



**KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111  
BOARD OF EDUCATION ~ COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

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**Committee:** Curriculum Committee

**Date:** February 19, 2020

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Place:** Kankakee High School, 1200 West Jeffery Street, Kankakee, IL 60901

Committee Members present:

Mrs. Barbara Wells (arrived 5:12)

Mrs. Angela Shea

Mrs. Mary Archie

Committee Members absent:

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Other attendees:

Dr. Genevra Walters

Mr. Chris Bohlen

Ms. Deb Johnston

Mrs. Felice Hybert

Mrs. Jennifer Way

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A quorum was declared present.

Meeting called to order at 5:02

Angela Shea made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 13 meeting. Mary Archie seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Jennifer Way gave the committee a review of our Magnet Program. Currently we have 1,446 students in magnet classes. Mrs. Way recapped the Parent Choice Showcase, formerly known as the Magnet Showcase, noting the change in location which allowed programs more space and a better atmosphere for talking to parents. She explained that the Montessori Magnet Program added a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade class this year which allows our students the ability to take Algebra at LCC. We are also considering adding a Montessori pre-kindergarten class next school year. The change of the Math Magnet to Math, Inc. but implementing the FreshInc. program has had a positive impact. Our primary goal next year is vertical alignment between the career wheel and our magnets. A brochure listing our magnet programs and brief description of each as well as our "Right Choice" grid was shared with Board members present.

Dr. Walters noted that next year we were bringing in Dr. Cheryl Muench into the district to work on curriculum which will enhance our K-6 Fine Arts programs. She also addressed the rumor that the district was ending our magnet programs. That is not true.

The programs began in 1979 and are being enhanced with the introduction of Defined STEM and Problem Based Learning, changing instruction more to inquiry based learning.

Mrs. Way address the Spanish classes at the junior high school. Currently students take Language Acquisition before taking Spanish I. Next year, Mrs. Way would like to look at student's level of language to determine if they can bypass Language Acquisition and go straight to Spanish I. She will continue working with the junior high to improve this program.

The high school is problem solving how to offer a French class. This program will be available on line if students are interested. The HS is also offering American Sign Language for the 20-21 school year.

Mrs. Hybert updated the committee on the work of the District Curriculum Committee. This committee is made up of teachers from across the district, representing every grade, is working hard to develop a Curriculum Handbook and curriculum material that is aligned by grade level. Collaborating with IL Empower & Education Change, they have reviewed plans and are focusing on English Language Arts and Math to start with. This committee is on track to have a curriculum guide available to all new teachers at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Mrs. Hybert also shared some of the feedback this committee has provided that she shared with the DLPT and the DLT. This feedback is shared with DLT members to take back to their building as talking points. The DLT is made up of two teachers from each building. Ms. Johnson suggested that Mrs. Hybert make sure the DLT had veteran teachers represented, feeling that these veteran teacher would reach other veteran teachers more effectively then newer teachers explaining the same topic. Mrs. Hybert also shared that the DLT has started meeting with all the SLT teams together quarterly. This keeps everyone informed. The committee discussed ISBE's question of Building Administrator Capacity. Ms. Johnston commented that different administrator's delivery the same message differently so not all staff hear and understand the same thing.

Mrs. Hybert review the updated reading and math scores with the Board Curriculum Committee. Based on these scores, we are adjusting our Summer School Programs to better serve our students and reduce the summer slide. A summer calendar was distributed. Incoming K-6 students will attend summer school in July with just two weeks off before school starts. Our high school, junior high school and ESY programs as well as our 2-5 grade STEM Camp will be held in June as in previous years. Ms. Johnston expressed concern of the lack of time off for students and families this summer. Mrs. Hybert assured her that we would work with parents if there is a issue about different dates. She further explained that the redesigning of our summer programs would look at how we teach skills and what we need to do differently to engage students. We also looking at offering online tutoring.

Included in the Board Members packet was additional information on the new classes being offered at the high school.

Mrs. Hybert also explained the pilot program she is working on for kindergarten. We are working with the Erickson Institute on a Project Based Kindergarten pilot program. Mrs. Hybert will be talking to a few kindergarten teachers to determine their interested in this pilot program.

The 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have asked to pilot a new Social Studies program next school year. They have been working collectively to align the curriculum and identify the best resources for teaching this subject. Instructional Programs will continuing working with them, obtaining order information and pricing before we move forward.

Mr. Bohlen commented on the positive parent response at Edison regarding student test scores. We need to do parental training district wide and work on building character and academic skills with our kids.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Wells and seconded by Mrs. Archie. Meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.