

**KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
September 9, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Kankakee School District No. 111, Kankakee County, Illinois, was held at 6:04 p.m. in the Auditorium at Lincoln Cultural Center, 240 Warren Avenue, Kankakee, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mary Archie
Christopher Bohlen
Jess Gathing, Jr., Vice President
Deb Johnston
Angela Shea, Secretary
Barbara Wells, President

Members absent: Darrell Williams (*entered Open session at 7:14 pm)

A quorum was declared present.

Closed Session

At 6:02 p.m., motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Johnston, to adjourn to the room 217 for closed session to discuss:

- Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Archie, Bohlen, Gathing, Johnston, Shea, and Wells. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The closed session was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

At 7:13 p.m., the regular session was reconvened.

Two Montessori Students, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting with the Board were:

Dr. Genevra A. Walters, Superintendent
Robert Grossi, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
Felice Hybert, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Rachel Thornton, Recording Secretary

There were no news reporters present.

Superintendent's Report

Good News:

School	Event	Explanation
Mark Twain	Donation	Mark Twain received book bags full of school supplies for an entire class, and some left over. We selected a class at random

Roll
Call

Pledge

Good
News

		to receive the backpacks and dispersed the rest to students that needed them. Thank you to Mr. Bender of the Junior High School for this generous donation to our students.
Steuben	Donation	The Kankakee VFW Post #2857 recently donated a State Flag as well as a U.S Flag to Stueben Elementary School.

- Thank you to Alder Woman Shari Malone Marshal, Alderman Michael Prude, Board Member Mary Archie as well as Proegler for being instrumental for their back to school bash held at Old Fair Park.
- Thank you to community Activist Travis Miller for donating 130 book bags to students in need.

➤ Presentation of FY 2020 Budget,

- 56% of district funds come from the State.
- 27% of the district funds are Local.
- Primary district expense is Personnel at 71%.
- The district spent 1.3 million on Athletics last year \$1200.00 per athlete or \$260.00 per student.
- 2020 projected revenue 74.6 million.
- 2020 projected ending balance 19.5 million.

Presentation of FY
2020 Budget

Wells: Are there any questions from the Board?

Bohlen: In terms of the projected state funding through evidence based funding, is that a real number and do we know that is what we are going to receive? Or is that a number that is projected by the state?

Grossi: At this point it is a real number, but in the past three years we have actually received a real number at the beginning of the year. We received two evidence based funding payments per month between August and June so we received 20 payments. We have received two payments so far this year and if that pattern continues this will be a real number. If you look back between four to nine year ago the state was prorating the money that was given to the district. We received 89%-92% of what was originally allocated. We calculated, and in those five years the district lost \$13,000,000 due to proration. In Evidence based funding we have additional dollars going into schools and the school district, but at this point with the fact that the new revenue sources or laws that the state passed that are not in effect yet. The state is giving more and more money to the school district without having a budget and the state of Illinois is not financially stable. One question I am asking how long will this continue until we get prorated again. As we are receiving the additional dollars until we know this is continuous and will happen year after year it makes more sense to be spending the dollars for one-time expenses so it is done. So if we do not receive the money next year then we don't need to do that. Rather than put it into something that will continue to compound year after year and the expenses could continue over time.

Bohlen: My only concern is that we have contracts in place for 2 to 3 more years and we also need to have funding to upkeep the buildings.

Grossi: We are able to do that in terms of the combination of the two as well, yes as we have been growing in our ratio between revenues and fund balances at 26 % which is healthy. Yes this is something that we need to continue to look at and not treat this money as if it is a guarantee to increase every year.

Walters: I think it is important for everyone to know that politically there is a push for districts to demonstrate what they are doing with the evidence based funding in terms of supporting students. A number of districts that aren't relying on the state were resentful that we were getting this money. They want us to constantly show evidence that the money we are receiving has some kind of positive impact on students. We are part of a video that was created by the state that Mr. Yohnka assisted with this video. Showing some of the things we have done differently across the district but specifically at the high school as a result of being healthy financially. We have to keep in mind as we are receiving these bonds that if it is very obvious that

we are continually building our fund balance that there may be a political push to change the funding formula and start prorating. Within the next four years we will know if it is a staple or not, I don't think we will find out for another four years

Grossi: That is why we talked about trying to find the best balance between the education funds we showed a 650,000 surplus last year.

Gathing: With in the last 4 or 5 years you and the finance committee have saved the district millions of dollars. We have done that through supplies and materials and also in the benefits department. Is that what's going to help us continue to hold the line?

Grossi: Yes what I mentioned earlier, it is kind of discretionary spending because there is nothing we can do to control those salaries and benefits. Those are the things that Myself and the rest of the Administration is keen on looking at to make sure we are still getting the same services or even better services but a lot of it is with vendors. We are also looking at contracts and seeing if we can do in house or is this something that we need to outsource. This is something we have been and will continue to monitor because that is something the district has control over. We want to make sure we are making the most fiscally responsible decision so we can continue to do all these amazing things in the buildings.

Wells: Anymore questions from the Board?

➤ Presentation from the Architect

Presentation from the
Architect

Well: If we do all this work how much of the building will remain untouched?

Ed Wright: Once all work is complete if you continue with all phases, only the gyms and locker rooms will remain untouched.

Grossi: We discussed this at the finance committee meeting. The finance committee made a recommendation of looking at two different options. One option will be the Base-Bid and all Alternates and the other option will be the Base-Bid plus alternates 1, 3, 4, and 5. The second option would not include the clinic and art gallery. The difference is a little over \$1,000,000. My recommendation is that the Board approves one of the two options. The district would be fine financially in my opinion with either option. I would not present anything if we wouldn't be able to afford it. Ultimately the decision is up to the Board.

Wells: Have Prices increased since we have begun construction at the high school?

Grossi: Yes they have.

Wells: So it is fair to say that prices will continue to increase?

Grossi: Yes

Bohlen: What percentage are we looking at since we started the project two years ago.

Ed Wright: What we were seeing going into construction last season after we bid this project we were still in a pretty good climate. With all the uncertainty, tariffs and the saturation of the market along with all the other things going on it was hard to find trades people to do the work. We were seeing the project about 20% higher than what they were when we bid the first part of this project. We see that down a little bit here, I believe it is attributed to the construction schedule and the timing of the bids. Most contractors have just finished their work and are starting to look at the schedule for next year or the project goes through the winter, it looks attractive to them which means they can keep their guys busy year round. I think we are combating the increase in cost by some of the things we are doing with the schedule so are probably 15% more than we were 2 years ago. I see no indication that's going to go down anytime soon short of an

economic downturn and even then it doesn't happen right away. We could be looking at these prices for the next few years.

Bohlen: Mr. Grossi we have talked with the Finance Committee about what effect this would have on the Capital fund balance. Could you please share the projections of what the Capital funds Project would look like with the Board?

Grossi: We sent out projections of what the Capital Projects Fund would look like if we completed this project. Right now the only projects we are seriously looking at drawing, planning right now is the Kankakee High School project, the abatement and demolition of the nursing home which will be between 500,000-600,000, and adding outside lighting to all of the buildings. While we have grants for the majority of those funds the district would pay about \$250,000 in terms of the outside lighting. We want to look at all of that and also the mechanicals in all of the rest of our buildings so they can operate. Ed and I have planned on working with Mr. Kaplanes and looking at the long term status of the mechanicals in the building and looking at what needs to be replaced and when it needs to be replaced. The capital Projects Fund balance would be able to sustain somewhere between: \$1,000,000-\$2,000,000 a year towards these projects while still being able to do the construction at the high school. We will be able to issue more bonds in five years. That money should be able to carry us to 2024. We can look at some of the bigger needs in the buildings and really just evaluate what's going on. If we are able to put \$1,000,000 -\$2,000,000 in each building per year and be proactive about it by doing preventable maintenance we will feel comfortable. We do not have problems with the mechanicals failing at this time. Most of our boilers are relatively new and our roofs are in decent condition. We are planning on looking at getting some sort of maintenance deal on our mechanical systems. So we can contract out some of the maintenance and keep a log, and eventually we will have the data that we need in terms of what needs to be done, priority and the life span on some of these machines. Long answer short I do feel like we will be able to put enough attention into our other buildings.

Bohlen: What were the cost estimates?

Grossi: I don't have it in front of me I believe it was a difference between five and six million. Whether we did all of the alternates or just the 4.

Walters: What would be left?

Grossi: Yes 5-6 Million would be left. Assuming we put 1 million dollars per year into maintenance.

Bohlen: The issue is, will 4 million enough to maintain the other buildings?

Grossi: The numbers that were sent out included already putting 1 million per year into the other buildings. That would be our fund balance outside of the million dollars we project to put in the funds.

Bohlen: What Is the total projected balance including everything.

Grossi: Between 10,000,000 and 10,500,000 million with all of the fees, abatements, and furnishings. The furniture would be \$150,000.

Gathing: Do you think we will be alright?

Grossi: Yes, I would not recommend anything that I wouldn't be comfortable with supporting. If we were to do the Base Bid plus Alternates and put \$1,000,000 per year into a K-8 building we would end FY 2023 with a \$5,500,000 fund balance. In 2024 we would be able to do a \$6,000,000 bond issue if something major would come up at that time. Assuming we are putting \$1,000,000 into the non-high school buildings each year between 2021-2023 we will have about \$5,500,000 of emergency dollars in case something were to happen. Then the ability to borrow \$6,000,000 in 2024. If we were to not do the health clinic under the same scenario we would have about \$6,800,000 at the end of 2023 for emergencies or weather we want to put

more money into the mechanicals of the other buildings and also being able to do the \$6,000,000 bond issue in 2024.

A discussion was held between Mr Bohlen and Mrs. Wells. Mr. Bolhen asked the rest of the members. Is it worth us spending another 1.2 million on a clinic and art gallery? Mrs. Wells stated that one of the issues Proegler is having is making sure our students have a health care and dental care home. Our health clinic will provide that for some of those students because a lot of Doctors in our area are not accepting Medicaid patients. Mr.Bohlen is concerned about being able to fund the upkeep of the buildings throughout the district. Dr. Walters stated: When we went to Harvard we actually designed the high school based on the academies we wanted to create. What we looked at was what we had existing which was the Clinic, Credit Union, and we talked about a book store. Not necessarily having a stamina of being connected to an academy. When we talk about the Health clinic we are hoping as they create the medical academy, which we have a very strong CNA program but we want more than a CNA Program. We felt that the Health clinic in partnership with Riverside and the medical academy we can start training students to go into the medical field through the Health Clinic. It is a service to the community the way we envisioned it but we also saw it as a real life opportunity for students to learn more about the health field. That is the reason it is connected to the classrooms so our students can work in the Health Clinic and provide supports. We have to look at HIPPA laws to figure out how it works. Everything in the building is connected to an Academy, it's not totally separate from the learning opportunity that we hope our students will have. With CBE we are hoping by the 3rd and 4th year portfolio, the student will have opportunities to work in their fields. That was how we envisioned it when we were at Harvard. We didn't envision it totally as a standalone or only a service to the community we envisioned it as being a part of the school system so the students can be trained in the clinic.

Wells: Are there any further questions?

Principal's Report-Kim Starkey, Principal at LCC/Montessori

Principal's Report

Ms. Starkey started by introducing her staff and sharing good news.

➤ Good News

Date	Name	Good News
Summer 2019	Deb Adams	Our summer garden club was successful with the guidance of Mrs. Adams. With the help of the Garden grant we have an indoor greenhouse. Students are currently harvesting vegetables daily; As well as taking care of the chickens.
Fall 2019	LCC PTO	With the hard work of our amazing parents and students fundraising the PTO was able to purchase recess equipment for each class and help spruce up the bathrooms with positive messages for our students.
Summer 2019	LCC PTO	The PTO provided funds to build an outdoor stage and it has already been utilized this year. The stage is in honor of Chuck Hensley who served in our district for many years.
August 2019	Heather Hop	I recently completed a project through Donors Choose for

		Montessori baskets and wooden trays. The Project goal was \$226 and was fully funded in August with help from the JW Coach Foundation who doubled all donations.
August 2019	I-KAN/Michelle Fitts	Donated Backpacks
July 2019	Bourbonnais School District	Donated 19-20 Planners
August 2019	Roseann Labriola	Donated Blessing Bags

Ms. Starkey discussed the change of LCC's schedule as well as pick up and drop off procedures. Due to the schedule change we have opportunities to do afternoon collaboration. New and improved Junior high Montessori space. Hopeful Project video expresses hopes and dreams of students.

Wells: Does the board have any questions for Ms. Starkey?

Walters: Can you talk about your exploration of going full Montessori.

Starkey: Our staff has started talking about what Montessori looks like going back to our roots. This year we will be doing a lot of exploration about what is Montessori now what are some things we need to go back to doing when we talk about Montessori. We will be visiting other Montessori schools so we can glean information from them and then start building up from there. We are looking at our Montessori roots and going back to what works best for Montessori.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Public
Comments

Amendment of Agenda

President Wells asked for a motion to amend the Consent Agenda and move G-5 TNTP Progress Monitoring Proposal to an Action Item H-4.

Amendment to the
Agenda

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Johnston, to approve the above Amendment to the Agenda. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Archie, Bohlen, Gathing, Johnston, Shea, Williams, and Wells. Nays: none. Motion carried

Consent Agenda

The following items were presented:

- The following Board minutes were presented for approval:
 - **Regular Meeting ~ August 26, 2019** (Closed and Regular Session)
- The **Regular Bills** were presented for approval. (Insert A)
- The **Payroll and Related Bills** were presented for approval (Insert B)
- The **KHS Overnight Trips Requests** were presented for approval.
- The **eDynamic Learning Quote** was presented for Approval.
- The **Purchase of an Intercom System for KJHS** was presented for approval.
- The **Lobbying Service Agreement** was presented for approval.
- The following **Personnel Items** were presented for approval:

Staff Member	Position	Effective Date
Resignations (Licensed Educational Professionals)		
Mark Jensen	Teacher at King	September 3, 2019
Resignation (Extra Duty Assignment)		
Pamela Bell	National Honor Society Sponsor at KHS	August 26, 2019
Appointments (Licensed Educational Professionals)		
Jill Carlson	Student Support Services Consultant at Avis Huff	September 3, 2019
Andrew Grimberg	Science Instructor at KHS	September 10, 2019

Consent
Agenda

Board
Minutes
Regular Bills
Payroll and Related
Bills

KHS Overnight Trips
eDynamic Learning
Quote
Purchase of Intercom
System for KJHS
Lobbying Service
Agreement

Personnel
Resignations

Appointments

Mary Ann Hogan	Speech Pathologist Part Time at Avis Huff	September 10, 2019
Shelly Miller	Special Education Teacher at KHS	September 11, 2019
Heather Wolf	MTSS Coordinator at Taft and Steuben	September 10, 2019
Wendi Zink-Jones	Speech Pathologist Part time Steuben	September 10, 2019
Appointments (Support Personnel)		
Maria Beck	First Taste Parent Educator at Liberty	September 16, 2019
Elizabeth Coghlan	Student Support Interventionist Student Success Center at KJHS (Corrected)	August 19, 2019
Mary Pogioli	First Taste Parent Educator at YWCA	September 16, 2019
Terry Rice Jr	Security Officer at KHS	September 5, 2019
Kellie White	Security Officer at KHS	September 16, 2019
Christine Young	Art Instructor Part-Time at Montessori	September 10, 2019
Appointments (Extra Duty Assignments)		
Theodis Pace	Assistant Athletic Director at KHS	2019-2020 School Year
Jackson Thornhill	Show Choir Choreographer at KHS	2019-2020 School Year
Termination (Support Personnel)		
Brooke Bridges	Cafeteria Helper at Proegler	End of 2018-2019 School Year
Deviros Jones	Security Officer at KHS	August 28, 2019
Dominick Layne	Student Support Interventionist at Avis Huff	End of 2018-2019 School Year

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

Action Items

1. Extra-Curricular Schedule in Teacher Contract for 2018-2022.

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Shea, to approve the above listed Action item as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Gathing, Johnston, Shea, Williams, Archie, Bohlen and Wells. Nays: none. Motion carried

2. Construction Bid for KHS-Base Bid plus Alternate 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Motion was made by Vice President Gathing, Seconded by Archie to vote on Action Item 3 first. Action Item 2 was not voted on due to Passing of Action item 3.

3. Construction Bid for KHS-Base Bid plus Alternates.

Motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Williams, to approve the above listed Action item as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Johnston, Shea, Williams, Archie, Gathing and Wells. Nays: Bohlen. Motion carried

3. TNTP Progress Monitoring Proposal.

Motion was made by Bohlen, seconded by Gathing, to approve the above listed Action item as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE--Ayes: Shae Williams, Archie, Bohlen, Gathing, Johnston and Wells Nays: Motion carried

Walters: We had TNTP come in and take a sample of our classrooms in our buildings in order to determine the quality of grade level assignments. There are four indicators that we are really focusing on access to grade level instruction. What we would like to do is use the data we received last year and compare it to data going forward. One of the difference is we will have data by individual building rather than the district. At this point, 30% of our instruction is at grade level, our goal is to make sure over-time we are at 80%.

Action Items

Extra-Curricular
ScheduleKHS Base Bid Plus
Alternate 1, 3, 4, 5KHS Base Bid Plus
AlternatesTNTP Progress
Monitoring Proposal

President Wells:

Teaching Grade Level Assignments

Board Statement and Follow Up on the Opportunity Scorecard

From The New Teachers Opportunity Scorecard Web Page

"We've been telling students that doing well in school creates opportunities—that showing up, doing the work, and meeting teachers' expectations will prepare them for their futures.

Unfortunately, that's a myth.

Far too many students graduate from high school still unprepared for the lives they want to lead. They enroll in college and land in remedial courses, or start jobs and discover they're missing skills they need. We wanted to understand why."

On July 8th Liesl Groberg spoke to the Board of education about our Opportunity Score Card.

The Opportunity Score Card outlined four key resources at the heart of high-quality academic experiences. The four resources are:

On Grade Appropriate Assignments

With Strong Instruction

Deeply Engaged in what they're learning

Teachers with High Expectations

What The New Teacher Project found when evaluating our schools was 53 out of 180 hours were on grade appropriate assignments, 34 hours had strong instruction and 49% of classes had teachers with High Expectations for student's success, the only area with high marks was the Deeply Engaged 93 in what they're learning, something we have been focused on for the last 5 years.

What this reveals is that if when we focus on a task we can accomplish it and do it very well.

The Board of Education and our community at large have an overwhelming desire to have the students graduate from Kankakee High School with an education that will prepare them to complete college without the need for remedial courses, participate in training for the building trades, and other professions that require post High School training.

From the beginning of my training to be an effective member of a board of education one of the things that has been said repeatedly is, "The Board's focal point is what gets accomplished."

This Board of Education is directing the Dr. Walters to increase On Grade Level Assignments for all students in District 111. While we acknowledge every student may not be on grade level in every aspect of their education we also realize that it is our collective job to put in place all of the structures in that start our students on track for the educational success we know they can achieve.

The Board will be asking for regular reports and measurement of student growth, with a specific focus making certain that grade level work increases over time. This is a nonnegotiable goal for every student in every classroom in Kankakee School District 111.

Wells: Any further discussion from the board?

Bohlen: We have seen some scores that were shocking low recently. I'm torn between the facts that we have to make sure these scores substantially increase. I believe the New Teacher Project can help us do that. One of the components of the new teacher projects is: what are the expectation for our kids. I think it's important to have an outside source reinforce what we are

trying to say also what we have directed the Administration to accomplish. Whatever support, additional help and collaboration we can do is important.

Information and Proposals

1. State and Federal Revenue Report
2. Budget Update
3. Previous Bill Run
4. FOIA Requests

Information and
Proposals
State and Federal
Revenue Report
Budget Update
Previous Bill Run
FOIA Requests

At 8:49 p.m., motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Williams, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

Adjourn

SIGNED:

Barbara A. Wells, President

ATTEST:

Angela F. Shea, Secretary

Rt

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

