



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 9, 2026

Via electronic mail
Mr. John Kraft
[REDACTED]

RE: OMA Request for Review – 2026 PAC 97039

Dear Mr. Kraft:

The Public Access Bureau has received the attached answer to your Request for Review from the Kankakee School District 111 Board of Education (Board). This answer is the Board's response to the issues you raised concerning the Open Meetings Act (OMA). 5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.* (West 2024). The Board has provided this office with records in addition to its answer, but OMA prohibits this office from disclosing those records to you. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(g) (West 2024).

This office has not yet determined whether or not the Board violated OMA. You now have the option of replying in writing to the Board's answer by providing **any additional information or arguments about the issues you raised in your Request for Review**. A reply is not required but, if you choose to reply, you must submit your reply to this office within 7 business days of your receipt of this letter. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2024). Please send a copy of any reply to the Board as well.

As the next step, this office will consider the information and arguments presented by both parties and analyze the law to determine whether or not a violation of OMA occurred. The time that this process takes varies from case to case. We will notify you in writing of this office's conclusions when the review is complete.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at (773) 835-0734 or bradley.snyder@ilag.gov.

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Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov

Mr. John Kraft
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Very truly yours,

Bradley Snyder

BRADLEY SNYDER
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cc: *Via electronic mail*
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October 9, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Bradley Snyder
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau
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Re: Response to Request for Review 2026 PAC 97039

Dear Mr. Snyder:

This law firm represents the Board of Education of Kankakee School District 111 (the “Board”) regarding the above-captioned request for review. The Board received your September 23, 2026 letter regarding Mr. John Kraft’s request for Public Access Counselor review of the Board’s August 10, 2026 Board meeting. Specifically, Mr. Kraft contends that the Board voted to approve the payment of a fine related to a statement of economic interests without sufficiently informing the public of the nature of the matter prior to the vote, in violation of the Open Meetings Act. This response and the enclosed materials confirm that the Board properly notified the public of its action to pay the fine in question prior to voting.

I. Background

A newly appointed Kankakee Board member received notice of penalties and fees associated with a late filing of a statement of economic interest. The amount of penalties and fees at issue was \$2,100. Because the fine was related to the Board member’s service on the Board, the Board considered whether it would be appropriate to pay the fine on the Board member’s behalf. As a result, one of the action items listed on the August 10, 2026 Board meeting agenda was “Approval to Pay Fine Relating to Economic Statement of Interest.”

At the August 10, 2026 Board meeting, public comment was scheduled before the Board voted on whether to pay the statement of economic interest penalty. One community member, Alderman Michael Prude, made a public comment specifically related to the agenda item “Approval to Pay Fine Relating to Economic Statement of Interest.”¹ Alderman Prude was the only community member who availed themselves of the opportunity to speak to the Board regarding this item on the agenda.

¹ August 10, 2026 Board meeting video at 45:40.

Following public comment, the Board moved to action items on the agenda. The Board President read the action item at issue aloud, stating, that the next item up for approval was “the approval of the fine relating to a tardy economic interest statement of a board member.”² The Board President asked whether the Board had any questions or debate, and no members raised any debate related to the agenda item. The Board subsequently voted on the motion for approval, which passed.

II. Analysis

Under the OMA, every public body must post an agenda for each regular meeting at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a). The agenda must provide the general subject matter of the items upon which the Board is to act. 5 ILCS 120/2.02(c). There is no requirement for the agenda to include specific details of each action. *Id.*; *Bd. of Educ. of Springfield Sch. Dist. No. 186 v. Att’y Gen. of Ill.*, 2017 IL 120343, ¶¶ 32-33. Nor does Section 2.02(c) of the OMA require the Board to identify the specific amount of the fine on the agenda; rather, the agenda only must have indicated that the Board would consider payment of the fine. *See Ill. Att’y Gen. Pub. Acc. Op. No. 19-012*, issued Nov. 13, 2019, at 5 (concluding Section 2.02(c) did not require the public body to identify the amount of a permit application fee increase on the agenda, only that the public body would consider an ordinance concerning permit application fees).

Here, the agenda item titled “Approval to Pay Fine Relating to Economic Statement of Interest” sufficiently notified the public of the general subject matter of the action item. While the agenda item did not detail the exact amount of the fine, that level of specificity is not required under the OMA. *Id.* The PAC held similarly in 2019 PAC 59095, in which the PAC concluded the agenda item, “approval of the settlement regarding Fonder versus Martinez” was sufficient, despite the fact that it did not include the specific settlement amount to be paid. Similarly, the Board here met its obligation with respect to Section 2.02(c) of the OMA.

Illustrating that the Board provided the public with enough specificity regarding the action item at issue was Alderman Prude’s public comment regarding the action item.³ Alderman Prude had enough information based on the agenda language to plan a public comment regarding payment of the penalty related to an economic statement of interest. Mr. Kraft did not make a public comment during the August 10, 2026 meeting, nor does he claim that he attempted to gain more information or make his opinion regarding the agenda item known at any point between the agenda’s posting and the Board’s action at the August 10 Board meeting. Therefore, neither Mr. Kraft, nor any other member of the public, were precluded from making their thoughts known about the penalty’s payment at the August 10, 2026 meeting.

In addition, Section 2(e) of the OMA requires any final action to be “preceded by a public recital of the nature of the matter being considered and other information that will inform the public of the business being conducted.” 5 ILCS 120/2(e). The recital, however, “need not provide an explanation of its terms or significance.” *Bd. of Educ. of Springfield Sch. Dist. No. 186*, 2017 IL 120343, at ¶ 64. In 2019 PAC 59095, for example, the mayor informed the public, “we do have

² *Id.* at 1:12:18.

³ *Id.* at 45:40.

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action resulting from the executive session under item A: approval of the settlement regarding Fonder versus Martinez.” The PAC found this to be sufficient under Section 2(e) of the OMA, reasoning “[a]lthough additional information concerning the terms of the settlement... would have increased transparency and better informed the public of the nature of the action being taken, based on the standard articulated in *Springfield School District* this office is unable to conclude that the [public body] violated the requirements of Section 2(e) of the OMA.” 2019 PAC 59095.

Here, before voting on the action item, the Board president read the item aloud, stating the next item for approval was the “fine relating to a tardy economic interest statement of a Board member.”⁴ A motion to approve payment of the penalty was properly made and the Board President allowed the Board an opportunity for questions or discussion; none were raised. Only then did the Board vote on approval of the payment. Similar to 2019 PAC 59095, the Board properly notified the public of the business being conducted, regardless of the omission of the exact penalty amount in its recital. Accordingly, the Board’s recital at the August 10, 2026 meeting properly complied with Section 2(e) of the OMA.

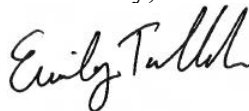
III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Board did not violate the OMA during its August 10, 2026 meeting. Enclosed with this response for the PAC’s review are the following from the August 10, 2026 meeting:

- Meeting agenda
- Open session meeting minutes
- Meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfBCDyT15kY>

The Board looks forward to hearing from you as you conclude your review. The Board will take no further action on this matter until so directed by your office.

Sincerely,



Emily M. Tulloch

Enclosures

⁴ *Id.*