

BOARD MEETING NOTES

May 12, 2008

The Kaneland Board of Education met in Regular Session on Monday, May 12, 2008. The following is a summary of the Board meeting.

Approval of Resignations/Employment of Staff

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Heather Anderson** as a paraprofessional at John Shields Elementary School, effective the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **Elizabeth Burton** as a kindergarten teacher at John Shields Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **Kelsi Countryman** as a 6th grade language arts teacher at Kaneland Middle School for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **Laura Geist** as a speech language therapist at Blackberry Creek Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **Lori Grant** as a general music/chorus teacher at Kaneland Middle School for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **Marcie Kessler** as a special education teacher at Kaneland Middle School for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **John Markovich** as a psychologist at Kaneland High School for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **Hope Paskus** as an 8th grade science teacher at Kaneland Middle School for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **Cynthia Savage** as a special education teacher at John Shields Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **Heidi Schmidt** as a 1st grade teacher at John Shields Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board approved the employment of **Monty Jahns** as head wrestling coach at Kaneland High School for the 2008-09 school year.

Approval of Extra Contract Days for VALEES Employees

The Board approved up to five (5) additional days work each for Roger Sanders, Mary Borneman, Sandi Weiss and Bernie Looney at their daily rate prior to the end of the 2007-08 school year.

Approval of Salary Recommendations for 2008-2009 for VALEES Employees

The Board approved the salary and benefit recommendations for FY 09 for VALEES as follows:

Bernie Looney, Director (Part-Time)	\$62,566
Roger Sanders, Program Specialist (Part-Time)	\$48,443
Sandi Weiss, Office Assistant (Part-Time)	\$11,611

Approval of Changes in Selected Policies – Second Reading

The Board approved the changes in the following policies on second reading as follows:

5.50	Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace
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5.270	Employment At-Will, Compensation and Assignment
6.10	Educational Philosophy and Objectives
6.140	Education of Homeless Children
7.35	Programs for Home Schooled Students –DELETE

Approval of Loan to Transportation Fund

The Board approved the loan to the Transportation Fund from the working Cash Fund in the amount of \$19,674.

Aurora Land Cash Monies

The Board approved the Application for Disbursement of Land-Cash Funds for School purposes from the City of Aurora in the amount of \$66,675.00.

Approval of Harter Road Design and Engineering Fees

The Board approved the proposal for Design and Engineering Services related to the highway improvements on Harter Road at the New Middle School from Cordogan, Clark and Associates at a fee of \$40,250.

Preliminary Discussion Regarding Naming Schools – Review What Has been Done in the Past

Over the last 10 years or so, the Board of Education has named the four elementary schools. To guide this process the Board approved Policy 8.130 (Naming of Schools and Facilities) and Administrative Procedures 8.130 (Committee to Name Schools and Facilities). Dr. McCormick reviewed the Policy and Administrative Procedures with the Board.

Review of Kaneland Middle School and High School Test Scores from Daily Herald Article

A few weeks ago an article was published in the Daily Herald regarding the difference between 8th grade ISAT scores and 11th grade PSAE scores. Apparently the chart was a comparison of the 8th grades' 2007 ISAT scores with the 11th grades' 2006 PSAE score. It's not the same test or the same group.

The High School administration presented the 2007-2008 PSAE/ACT Prep Activities.

Kaneland Learning Community

Over the last two years Kaneland teachers and administrators have been exploring the possibilities offered by the establishment of a Professional Learning Community (PLC) at Kaneland. A PLC is a learning community with open communication about the learning needs of students and staff. The focus of the learning community is on the "Every Ed" philosophy: All students are everyone's responsibility. A PLC would be an over-arching framework that would bring together many initiatives already underway.

Research regarding PLCs has involved teachers and administrators attending national conferences and making local site visits to investigate possibilities and options. A key factor of PLC is to develop the philosophy and skills to support an open climate in order to communicate clearly our mission and expectations for all students and staff. Kaneland has also established a book club to research a KLC (Kaneland Learning Community). The more our teachers and administrators have learned about PLC, the more excited they get about implementing it at Kaneland.

In Sarah Mumm's presentation, she shared the progress thus far and showed how the framework is taking on a life of its own.

Update on Strategic Plan: Health and Wellness

An update was given on the Strategic Plan: Health and Wellness. This will be a multi-year long term project. The first phase will be a review of the Board's current health policy. There will also be a breakfast on May 29 at 6:30 a.m. for those involved in this effort.

Consideration of Expanding Summer School Expansion

The Administrative Team and Summer School coordinator have been working over the past four weeks on registration for the K-5 summer school program. The program has changed this year to be an invitation only program with the focus on targeted assistance for students that would fall into tier two of the Response to Intervention Model. The parent response has been overwhelming and we are up to nearly 100 students between the two sites. The structure for this program is to be a 1 to 3 (possibly 4) student-teacher ratio. At this time, the request is an increase in the budget to accommodate all students that would like to attend the program. This would increase the number of staff from 20 total to 39 total.

The Board approved the expansion of the summer school program for summer 2008 from 20 total staff to 39 total staff. Further that the budget would increase from \$27,384 not to exceed \$54,768; assessment work from \$3260 to \$6520; and supplies from \$1000 to \$2000, with the amounts pro-rated by number of staff.

Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) Goals

Dr. McCormick has been reviewing the following possible goals with the Facilities Planning Committee (FPC):

Developing and updating the framework for “green” practices and goals.

Roger Well has given us a good start on such a framework but it needs to be articulated at a more detailed level as to what the district is already doing and goals the district might undertake. Periodically, updates would be presented to the Board and programs would not be instituted without the Board’s awareness of approval.

Developing a simple master plan for the KHS-KMS Campus

Many times during the last referendum campaign we were asked about what would happen when the high school is at capacity. Over the last few years we have showed the Board possible additions for KHS and KMS but have never really put the entire thing together as a campus plan for a given campus capacity (3200). The goals would be to provide the Board with a simple plan for the entire campus, including academic, athletic and specialty spaces. The intention is not to develop “the plan” but rather “a plan” that the FPC thinks would make sense. There would likely be some costs incurred for architectural services.

Developing options for housing the district’s administrative offices

As of July 1, 2009 the office spaces available to house district administrative and support personnel will be full. The FPC would identify and evaluate options for housing a growing district office over time. This activity would likely also necessitate some architectural services.

The FPC is willing to undertake these goals but should not do so without the Board’s knowledge. Also, there will be some budget implications as money would need to be allocated for architectural services. Architectural services would be limited to defining the locations and cost of additions. No detailed planning would be done. Impact and land-cash fees can offset these costs.

Review and Approval of Changes in Student Handbooks for 2008-2009 School Year

Mr. Valente chaired the Discipline Committee which reviewed possible changes in the handbooks for the elementary, middle and high schools. The recommended changes were reviewed with the Board.

This item was tabled until the next Board meeting on May 27, 2008 when it will be brought back with changes.

Approval of Updated Policy – First Reading

The Kaneland Board of Education approve Policy 7.40 (Part-Time Attendance by Private, Parochial and Home-Schooled Students) on first reading.

Approval of Emergency Call Out System

Dr. Fuchs reported on the committee that has been investigating emergency phone call out systems during the last couple of months. These systems are used for contacting parents via telephone and email in the event of an emergency or other school-related needs. The committee read a number of articles, talked with other school districts, and participated in on-line presentations.

The *Connect-Ed* system features that the committee found most important include the following:

- Unlimited use (e.g., emergencies, attendance, surveys, sports cancellations, or late buses).
- An automated, daily update from SchoolMaster with the most current contact information for students to the *Connect-Ed* database.
- System capacity to make millions of calls in a very short time frame. This is important, especially if there is a weather-related call where many schools (in northern Illinois) would be using the system at about the same time.
- Servers throughout the United States. This redundancy is important in the event of a major power outage in the region.
- An ability to select multiple groups within the system. For example, we could select a single bus route, all bus routes from a single school, or all bus routes.
- When a live person is not reached, the system will leave a voice mail message.
- In an emergency, the system calls all contact numbers (home, cell, work, etc.).
- A reporting system to track message delivery.

The Board approved the purchase the *Connect-Ed* system in the amount of \$13,850 for the 2008-2009 school year.

Approval of Donations

The Board accepted the donations from the following for the 2008 Fine Arts Festival:

Illinois Arts Council	\$1,925.00
Midwest Window & Supply	\$ 500.00

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE KANELAND BOARD WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY,
MAY 27, 2008 AT THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER, KHS AT 7:00 P.M.**