

**KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**June 22, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Kankakee School District No. 111, Kankakee County, Illinois, was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Library at Kankakee Junior High School, 2250 East Crestwood Street, Kankakee, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Members present: John Coghlan  
Amelia Davis, Vice President  
Jess Gathing  
Karen Johnston-Gentry, President  
Angela Shea  
Barbara Wells, Secretary

Members absent: Joseph Lightfoot

A quorum was declared present.

Closed Session

At 6:34 p.m., motion was made by Davis, seconded by Gathing, to adjourn to the teachers' lounge for closed session to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. All ayes; motion carried.

The closed session was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

At 7:05 p.m. the regular session was reconvened.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President, Karen Johnston-Gentry.

Meeting with the Board were:

Laura Fisher, Assistant Superintendent  
Robert Grossi, Director of Business Services  
Vicki Scott, Recording Secretary

News media reporters present: Mr. John Dykstra, The Daily Journal

**Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Genevra Walters reported the following:

➤ **Good News**

- Dr. Walters commended the students who traveled on a recent trip to London, Paris, and Barcelona, on how well behaved they were and how they exceeded all expectations. Dr. Walters also commended Mr. de Oliveira on how well organized and structured the whole trip was planned. Dr. Walters will ask Mr. de Oliveira to prepare a presentation for the Board after the next trip that leaves on July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Imagine Learning and Imagine Nation Award  
Mr. Dean Harris and Dr. Jordan from Imagine Learning presented a video highlighting the successes going on in our school district. Imagine Learning has been in our District for approximately four years. Basically, it is a language and literacy software program that helps students develop the reading and speaking abilities they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Imagine Learning is having an impact in Kankakee School District. Mr. Harris recognized Ginelly, the star of the video, along with Principal Cynthia Veronda, and teacher Mrs. Orellana. The Imagine Nation Award is an award presented to schools that capture the vision of Imagine Learning and who are doing great things for their teachers, schools, and communities. Imagine Learning is currently in four district schools and each school will receive a banner. Mr. Harris presented the Imagine Nation award to Superintendent Walters for the District.

- Student Performance Data

Mrs. Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, presented the student performance data to the Board.

She reported on the following five areas: improving viable curriculum, having challenging goals and effective feedback, having community involvement, having a safe and orderly environment for our students, and collegiality and professionalism.

- Curriculum: adopted our pilot; professional development is in place; looked at advanced placement exams and created new training for teachers; the freshman academy is ready to go; and the bilingual program is adding 1:1 technology and using Imagine Learning.
- Challenging goals and effective feedback: reviewed the data and let the teachers know who made 20% or more growth in their classroom and gave them an extra certificate and recognized them; the number one school who had the most classrooms with 20% growth was Steuben, followed by Aroma Park and Lafayette; every school had someone who made 20% growth in their classroom in some area. Mrs. Fisher reviewed the data with the Board and informed them that significant growth has occurred and that she was very impressed. She stated that she will send the Board the data graphs. Mrs. Fisher said that our goal is for everyone to continue to improve in all areas.
- Community involvement: CHEE (Coalition for Hope and Excellence in Education; Youth for Christ/tutoring; Gazebo Pride; parent liaisons throughout the District.
- Safe and orderly environment: reduction of office referrals.
- Collegiality & professionalism: always being worked on through professional development, grade level data meetings, principal MTSS planning meetings, and teachers working on instructional strategies. The goal is to help teachers use their new curriculum appropriately and with fidelity.

Mrs. Fisher also said that we must be mindful of the student's home environment, learning, their knowledge, background, and motivation. These are factors we can encourage and help with but we don't have control over them as a school system.

Next steps: Dr. Walters said we will continue to strengthen the core so that eventually 80% of our students can meet or exceed our expectations. Usually it takes 3-5 years to see this kind of growth, but it may not take as long here because if we can maintain our kindergarten students and start to increase the other students, we may get to 80% sooner than we thought we would.

Dr. Walters stated that the district has a five year technology plan and the goal is to get to the point where we have 1:1 technology in the hands of our students. We are currently restructuring the job descriptions in the technology department and the focus will be to get technology in the classroom and fuse it into the curriculum.

Dr. Walters said that the district will continue to increase student engagement. Next year the goal is to have student led conferences. This is where the students are managing their parent/teacher conferences. The student will say these are my weaknesses, these are my strengths, and this is what I need to work on. This is part of student engagement where students take ownership of their learning.

Mrs. Fisher said that professional development will begin in August and that teachers will get their new curriculum materials very soon.

Dr. Walters said the district is moving from Department Chairs to Division Chairs. The district is also looking for a high school principal with the expectation that in three years the high school principal will be the lead principal.

Dr. Walters also stated that the district will continue to work on mindsets. The secret in education lies in respecting the student. She said they talked about mindsets last year and even brought in a speaker to talk about mindsets. The district will continue to talk about mindsets this year. It is all in the perspective of what the teachers believe can be done, how they can impact students, and what the students believe they can do.

### Public Comments

Speaker	Topic
Peter Martin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stated that it is imperative to implement a drug awareness program.</li> </ul>

### Consent Agenda

The following items were presented:

- The following Board minutes were presented for approval:
  - **June 8, 2015 – Regular Meeting (Regular & Executive Session Minutes)**
- The **Regular Bills** (end-of-year) were presented for approval. (See Insert A.)
- The **School to School Food Service Contracts** were presented for approval.
- The **Resolution for Temporary Transfer from Working Cash Fund to Debt Services Fund** was presented for approval. (See Insert B.)
- The **Glass Replacement and Glazing Bid** to Commercial Glazing for the 2015-2016 school year was presented for approval.
- The **Trip Request for the JV/Varsity Cheerleading Team** to travel to Normal, Illinois on July 17-20, 2015 was presented for approval.
- The following **personnel items** were presented for approval:

Name	Position	Effective Date
<b>Resignation (Certified Personnel)</b>		
Brittany Lewis	English Teacher at Kankakee High School	June 4, 2015
<b>Resignations/Retirements (Support Personnel)</b>		
Lloyd Bauer	Head Custodian at Kankakee High School	June 30, 2015
Jeanette Sneed	Parent Educator in First Taste Program	June 30, 2015
<b>Appointments (Certified Personnel)</b>		
Annabelle Arrellano	Dual Language/Kindergarten Teacher at Mark Twain	2015-2016 School Year
Megan Crutchett	Math Teacher at Kankakee High School	2015-2016 School Year
Jason Volkman	CIPS/Social Science Teacher at Kankakee High School	2015-2016 School Year
Albert Zika	Science Teacher at Kankakee High School	2015-2016 School Year

President Johnston-Gentry asked if there were any questions on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, President Johnston-Gentry asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Wells, to approve the above listed Consent Agenda items as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Coghlan, Davis, Gathing, Shea, Wells, and Johnston-Gentry. Nays: none. Motion carried.

### Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

### Information and Proposals

The following items were provided for information:

- The following personnel transfer for the 2015-2016 school year was reported:
  - **Certified Personnel**
  - Andrea Anderson.....4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at King
- District Garage Sale Report

Public  
Comments

Consent  
Agenda

Board  
Minutes

End-of-Year Bills

Food Contracts

Temporary Transfer

Glass Bid

Trip Request

Personnel

Resignations/  
Retirements

Appointments

Old  
Business

Information

Personnel Transfer  
Garage Sale

At 7:42 p.m. motion was made by Gathing and seconded by Shea to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

Adjourn

SIGNED:

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Karen Johnston-Gentry, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara A. Wells, Secretary

vs

**Approved: July 13, 2015**