



**THE JOSEPH SEARS SCHOOL**

Kenilworth School District No. 38 Board of Education

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 38, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
FEBRUARY 5, 2020**

The Education Committee of the Board of Education of Kenilworth School District No. 38, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 5th day of February 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the Faculty Hall Conference Room of The Joseph Sears School, 542 Abbotsford Road, Kenilworth, Illinois.

Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. The following Board members were present: Mr. Evan Lukasik and Mrs. Suzanne Nelson. Also present: Dr. Lisa Leali, Chief Education Officer, Ms. Ali Hecimovich, Interim Director of Student Services, Ms. Cathy Quigley, Ms. Christina Mellen, Ms. Elisabeth LeBris, Ms. Emily Hayden, Ms. Enza Fox, Ms. Faith Smith, Ms. Myra Love, Dr. Robert Drewry, Mrs. Kath Lyman and Mrs. Rebecca Quigley.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of Minutes from September, October, November and December 2019 Education Committee meetings. All minutes were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion of Strategic Topic: Job Embedded Professional Development

Dr. Lisa Leali introduced the the Joseph Sears team of instructional coaches and interventionists and gave some brief history about how this group came together to support professional learning at Sears. The coaches have all been participating in training with Jim Knight, one of the premier coaching gurus in the country through Northwestern University. Along with other coaches in the area, they have been studying best practices in the collaborative coaching model. Mrs. Liz Gordon, who has already completed the training and become certified in the model, has been leading the coaches and interventionists through weekly team meetings to discuss the model and how the group can continue to support professional learning for faculty at Sears.

The team gave a presentation on the research behind collaborative partnership coaching, the work they have been doing with Jim Knight, and the systems that they have instituted at Sears, already. Building on the work that Mrs. Gordon has been doing for a few years, the group has already been able to support many teachers. The presentation also included testimonials on the positive impact of the collaborative coaching program at Sears from participating teachers.

The Education Committee praised the teachers for their hard work and asked the coaches questions regarding their work and how they plan to continue to increase the number of teachers participating in the coaching. The also asked about assessment of the program. The group responded with a number of different ways that they are planning to engage more teachers, but emphasized that it is a work in progress and that their training is not complete yet. They also introduced ways that they are already collecting data



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around the coaching program and ensuring confidentiality through that process, which is a cornerstone of the collaborative coaching model.

### B. Addressing issues of Diversity, Equity and Belonging at Sears

Ms. Ali Hecimovich presented to the committee that increasing numbers of students at Sears have been reporting a need for support with identity issues. Students reach out to teachers indicating the need for support with their sexual or gender identity and are unsure who to talk to about this topic. She indicated that Sears is beginning to research how to develop a Gay Straight Alliance or a group like it, and how that work might be able to tie into the goals of the Diversity, Equity and Belonging Council.

The committee asked some questions regarding what training the teachers had on this issue. Ms. Hecimovich reported that training had taken place, however, it was years ago and this was an additional issue that was being researched.

### C. Legislative Update: LGBTQ history requirement: House Bill 246 requires public schools to teach students, by the time they graduate eighth grade, about the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the history of Illinois and the U.S. effective July 1, 2020.

Dr. Leali talked about how this issue ties into both the Diversity, Equity and Belonging Council, as well as the issue just presented regarding students' identities. Sears has utilized resources in the Chicagoland area, and teams are investigating more opportunities for students to experience the history of these leaders in Illinois and their contributions. Knowing that Sears has a transitional team in place, this is something that teams will continue to plan for over the next several months with recommendations for next year.

### D. Addressing issues of Diversity, Equity and Belonging at Sears – Overview of the DEB Council

Mrs. Rebecca Quigley and Mrs. Kath Lyman gave an overview of how the Council began as a partnership between administration and parents in an effort to support our students with recent events in the community. The Diversity, Equity, and Belonging Council began last year and is comprised of several parents, administrators, and teachers at Sears, as well as a representative from the Board of Education. They discussed some of their initiatives to date including an examination of best practices at other area schools, completion of the "Beyond Diversity" training at New Trier, and drafted a belief statement and goals. The Council has had multiple meetings to plan and talk about their mission and vision and would like to eventually have the opportunity to present to the Board of Education and seek their support for their work.

### E. Discussion of Draft Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year

A copy of the 2020 – 2021 school calendar was included in the meeting materials for review. It will be addressed at the next Board of Education meeting.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.



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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dr. Metzger-Mugg entertained a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Suzanne Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Evan Lukasik seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Attest for Distribution: DocuSigned by:  
*Deborah Keegan*  
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Deborah Keegan, Secretary

Approved: DocuSigned by:  
*Lisa Metzger-Mugg*  
8D18D6A5932443E...  
Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg, Committee Chairperson

ATTEST: DocuSigned by:  
*Deborah Keegan*  
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Deborah Keegan, Secretary