

KENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

APPROVED-March 2015

The Kent Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Kent Center School. Present were: Chairman Paul Cortese, Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso, CiCi Nielsen, Rob Ober and Dana Slaughter (Allan Priaulx and Principal Florence Budge, absent). Also present were: Superintendent of Schools Patricia Chamberlain, High School Board Member Jonathan Moore, Lee Sohl, Rita Limbos, First Selectman Bruce Adams, and members of the press.

Paul Cortese called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2015 special meeting, and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter and approved unanimously.
- Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso made a motion to:
Amend the agenda to include the approval of a summer school director under New Business, and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen and approved unanimously.
- Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso made a motion to:
Amend the agenda to include a discussion about French and Spanish language options under New Business, and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen and approved unanimously.

2. Approval of the minutes of the January 8, 2015 special meeting

Paul Cortese asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2015 special meeting.

- CiCi Nielsen made a motion to:
Approve the minutes of the January 8, 2015 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter. (Paul Cortese, Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso, abstain)
- CiCi Nielsen made a motion to:
Approve the minutes of the February 5, 2015 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter. (Paul Cortese, Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso, abstain)

3. Communications:

- a) High School Student Report- None
- b) Written- None
- c) Public Comments- None

4. High School Report – Jonathan Moore

Jonathan Moore presented the Regional School District One Budget Summary. There was a discussion about the Region 1 Budget and the need for the addition of two social workers at the elementary and high school level. Jonathan Moore reported that the Region One Board adopted a tentative mission statement and goals that would detail staffing and building utilization.

5. ABC Committee Update – Paul Cortese

Jonathan Moore reported that an attorney was present at the last ABC meeting and the Joint Employment Contract was explained.

6. Principal’s Report- Written (Report on File)

7. Committee Reports:

a) Building Committee – Paul Cortese

Paul Cortese reported that the roof replacement project is moving forward with architectural estimates and drawings. It is recommended that a sub-committee be formed to manage the project. It is expected that the Board of Selectman will approve the project.

b) Budget – CiCi Nielsen

CiCi Nielsen presented the Kent Board of Education 2015-2016 Budget for Board approval. Paul Cortese asked for a motion to approve the budget.

- Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso made a motion to:
Approve the Kent Board of Education 2015-2016 Budget of \$7,029, 413.00.
The motion was seconded by Rob Ober and approved unanimously.

c) Wellness – Allan Priaulx - None

8. Superintendent of Schools’ Report: (Report on File)

a) Written Report

Superintendent Patricia Chamberlain read highlights from her Superintendent’s Report and thanked the Board members for all of their efforts this year, as it is Board Member Appreciation month.

There are four retiring teachers at Kent Center School this year:

- Al Coffill, 41 years of service
- Rachael D’Ambrosia, 39 years of service
- Linda Miller, 26 years of service
- Mark Scozzafava, 38 years of service

Patricia Chamberlain thanked the retiring teachers for all of their efforts over their many years of service at Kent Center School.

9. Old Business:

a) Board of Education Policy 9435 – Public Meeting Conduct – 2nd reading
CiCi Nielsen made a motion to table this policy until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter and approved unanimously.

- b) Hazing and Bullying Policy 5131.911 – addition of a teen dating violence section

Dana Slaughter presented a first draft of the Board’s revision of the Hazing and Bullying Policy. The school is required to revise its policy to include the addition of a teen violence section. The Safe School Climate Plan is to include the new revision.

10. New Business:

- a) Joint employment

- CiCi Nielsen made a motion for the Kent Board of Education to: Approve the Board Chair, Paul Cortese, to sign the Joint Employment Agreement for the Superintendent with the apportionment to remain as it currently stands for the 2015-2016 year, then an equal apportionment for the 2016-2017 school year. The motion was seconded by Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso and approved unanimously.

- c) Principal’s Contract

There is a placeholder in the budget for contract discussion.

- d) Summer school director

Kent Center School will be hiring a summer school director to run the summer school this coming summer. In years past, the summer program was a regional program, but now each school has the option of providing its own summer session. Principal Budge will be asked to approve the summer program director.

- e) French and Spanish at Kent Center School

There was a discussion about Kent Center School’s current language offering of French and whether or not the school should also offer Spanish or other languages. It was suggested that a parent population survey would be devised in order to get ideas from the school community. The Board will discuss this issue at the next meeting. Direction is needed to write an accurate job description for the opening in the Language department at Kent Center School.

Motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. by CiCi Nielsen. The motion was seconded by Rob Ober.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin K. Richards
Board Clerk

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