

KENT CENTER SCHOOL

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KENT CENTER SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

APPROVED-Minutes March 2017

BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

The Kent Board of Education held their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Library at Kent Center School. Present were: Chairman Allan Prialux, Vice Chairman Martin Lindenmayer, CiCi Nielsen, Robert Ober, Dana Slaughter, Patricia Chamberlain, Florence Budge, and Jonathan Moore. (Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso, absent) Also present were: KCS Teachers Ane Starr, Marci Saunders, Katie Moore, Michelle Mott, Lee Sohl and Kathleen Robey and members of the press.

Call to Order – Allan Prialux called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**1. Approval of Agenda**

An amendment to the agenda was proposed by Allan Prialux. It reads as follows under 11, a new item will be added. 11b) Budget considerations by CiCi Nielson and Florence Budge

- CiCi made the motion to amend the agenda. Dana Slaughter seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- Marty Lindenmayer made a motion to approve the agenda. Dana Slaughter seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**2. Approval of the minutes of meeting of the February 2, 2017 meeting**

- Marty Lindenmayer made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2017 meeting. Dana Slaughter seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**3. Communications:**

a) High School Student Report

Ally Winan spoke of her experience at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. She is a senior there and is going to study Marine Biology at the University of New Haven next year. She felt well prepared to high school and know what to expect. The only thing she would like to see changed is more freedom with art electives. She ended up taking the same art class twice because there are only two painting classes offered at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

b) Comments from Public

Melissa Cherniske asked how the extra 15 minutes of instructional time will be used next year and whether they will be at the beginning or end of the day. Florence Budge replied by saying that the schedule for next year was not finalized and depended also on the bus company. As soon as a final decision is made, parents will be notified.

c) Written- None

**4. Kent Teachers Forum – Enrichment Program – Katie Moore**

Katie Moore presented her enrichment program to the board. In second grade, she is currently working on countries and is incorporating art and social studied into her enrichment. In first grade, they have just

finished folk tales and tall tales and have moved on to endangered species. In Kindergarten, they are doing Chinese culture, and have previously covered birds, migration and Frida Kahlo's art.

The board was very impressed with the enrichment program and asked how well it was integrated in the curriculum. Katie Moore explained that she works with the classroom teachers to ensure that what she covers is linked to the current units of study, but her enrichment program gives students and opportunity to go deeper into a subject of interest and do extension activities. The board offered their support to Katie Moore for any supplies she might need or anything else. The PTO also offered their support.

### **5. Principal's Report – Florence Budge**

Florence Budge read highlights from the March Principal's Report and gave an overview of upcoming events. Florence thanked the staff at KCS for all their hard work and mentioned how teachers of KCS were rated as A+ on the survey of Connecticut Elementary Schools. Florence Budge thanked the PTO for their hard work. She thanked the Board of Education and recognized all the teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication. She mentioned that it is because of the amazing faculty that Kent Center School is considered one of the top 100 Elementary Schools in Connecticut.

### **6. High School Report – Jonathan Moore**

Jonathan Moore informed the board that the meeting this coming Monday will be a joint meeting between the ABC and the Region 1 board.

A budget committee has been formed at the high school. They started with a 5.4% increase in the budget in their first draft which included a 12% increase in health insurance.

The final budget increase is only 1.44% because there were several retirements.

The high school has a decrease in revenue of around \$310,000, \$50,000 in lost revenue for the AgEd program and \$60,000 for Special Ed. Jonathan Moore was not sure if Business Education was included in the budget, but the ELL tutor was taken out and will probably have to go back in as well as the Business Ed program because that program is a state requirement.

HVRHS is hoping to hire dual certified teachers, one for math and science and one for Spanish and French. They are not replacing the TechEd teacher, but offering more training to the remaining TechEd teacher. The English retirement is a long-term sub in the moment (he is a retired teacher) and will probably be a part time sub next year. The retirements in pupil services will not be replaced.

CiCi Nelson questioned Jonathan Moore about the block schedule. She said that she thinks any schedule changes should be postponed by a year to ensure everyone is knowledgeable and does not see any need to rush. Jonathan Moore answered by saying this was only rushed for the parents, not for the staff. Marty Lindenmayer pointed to the decline in Ds and Fs. Jonathan Moore said that a meeting in December 2015 there had been a discussion about the block schedule but that more information was needed. The board replied that this might be an interesting decision but that there seems to be no need to rush into anything. Patricia Chamberlain said that it was time to take a step back and start with a more collaborative process. The Board of Education expresses concern about the block schedule and expressed to their representative that they think the process should be delayed and that the administration at Housatonic Valley Regional High School needs to improve its communication.

Break

- Robert Ober made a motion to go into executive session at the end of the meeting. The purpose of the executive session is the ABC meeting. Jonathan Moore is invited to attend. CiCi Nelson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **7. Committee Reports:**

- a) Building Committee – Capital Plan – Marty Lindenmayer

The Board of Finance has not reacted yet to the requested funding for the roof. They would like to change the money for the roof into three year payments, Marty pointed out that this leads to a slight increase in the total cost of about 4% a year. The Board of Finance wants to meet with a quorum of the Board of Education to discuss the budget. The painting of the exposed brick wall was put out to bid. The materials the Board of Ed wants them to use are part of the condition of the bid. The color will be maroon. An April work day for the baseball field is planned by the Lyons Club. They are hoping to prep it for the season and put in a protective fence, he suggested a professional company for the fence. Another goal is to fix the dugouts and have students paint the cougar and the "H" and "V".

b) Budget – CiCi Nielsen

Under new business.

c) Wellness – Gonzo Garcia-Pedroso

Gonzo was absent.

d) ABC Meeting – Jonathan Moore

There was not ABC meeting since the last Kent Center School Board of Ed meeting.

e) Grants Committee – Dana Slaughter

She submitted a grant for \$2,500.00 for planting and the arbor for the outdoor classroom. She is planning to send teachers a wish list to fill out and see if the grant money is available for that.

### 8. Superintendent of Schools' Report – Patricia Chamberlain

Patricia Chamberlain spent a lot of time discussing the chart on page 2 of her report, but pointed out that these numbers are changing daily. For Kent alone the 1/3 of the TRP would be around \$302,000, but Patricia Chamberlain said this was unlikely to happen. Astrid von Seufert is being honored by the superintendent.

### 9. Old Business: None

### 10. New Business:

a) Coaching – Tennis

There are not enough kids for softball so Mrs. Morin will coach tennis instead. She hopes to extend the program to include competitions. So far there are 12 boys signed up for baseball.

b) Budget considerations – CiCi Nelson and Florence Budge

Line 73 shows a 1.89% increase.

This year was a contract year; the teachers will receive a 9.6% increase over 3 years. Health insurance has gone up by 12% and dental by 5%.

Decrease in line 23 mainly because of reduced PowerSchool expenditures.

Decrease in line 26 is because next year there will be no contract negotiations.

Increase in line 42 because we now have to start paying for our bandwidth. Florence Budge thanked Charlie Taylor for doing a great job negotiating the price. Patricia Chamberlain recommended a grant for the bandwidth payments. It's called Erate. If we are interested, we should work with the office at HVRHS.

- Martin Lindenmayer made a motion to "Authorize the Board of Education to submit the Kent BoE 2017-18 Budget as Approved in the total amount of \$7,285,764 for Total Board of Education Expenditures (For both Kent Center School Expenditures and Total Regional Expenditures) to the Kent Board of Finance." The motion was seconded by Dana, and it passed unanimously.

### 11. Comments

Robert Ober asked if the new security was working well. Florence Budge said it was.

Lynn Harrington had a question about the reduced state revenue for AgEd but was reassured that the program would remain. She said she had done a lot of reading about Block Scheduling and voiced concerns about the speed of implementation. She said that one year was needed to implement these kinds of programs successfully.

## 12. Adjourn

- Marty Lindenmayer made the motion to adjourn and go into executive session at 7:55 pm. Dana Slaughter seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 7:55 pm and came out at 8:23 pm, and then adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nina Money (substitute board clerk)

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