

KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.111
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
May 12, 2025

The Board of Education meeting of Kankakee School District No. 111, Kankakee County, Illinois, was held at 5:05 pm. in the auditorium room at Kankakee High School, 1200 W Jeffery St, Kankakee, IL 60901.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mary Archie
Suzy Berrones, Board Secretary
Christopher Bohlen, Board President
Jess Gathing
Cynthia Veronda
Tracy Verrett

Members Absent: Tracy Verrett (entered at 5:10 pm)
Darrell Williams (entered at 5:42 pm)

A quorum was declared present.

Closed Session

At 5:05 pm, a motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Archie, to go into closed session and discuss:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

The Regular Session was reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

Chris Boheln led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting with the Board was:

Dr. Teresa A. Lance, Superintendent
Dr. Kelly Gilbert, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
Dr. James Henderson, Interim Assistant Superintendent of People's Services
Mr. Harrison Neal, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Stephanie Markham from the Daily Journal was present.

School Board Election

1. Approval of the Certification of the Election Results

A motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Archie, to approve the certification of the election results as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES- Archie, Berrones, Gathing, Veronda, Verrett, Williams, and Bohlen. NAYS-none. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Special Board Minutes - April 8, 2025 (Regular & Closed Session)
3. Approval of Special Board Minutes - April 10, 2025 (Regular Session)
4. Approval of Regular Board Minutes - April 14, 2025 (Regular & Closed Session)

A motion was made by Veronda, seconded by Gathing, to approve the minutes from April 8th, 10th & 14th of 2025 as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES- Berrones, Gathing, Veronda, Verrett, Williams, Archie & Bohlen. NAYS-none. Motion carried.

Reorganization of the School Board

Oath of Office - The five new members took the Oath of Office.

Roll Call

Closed Session

Reconvene

Pledge

School Board
Election

Jess Gathing
Susan Lopez
Travy Verrett
Darrell Williams
Kathy Yancy-Smith

Adjournment of Old Board - "Sine Die"

A motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Williams, to adjourn the board Sine Die. All ayes. Motion carried.

Seating of the New Board Members

The new board was seated.

Appointment of President Pro Tem

Gathing was nominated President Pro Tem

Roll Call for New Board

Suzy Berrones
Christopher Bohlen
Jess Gathing
Susan Lopez
Tracy Verrett
Darrell Williams
Kathy Yancy-Smith

Election of Officers (President, Vice President, & Secretary)

Jess Gathing nominated Chris Bohlen as President. There were no other nominations.

A motion was made by Berrones, seconded by Gathing, to approve Chris Bohlen as the Board President. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES- Berrones, Bohlen (Abstain), Gathing, Lopez, Verrett, Williams, and Yancy-Smith. NAYS: none. Motion carried.

Suzy Berrones nominated Jess Gathing as vice president. There were no other nominations. A motion was made by Berrones, seconded by Williams, to make Jess Gathing Vice President. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Lopez, Verrett, Williams, Yancy-Smith, Berrones, and Bohlen. NAYS: none. Motion carried.

Jess Gathing nominated Suzy Berrones as Board Secretary. There were no other nominations. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-Bohlen, Gathing, Lopez, Verrett, Williams, and Yancy-Smith. NAYS: none. Motion carried.

Appointment of Committee Assignments

Board Committees
Curriculum: Chair-Berrones, Verrett, Yancy-Smith, and Bohlen
Finance: Chair- Gathing, Lopez, Williams, and Bohlen
People Services: Chair- Lopez, Verrett, Berrones, and Bohlen
Policy: Chair-Williams, Yancy-Smith, Gathing, and Bohlen

District Committees
Curriculum Committee: Williams, Gathing
Insurance: Kathy Yancy-Smith
Head Start Policy: Suzy Berrones
IASB Governing: Berrones
Kankakee Career Center: Williams
Parent Community Council: Berrones, Williams

Appointment of Adopt-A-School Assignments- Board members can decide and let Rachel know.

KFT Informal Meeting Schedule

Superintendent's Report

❖ Good News

School	Event	Explanation
Edison	Donations	Edison would like to thank the following for donations: Still I Rise Lafi Custom Creations Sports Clips
Kennedy	Donation	Kennedy would like to thank Tractor Supply, who is donating all items and staff members to come to Kennedy and start a vegetable and flower garden to teach our kids how to start, cultivate, and harvest fresh veggies and flowers.
King	Donations	King would like to thank the following for providing free haircuts to our students: Kankakee Forgives (TJ Phillips) Smitty Angel
Mark Twain & Taft	Donation	Mark Twain and Taft would like to thank LeeHan Martial Arts whose director donated a cookie tray and drinks to our teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you very much

- ❖ Kankakee CEO Student Program
 - Students from the Kankakee CEO Programs pitched their ideas.
- ❖ Instruction
 - Dr. Gilbert discussed software renewals, the CCPE Opt-out, Summer School, immunizations, and the summer school graduation ceremony for the KHS summer school.
- ❖ Finance
 - Mr. Neal discussed the monthly financial report and the FY 2026 budget.
- ❖ Personnel
 - Dr. Henderson discussed frontline services enhancement, the percentage of teachers

Public Comments

Public Comments

Name	Topic
Joanne Lewis	Ms. Lewis discussed her issues with KJHS and the Special Ed Department.

Consent Agenda

- ❖ The following Board Minutes were submitted for approval:
 - Regular Board Minutes March 24, 2025 (Regular Session & Closed Session)
- ❖ The **Regular Bills** were presented for approval.
- ❖ The **Head Start Council Information** was presented for approval.
- ❖ The **Payroll & Related Bills** were presented for approval.
- ❖ The **Donation Approval** was presented for approval
- ❖ The **Gaggle Renewal** was presented for approval.
- ❖ The **Care Solace Renewal** was presented for approval.
- ❖ The following Personnel Items were presented for approval.

Consent Agenda
Board MinutesRegular Bills
Payroll & Related
Bills
Head Start Policy
Council
Donation Approval
Gaggle Renewal
Care Solace Renewal
Personnel Items

Name	Position	Effective Date
Resignations (Licensed Educational Professional)		
Alan Ford	Instructor at Kennedy	End of 2024-2025 School Year

Resignation

Shane Foster	Teacher at KJHS	End of 2025-2026 School Year
Zachary Ganger	Instructor Facilitator	May 12, 2025
Mark Haase	Driver's Ed Teacher at KHS	End of 2025-2026 School Year
Jared Harris	Instructor at Kennedy	End of 2024-2025 School Year
Toni Jordan	Instructor at Kennedy	End of 2024-2025 School Year
Lisa Mulder	Teacher at Kennedy	End pf 2024-2025 School Year
Khadaizha Sanders	Physical Education Instructor at Taft	End of 2024-2025 School Year
Maria Styck	Instructor at KHS	May 13, 2025
Randyll Ward	Learning Resource Interventionist at King	End of 2024-2025 School Year
Resignations (Support Personnel)		
Kendall Armstrong	Night Custodian at KJHS	May 2, 2025
Monica Garcia	Bilingual Parent Liaison	End of 2024-2025 School Year
Carol Goodrich	Food Service Secretary	June 30, 2025
Latisha Phillips	Cafeteria helper at KHS	May 13, 2025
Kyla Spears	Parent Liaison at Kennedy	April 25, 2025
Appointments (Licensed Educational Professional)		
Laura Bandini-Redmann	4th Grade Gifted at King	August 18, 2025
Chrystal Burich	Kindergarten Teacher at Taft	August 18, 2025
Erika Carstens	Special Education Teacher at Kennedy	August 18, 2025
Miriam Diaz Martinez	Art Teacher at King	August 18, 2025
Veronica Duddleston	Family and Consumer Science Teacher at KHS	August 18, 2025
Kelly Hebert	Science Teacher at KJHS	August 18, 2025
Emmanual Jackson	Family & Consumer Science Teacher at KHS	April 14, 2025
Marycarmen Lopez	4th Grade Bilingual at Kennedy	August 18, 2025

Appointment

Sabastian Medina	Spanish Teacher at KJHS	August 18, 2025
Julia Merino Solana	4th Grade Dual Language Teacher at Kennedy	August 18, 2025
Grant Penrod	Kays Media Instructor	April 14, 2025
Judith Prenzlów	Music Teacher, at Mark Twain	August 18, 2025
Anita Rodriguez	Science Teacher at KJHS	August 18, 2025
Garrett Schad	Physical Education Teacher at Kennedy	August 18, 2025
Teagan Schmalfeldt	3rd Grade Teacher at Steuben	August 18, 2025
Kaiya Sellers	Physical Education Teacher at Taft	August 18, 2025
Kimberly Slack	Special Education Teacher at Avis Huff	August 18, 2025
Michelle Vosberg	Student Support Interventionist at Taft	April 14, 2025
Appointments (Support Personnel)		
Richard Brooks	School Safety Officer at KHS	May 16, 2025
Lashae Davis	Cafeteria Helper at KJHS	May 13, 2025
Christal Jarrett	Cafeteria Helper at KJHS	TBD
Internal Appointment (Administrative Personnel)		
Krystal Clifton	K-6 Instructional Coordinator	July 1, 2025
Anthony Sykes	Director of Business Services	July 1, 2025
Jennifer Way	Executive Director of Teaching & Learning	July 1, 2025
Internal Appointment (Licensed Educational Professional)		
Melissa Guzman	Kindergarten Teacher at Steuben	August 18, 2025
Brandon Streets	Physical Education Teacher at KHS	August 18, 2025

A motion was made by Lopez, seconded by Gathing, to amend the consent agenda by removing Liza Nichols from the hire list, changing Lisa Mulder from Instructor to Licensed Teacher, and adding Lorna Nanasca as a transfer from King to Taft and transferring Leslee Caldwell from Transition to Steuben. ROLL CALL VOTE: Gathing, Lopez, Verrett, Williams, Yancy-Smith, Berrones, and Bohlen.

A motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Williams, to approve the consent agenda as amended. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Williams, Yancy-Smith, Berrones, Bohlen, Gathing, Lopez, and Verrett.. NAYS: none. Motion carried.

Action Items

1. Approval of the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for the 2025-2026 School Year.

A motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Williams, to approve the 2025-2026 Board of Education meeting schedule as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-Yancy-Smith, Berrones, Bohlen, Gathing, Lopez,

Action Items

Board of Education
Meeting Schedule
for the 2025-2026
School Year

Verrett, and Williams. NAYS- none. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Opting Out of ISBE's College and Career Pathway Endorsement.

A motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Verrett, to approve opting out of ISBE's College and Career Pathway Endorsement as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES- Lopez, Verrett, Williams, Yancy-Smith, Berrones, Bohlen, and Gathing. NAYS: none. Motion carried.

3. Approval for Dr. Patricia Gonzalez to work 10 Transition Days at her Prorated Daily Rate Per her Salary Contract to be Billed Monthly.

A motion was made by Berrones and seconded by Veronda to approve Dr. Patricia Gonzalez to work 10 Transition Days at her Prorated Daily Rate Per her Salary Contract to be Billed Monthly as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Berrones, Bohlen, Gathing, Lopez, Verrett, Williams, and Yancy-Smith. NAYS: none. Motion carried.

4. Approval of the Recommendation of Salary Increase for Administrators for the 2025-2026 School Year.

A motion was made by Williams, seconded by Berrones, to approve the recommended salary increases for administrators for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Verrett, Williams, Yancy-Smith, Berrones, Bohlen, Gathing, and Lopez. NAYS- none. Motion carried.

Information & Proposals

1. Previous Bill Run
2. March 2025 Monthly Report
3. Head Start Information

Old Business

Announcements

Adjourn

At 8:29 p.m., a motion was made by Gathing, seconded by Williams, to adjourn the meeting—all ayes; motion carried.

SIGNED: _____

Christopher Bohlen, President

ATTEST: _____

Suzy Berrones, Secretary

APPROVED JUNE 9, 2025

Opting Out of ISBE's
College and Career
Pathway
Endorsement

Dr. Patricia Gonzalez
to work 10 Transition
Days at her Prorated
Daily Rate Per her
Salary Contract to be
Billed Monthly

Recommendation of
Salary Increase for
Administrators for
the 2025-2026
School Year.

Information &
Proposals

Old Business

Announcements

Adjourn