

KENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

APPROVED-Minutes- October 2014

The Kent Board of Education met on Thursday, October 2, 2014, at 6:00 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: Superintendent of Schools Patricia Chamberlain, Principal Florence Budge, High School Board Member Jonathan Moore, Teacher Lee Sohl, Ed Epstein, and members of the press.

Paul Cortese called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda-**

Paul Cortese asked for a motion to amend the agenda.

CiCi Nielsen made a motion to:

Amend the agenda to include a Family Leave Request under New Business, and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Allan Priaulx.

Allan Priaulx made a motion to:

Approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen and approved unanimously.

2. **Approval of the Minutes-**

CiCi Nielsen made a motion to:

Approve the minutes of the September 2, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Allan Priaulx and approved unanimously.

3. **Comments from Board Members/Public**

Chairman Paul Cortese mentioned that there would be a Town Meeting held at Kent Center School following the meeting.

4. **Communications:**

a) High School Student Report- none

b) Written- none

5. **High School Report** – Jonathan Moore

Representative Jonathan Moore gave a summary of the happenings at HVRHS, including a discussion about recent meetings of the High School Board and the Region 1 Board.

There was a joint session of the Region 1 Board and the ABC to discuss litigation. There will be a second meeting on October 24th. Enrollment at the high school has decreased to 394 students (400 total), with Kent's participation at 2.465-2.488%.

6. **ABC Committee Update-** Paul Cortese

Chairman Paul Cortese reviewed the recent activities of the Board. There was a discussion about the average daily membership and total number of students per region. Allan Priaulx reported that he invited Dr. Jose Martinez to come to Kent and to meet some of the townspeople, including First Selectman Bruce Adams. There was a discussion about the need to create more of a presence for HVRHS in the town of Kent. Ideas included bringing actors from the high school plays to perform at Kent Center School. scheduling meetings in cooperation with the library. and inviting the Principal to

his efforts in welcoming Dr. Martinez to Kent. The Board congratulated HVRHS social studies chair Peter Vermilyea on his recent book publication, *The Hidden History of Litchfield County*.

7. Principal's Report (report on file)

Principal Budge read highlights from her October Principal's Report, including a discussion about the current and upcoming events at Kent Center School. Highlights included the successful Open House on September 17th, Fall Marathon, Brooker Memorial Dental Clinic, Student Council, PTO, and Power School.

8. Committee Reports:

a) Wellness Committee – Allan Priaulx

Allan Priaulx gave an overview of the recent happenings of the Wellness Committee, including a discussion about the Fall Marathon program, the nutrition program for grades 4-6, and the Brooker Memorial Dental Clinic. Chef Chris and John Grant are expected to visit with the students to discuss healthy eating habits. There was a request to add the topic of recess to the future agenda.

b) Building Committee – Paul Cortese

Chairman Paul Cortese reported there is an upcoming meeting at the end of October to discuss Kent Center School's roof replacement and the vendors and technologies that are available for the project.

b) Budget – CiCi Nielsen

There was a discussion about the potential need for school board members to attend the Kent Board of Finance meetings.

9. Superintendent of Schools' Report (report on file)

a) Official Enrollment

Superintendent Patricia Chamberlain read highlights from her Superintendent's Report, including the official enrollment in Region 1 by school, teacher evaluation, Northwest Corner Prevention Network, K-3 Reading Survey for Teachers, Announcements, and Events. There was a discussion about the 75th Anniversary of Housatonic Valley Regional High School event and a program is included in the written report.

10. Old Business:

a) Board Goals

Paul Cortese asked board members for their proposals for this year's Board Goals. There was a discussion about the need for policy reviews. It was recommended to proceed by reviewing each policy by series and to make a comprehensive list with a schedule. Dana Slaughter will serve as Chair of the Policy Committee.

11. New Business:

a) Town of Kent Capital Plan- Additions

There was a discussion about the upcoming deadline of October 24 for Additions to the Town of Kent Capital Plan and it was determined that the Board would need to ask for a two-week extension.

b) Policy 9345 Meeting Conduct –Revision – First Reading

There was a discussion about the current policy for Meeting Conduct and it was determined that Board members would need to review this policy and make suggestions for improvement. The Revision needs to be review and it will be discussed at the next

c) Policy on Remote Attendees- First Reading

There was a discussion about the new Remote Attendee policy for board members and the second reading will be in November.

c) Family Leave Request

There was a request for a Maternity Leave/Family Leave by Brittany Barrett.

There was a motion to approve the request by Allan Prialx and the motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen. The Board approved her request and Principal Budge is preparing a formal letter with the specific details.

Motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. by CiCi Nielsen. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin K. Richards
Board Clerk