructional integration at

Sears School. The [presentation](#) is posted on the Board of Education website. Discussion with the Committee included: inquiry as to whether there would be a future plan to make recommendations to parents regarding preferred devices for “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOB); a disconnect between school emails being sent to students throughout the day and students knowing to check the emails; as well as affirmation that hardware is repurposed and used in a financially responsible manner, but also making sure that “wishlists” are updated as needed. The Committee noted that it would be beneficial to promote the “HELP” button for parents to access technology related assistance using the help@kenilworth38.org email.

Strategic Plan Update Protocol – Mrs. Nelson asked what the Committee would like to have provided in terms of information on the progress of the Strategic Plan items. It was agreed that the tracking document posted on the website will be a good tracking document. Mrs. Wallace will create a one-page overview for each Committee meeting, noting the progress on the curriculum related Strategic Plan items. It was determined that presentations will occur, as needed, but the monthly rotation of highlighting all of the curricular areas will not continue.

Review and Discussion of Status Reports

Kindergarten Registration – Mrs. Wallace reference that there are 24 students identified in the census as being eligible for Kindergarten in the 2015-2016 school year with an additional known three students who reside in the District and plan to enroll at Sears School. She is working with the Kindergarten teachers to identify a February date for the formal registration.

Junior Kindergarten Enrollment Projections – Mrs. Wallace referenced that there are 22 students identified in the census as being eligible for Junior Kindergarten in the 2015-2016 school year. Currently, 8 students have registered.

Waiver/Modification Request for KIDS (Kindergarten Individual Development Survey) – Dr. Kalinich presented her recommendation to seek a modification for the planned state assessment as outlined in her [memorandum](#). The Committee endorsed the recommendation. As such, Dr. Kalinich will prepare the documents for presentation to the Board for consideration.

Set Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was set for Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 12:10 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Kelley M. Kalinich, Ed.D.
Secretary, Board of Education