

Kenilworth School District No. 38

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS October 15, 2015

The Education Committee of the Board of Education of Kenilworth School District No. 38, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 15th day of October, 2015, at 4 p.m., in Faculty Conference Room 119 of The Joseph Sears School, 542 Abbotsford Road, Kenilworth, Illinois. Members present included: Chairperson Mrs. Donna Keller, Mrs. Mindy Kelly, Mrs. Suzanne Nelson, Principal Kendra Wallace, Communication Coordinator Mr. Chike Erokwu and community member Mrs. Michele Kane. Mrs. Danielle Boros was absent.

Review of Minutes from May 26, 2015 – The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comment – Mrs. Keller invited public comment. There was none.

Review of Strategic Plan – Mrs. Wallace asked committee members if they had any questions about the education-related parts of the 2015-2016 Strategic Plan.

Curriculum Renewal Cycle Update – Mrs. Wallace said curriculum renewal accounts for a major portion of what administrators hope to accomplish in the strategic plan. Mrs. Wallace presented the curricular areas in need of renewal and gave a brief history of where the school is regarding curriculum renewal. Some school curriculum areas have not been updated in years and teachers are working to develop a matrix for curriculum updates. She said she would present curriculum scope and sequence to the board before presenting materials for approval thereafter.

Committee members asked Mrs. Wallace if the textbooks and materials the school would use to implement the curriculum would be digital. Mrs. Wallace said that all-digital materials might cause a problem for the District due to the current technology renewal plan.

PERA Update – Mrs. Wallace explained the teacher evaluation process to the Committee. The teacher evaluation process consists of a rubric of goals that accounts for 70 percent of the evaluation and a student growth component that accounts for 30 percent. A committee of two administrators and two teachers will decide which assessments to use and what goes on the rubric. Mrs. Wallace said she will report to the Board in December with an update on where the committee stands on evaluations and again in March once a decision has been finalized.

Discussion of Class Size Norms – Mrs. Wallace lead a discussion on class size norm policies. The Board's suggested class size norms were informally agreed upon in November 2014. The Board suggests that JK-3 classes contain no more than 20 students; 4-5 classes contain no more than 22 students; and 6-8 contain no more than 24 students.

Mrs. Wallace suggested the Board consider officially endorsing class size guidelines. Committee members asked Mrs. Wallace to present recommendations for official class size guidelines to the Board for review during their November meeting. Committee members added that Mrs. Wallace should be careful to balance community expectations of small class sizes with best practice of larger class sizes.

Current Philosophy of Math Education – Mrs. Wallace outlined the District's current philosophy on math education. Mrs. Wallace said the school has traditionally leveled as early as in 6th grade in accordance with research that suggests students are ready for math at different times.

Plans for Review of Philosophy of Math Education – Mrs. Wallace said there are plans in place to revisit the District's philosophy on math education. Mrs. Wallace said she would like to see students grouped heterogeneously through 6th grade and then separated according to math readiness by grade 7. Committee members told Mrs. Wallace that whatever the plans are for math education, clarification, community and consistency of message are needed with respect to community communication.

Math Education Revision Timeline – Mrs. Wallace said her goal is to have an outline of what a revised math program would look like by springtime.

Master Schedule Update – Mrs. Wallace said she will send out a letter to 6th grade parents in the coming weeks following up on the discussions had regarding the Master Schedule.

Set Next Meeting Date – The committee did not set a date for the next meeting, but will wait until after the November board meeting to do so.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Chike Erokwu
Secretary, Board of Education
Kenilworth School District No. 38