

KENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

APPROVED-Special Meeting Minutes- December 2014

The Kent Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. at Kent Center School. Present were: Chairman Paul Cortese, Vice Chairman Allan Priaulx, CiCi Nielsen, Dana Slaughter, and Rob Ober. (Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso absent). Also present were: Principal Florence Budge, High School Board Member Jonathan Moore, High School student Evan Taylor, Ed Epstein, Mark McWhinney, and a member of the press.

Chairman Paul Cortese called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Paul Cortese asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Allan Priaulx made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen.

2. Approval of the minutes of the November Special Meeting

Paul Cortese made a motion to approve the minutes of the November Special Meeting. CiCi Nielsen made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Allan Priaulx.

3. Communications:

a) High School student report

Housatonic Valley Regional High School student and Kent Center School graduate Evan Taylor attended the meeting to share his experiences with the debate team. Evan discussed the progress of the students on the debate team and expressed an interest in getting more people to participate and join the team. He said that the debate team helps to raise awareness of current events. There was a discussion about having a Regional debate and ideas were shared about how to organize future debates.

b) Comments from Board members / Public

There was a discussion about how a Kent Center School education helps to prepare students for high school. Evan Taylor said that he felt well prepared for Housatonic High School thanks to the excellent education that he received at Kent Center School.

There was a question from the public about the former Assistant Superintendent's contract and Board members responded with the information that was already made available to the public.

c) Written- None

3. Principal's Report- (written)

Principal Florence Budge read highlights from the December Principal's Report, including a discussion of some of the recent happenings at the school. A few of the highlights were the Veteran's Day Celebration and the Kent Center School Scholar Awards. Grade 8 will be participating in the NAEP Testing on January 28, 2015.

4. High School Report – Jonathan Moore

High School Representative Jonathan Moore gave a report on some of the upcoming events at the high school, including a production of the musical comedy, The Boyfriend, which will feature 23 students. There was also a discussion about the upcoming meeting on January 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. of the ABC Committee and the Regional Board, where there will be a review of the 7000 Series. Details were discussed about the Assistant Superintendent's

position and how a hired consultant will conduct focus groups to find the right candidate.

6. Committee Reports:

a) Building Committee – Paul Cortese

The Building Committee met on December 3, 2014 to discuss the Kent Center School roofing project. Chairman Paul Cortese recommended that the Board proceed with Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC for the project. The firm submitted an updated estimate for the project and Board members reviewed the Conceptual Budget Cost Estimate. The bidding process will begin where the architects will write specifications for contractors and the Board will review the proposal. The Building Committee will also review the Capital Plan after an infrastructure assessment.

b) Budget – CiCi Nielsen

CiCi Nielsen reported that the Budget Committee will meet in mid-January to start making adjustments and to make recommendations for next year. There will be a discussion about health insurance, transportation, and other budgetary items.

c) All Boards Chair – Paul Cortese

Chairman Paul Cortese reported that the ABC and the Region 1 Board will meet in January to discuss the 7000 Series. There was a discussion about the division of cost regarding the Superintendent and her responsibilities throughout the Region. Each individual town needs to make a decision about the division of cost since this is the only element of the budget that is not based on student enrollment.

d) Policy Committee – Dana Slaughter

Dana Slaughter reported that she met with Principal Budge and Superintendent Chamberlain to discuss how to proceed with the revision of some of Kent Center School's policies. Some of the policies are outdated and need to be revised. One of the goals is to work on making the documents available to the Board through the use of Google docs so that members can highlight changes and make suggestions for improvement.

7. Superintendent of Schools' Report: (written)

a) Announcements

Superintendent Chamberlain read highlights from her report, including a discussion about a proposed state regional calendar that would help to keep school vacations the same across the region. The first day of school would also be consistent throughout the state as well. The Superintendent recommended that Region 1 adopt the common calendar for one year. In subsequent years, the region could lobby for variations that would better suit their needs.

8. Old Business:

a) Policy 9435 Review – suggested tabling until January

Chairman Paul Cortese gave an update on the review of Policy 9435 and public meeting conduct. Chairman Cortese stressed the need for a framework for how the Board communicates items on the Agenda. He made it clear that the revision of this policy is not an attempt to stifle free speech. There was a discussion about the importance of following FOI regulations.

9. New Business:

a) Authorization of Superintendent for State Grant (Roof Project)

Chairman Cortese asked for a motion to approve the authorization of the Superintendent for the State Grant (Roof Project). Allan Priaulx made a motion for the authorization to engage Jacunski

Humes Architects, LLC in the project. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen and approved unanimously.

b) Approval of 2015 Meeting Dates

There was a discussion about the proposed 2015 meeting dates for the Kent Center School Board of Education. CiCi Nielsen made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2015 as follows: January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, September 3, October 1, November, 5, and December 3. Meetings will take place the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Kent Center School. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter and approved unanimously.

10. Closing Comments

Motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. by Allan Priaulx. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin K. Richards
Board Clerk

<p>It is the policy of Regional School District One that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against under any program, including employment, because of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut State and/or Federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries regarding district nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Director of Pupil Services, 236 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031, 860-824-5369, ext. 4</p>
