

KENT CENTER SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes- May 2015

The Kent Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Kent Center School. Present were: Chairman Paul Cortese, Allan Priaulx, CiCi Nielsen, Dana Slaughter, Rob Ober, Florence Budge, Superintendent Patricia Chamberlain, and Jonathan Moore (Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso, absent). Also present were members of the press, teachers Pat Ciccone and Lee Sohl, high school student Angus Gracey, and members of the public.

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.

- Dana Slaughter made a motion to:
Amend the agenda to include a motion for board approval of the Eversource Lighting Retrofit, and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen and approved unanimously.

Allan Priaulx asked for a motion to amend the agenda.

- CiCi Nielsen made a motion to:
Amend the agenda to include Wellness Committee under Committee Reports, and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter and approved unanimously.

2. Approval of the minutes of the April 2, 2015 regular meeting, the April 20, 2015 special meeting, and the April 23, 2015 special meeting

Paul Cortese asked for a motion to approve the April 2, 2015 minutes.

- CiCi Nielsen made a motion to:
Approve the minutes of the April 2, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Rob Ober and approved unanimously.

Paul Cortese asked for a motion to approve the April 20, 2015 special meeting minutes.

- CiCi Nielsen made a motion to:
Approve the minutes of the April 20, 2015 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Allan Priaulx and approved unanimously.

Paul Cortese asked for a motion to approve the April 23, 2015 minutes.

- CiCi Nielsen made a motion to:
Approve the minutes of the April 23, 2015 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Rob Ober and approved unanimously.

3. Communications:**a) High School Student Report-**

Angus Gracey, a senior at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, gave a presentation on the importance of eliminating the use of water bottles at the school. He discussed the negative

impacts of plastics on the environment and on human health. The goal is to create a plastic-free Region One. The Board discussed ways to proceed in this matter and recommended approaching the business manager about creating more refill stations at the school as a first step. The Board thanked Angus Gracey for his efforts.

- b) Comments from Board members / Public
- c) Written-None

4. Principal's Report (Written)

Principal Budge read highlights from her May Principal's Report. She also added comments about the success of the Spring Concert and thanked Mr. Poirier for his efforts.

5. High School Report – Jonathan Moore

Jonathan Moore reported that the Assistant Superintendent position had been filled and that Superintendent Chamberlain would discuss this matter in her report. Jonathan Moore said that the Buildings and Grounds committee is considering a 5.1 million dollar project that would include a new boiler, a roof replacement, underground storage tanks, and new locker rooms. The Building Committee will be meeting later this month to make decisions about their presentation to the Region One Board.

6. Committee Reports:

- a) Building Committee – Paul Cortese
Paul Cortese gave an update on the roofing project that will begin July 1, 2015.
- b) Budget – CiCi Nielsen
CiCi Nielsen gave an update on the budget and there will be a vote on May 15, 2015. Paul Cortese thanked the Board members for all of their efforts on the budget.
- c) All Boards Chair- Paul Cortese
Paul Cortese gave an update on the ABC and reported that there is a Special Meeting planned on May 19 to discuss shared services and the cooperative agreement.
- d) Wellness Committee – Allan Priaulx
Allan Priaulx gave an update on the Wellness Committee. They are currently working on a potential change in the recess policy to allow kids to have more outdoor time.

7. Superintendent of Schools' Report (Written)

Patricia Chamberlain read highlights from the May Superintendent's Report, including Legislative Updates, T.E.A.M., Interviews, Budget Referendum and Vote Dates, and Graduation Dates. She announced that Pamela Kay Vogel has been appointed as the new Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

8. Old Business:

- a) Policy 9435 *Public Meeting Conduct* – 3rd reading

There was a discussion about the Rules of Public Comment and Participation document and the Board expects to preserve public comment fairly. There will be a 4th reading at the June meeting.

9. New Business:

a) Recommendation/New Hires

Superintendent Chamberlain recommended that Ellen Diker be hired for the Art position at Kent Center School. CiCi Nielson made a motion to appoint Ellen Diker as the new Art teacher at Kent Center School. The motion was second by Allan Priaulx and approved unanimously.

b) KCS Policy regarding Sports Physicals

There was a discussion about the need to create a policy regarding sports physicals at Kent Center School. The Board reviewed Policy 5141.3 from another Region One school and is in the process of creating a new policy with reference to a sports component.

c) Solar Options

Kingspan Energy presented to the High School on solar options. They install panels and they own them. Green bank has opportunities to make the grant. We don't have to front the money. There is a 20-year payback. By May 15th the Region can write the grant and has 10 days to say if we want it or not. There is no downside, no financial commitment.

d) Eversource Lighting Retrofit

Board members wanted more information to be presented and the topic was tabled until the June meeting.

10. Comments

There were questions about the new roof. Allan Priaulx made a motion to give Superintendent Patricia Chamberlain permission to apply for the grant and the motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter.

Paul Cortese asked for a motion to adjourn and move into Executive session at 8:12 PM. Allan Priaulx made a motion to adjourn and move to Executive session for the purpose of evaluation of the superintendent. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter.

11. Anticipated Executive Session – Evaluation of the Superintendent

The Executive session was called to order at 8:37 PM. Allan Priaulx motioned to Adjourn at 8:37 PM and the motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristin K. Richards, Board Clerk

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