

KENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

APPROVED-Special Meeting Minutes- January 2015

The Kent Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Thursday, January 8, at 6:00 p.m. at Kent Center School. Present were: Chairman Paul Cortese, Vice Chairman Allan Priaulx, CiCi Nielsen, Dana Slaughter, and Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso (Rob Ober absent). Also present were: Principal Florence Budge, Superintendent of Schools Patricia Chamberlain, High School Board Member Jonathan Moore, teachers Joshua Szwed and Pat Ciccone, Ed Epstein, and members of the press.

Chairman Paul Cortese called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 October 2, 2014 meeting and the December 9, 2014 Special Meeting

Paul Cortese asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2014 meeting. CiCi Nielsen made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Allan Priaulx. (Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso, abstain)

Paul Cortese asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2014 meeting. Allan Priaulx made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen. (Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso, abstain)

3. Communications:

a) High School Student Report - None

b) Report- Josh Szwed

Kent Center School's new 5th and 6th Grade Science teacher, Josh Szwed, presented an informative "Welcome to Science" report that included a detailed powerpoint presentation and overview of the Science program. Mr. Szwed discussed his background and provided some highlights of the program, including the Kent Center School Wildlife Habitat Project, which will help to get the students more involved with improving the habitat for local wildlife. Board members welcomed Mr. Szwed to Kent Center School and thanked him for his informative presentation.

c) Written- None

4. High School Report – Jonathan Moore

High School Representative Jonathan Moore presented the Region One Report to the Board. He gave details about the upcoming Robotics Fundraising Dinner on January 15, 2015 to be held at the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville. Mr. Moore announced that Region One has made the College Board's AP District Honor Roll and gave a description of the requirements. 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.

5. ABC Committee Update – 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 will make a decision about the division of cost since this is the only element of the budget that is not based on student enrollment. Superintendent Patricia Chamberlain sent out a parent notice that was forwarded to all of the Town Clerk offices in the region detailing the upcoming meetings with the consultant to review the Assistant Superintendent's position qualifications.

6. Principal's Report- (written)

Principal Florence Budge read highlights from the January Principal's Report, including a discussion of some of the recent happenings at Kent Center School. A few of the highlights were the Winter Concert and Jump Rope for Heart. Mrs. Budge thanked Sandra Kleisner, David Poirier, and Marci Saunders for their efforts. The first session of the Continental Mathematics League's coding contest will be held on January 15, 2015 at Kent Center School.

7. Committee Reports:

a) Building Committee – Paul Cortese

Paul Cortese reported that there has not been another Building Committee meeting since the December meeting. The Kent Center School roofing project bidding process is set to begin where Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC will write specifications for contractors and the Board will review the proposal. Mr. Cortese announced that John Mauer will help with the project as a new member of the Building Committee and commented that Mr. Mauer's help is much appreciated. There was also a discussion about additional needs and Mrs. Budge expressed concern about some of the heating issues at Kent Center School. It is necessary to manage the heat so that it is more evenly distributed throughout the building. 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. Meeting dates are listed under New Business.

8. Superintendent of Schools' Report:

a) Written Report

Superintendent Chamberlain reported that the 2015-2016 calendar for Region One School District has been approved. A copy of the calendar was given to Board members for reference. The state will be divided into larger regions and Region One is part of the Greater Litchfield region.

b) Announcements (Written)

A Tentative Itinerary for consultant Dr. Mary Broderick was presented with dates for the upcoming Focus Groups.

9. Old Business:

a) BOE Policy 9435

Chairman Paul Cortese gave an update on the review of Policy 9435 and public meeting conduct. Dana Slaughter discussed her Policy Committee meeting with Principal Budge to review and presented a revision of the policy to the Board for a first reading. There will be a second reading at next month's meeting.

10. New Business:

a) Budget Workshop Dates

There was a discussion about the Budget Workshop meeting dates for the Kent Center School Board of Education. The meetings will be held on January 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. and on February 5, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. at Kent Center School.

11. Public Comments

Lynn Worthington presented a few questions to the Board regarding the ABC Committee and the goals of the new cooperative agreement. There was also a discussion about the lack of a guest wi-fi option for members of the public at Kent Center School.

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. by Allan Priaulx. The motion was seconded by Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso.

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>
