

## Kent Center School Board Of Education

Draft – Minutes September 6, 2017

The Kent Center School Board of Education held their regular meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Kent Center School library. Present were: Chairman Allan Prialux, Vice Chairman Martin Lindenmayer, CiCi Nielson, Dana Slaughter, Rob Ober, Principal Florence Budge, Superintendent Pam Vogel, Assistant Superintendent Lisa Carter and Jonathan Moore. Also present were teachers Scott Eldridge, Linda Miller, Michelle Mott, Kathleen Robey, Christopher Rose, Lee Sohl, Mike Spalinger, Ane Starr, Brian White and members of the public and press.

Call to order – Allan Prialux called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Alan noted that Mary Cox is now the acting clerk for the Kent Board of Education.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **1. Approval of Agenda**

- CiCi Nielson made a motion to approve the agenda. Dana Slaughter seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

#### **2. Approval of the Minutes of the May 3, 2017 regular meeting**

- CiCi Nielson made a motion to approve the minutes of May 3, 2017 meeting. Martin Lindenmayer seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the June 27, 2017 special meeting**

- Martin Lindenmayer made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 27, 2017 special meeting. CiCi Nielson seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **3. Communications:**

- a) High School Student Report – none
- b) Comments from Public – Maryam Muessel presented information to the board regarding concerns with the education budget. She wanted to bring her concerns to the board first and then to the community level. The board thanked her for her input.
- c) Written – none

#### **4. Kent Teachers Forum**

Florence noted that the teachers will speak under the Principal's Report.

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

Florence reported that the August 24<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten Open House was a success with twenty-two new students, along with their parents, attending. The first day of school was seamless with the new schedule. Students now arrive fifteen minutes earlier at 8:15 for a start time of 8:30. She thanked the teachers for making it so seamless. Resident Trooper Andrew Fisher has been in the school during arrival to greet parents and students. Florence spoke about FLEX time that is being implemented this year. This is an enrichment time to provide cross grade level

enrichment activities. The theme is “Perseverance and Balance”. Linda Miller presented some of the activities being offered. Florence announced the new staff which includes Eileen Bambery, Jennifer Caeners, Ashley Bauer, Karen Iannucci, Georgia Kapetonaopolis and Christopher Rose. Florence shared a certificate from NICHE recognizing Kent Center School for achieving the rank of 10<sup>th</sup> of the best public schools in CT. The board acknowledges the accomplishment and gives thanks for achieving this honor. Florence made some reminders of dates on the school calendar and noted the marathon has begun for students with thanks to Ane Starr for organizing it.

- a) Technology Update – Scott Eldridge asked the board for approval for the remote filter to be turned on for the laptops currently used by students. At this point, the students do not have internet access on their computers for home use. Scott and Brian would like to have the application which is already installed on the computers, to be turned on and they will test with teachers and a few seventh and eighth graders to see that the filters work well. Scott would like the board to review the Technology and Electronic Communication Device Acceptable Use Policy. It will be put on the October agenda for discussion and approval.
- b) Grading Update – Florence reported that she is working with teachers to implement the new grading practices. Michelle Mott, head of the teachers union, added that the teachers were concerned that the new grading practices were to be implemented this year and they were under the impression that they would have the opportunity to continue to try out the new practices as they did last year, before they are fully implemented. Brian White, Linda Miller and Mike Spalinger spoke of concerns they had with the new grading procedures, including the timing and the constraints in PowerSchool. Parents Donna Wilkins and Stephanie Raftery spoke of their concerns with the new practices. Martin Lindenmayer relayed concerns of its effect on the sports programs. Pam Vogel explained that it is the strategic plan and they are taking into consideration what teachers are saying. She and Florence, along with the leadership team, will meet to continue the discussion. Martin Lindenmayer made a motion to delay the implementation of grading practices for Kent Center School to allow full understanding and implementation for the 2017-2018 school year. CiCi Nielson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Jonathan noted that the Region One Board meeting will be on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. He reported on the meetings he attended over the summer.

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

- a) Building Committee – Martin Lindenmayer  
Marty reported on all the work that was completed over the summer. The committee will be looking into a student worker for summer work next year, solar paneling on the gym roof and making the exterior lighting more efficient. The board commended Bill Hurley and his crew for all that was done over the summer.
- b) Budget – CiCi Nielson  
CiCi reported the budget process has not been started for the 2018-2019 year and the next meeting will be warned.
- c) Wellness – Gonzo Garcia-Pedroso (no report)
- d) ABC Meeting – Martin Lindenmayer

The committee will meet on September 13, 2017

e) Grants Committee – Dana Slaughter

Dana reported the committee is researching grants for flexible seating.

**8. Superintendent of Schools' Report – Pam Vogel, Superintendent**

Pam reported that HVRHS had a successful opening day of school. New teachers were introduced and Lisa Carter was welcomed. On opening day Pam gave a speech with the message of "Kindness Matters".

**9. Assistant Superintendent of Schools' – Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent**

Lisa commended all who worked on curriculum mapping. Lisa reported on upcoming professional development opportunities for the year. She noted the object of the new grading practices is to focus on the conversation of learning rather than looking only at GPA. A new EL Coordinator has been hired and she will visit schools in the district.

**10. Old Business:** None

**11. New Business:**

- a) ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs Authorized signature change from Patricia Chamberlain to Pamela Vogel.
  - CiCi Nielson made a motion to approve the authorized signature change. Dana Slaughter seconded the motion, Motion approved unanimously.
- b) Instructional Coaching Position(s)
  - Pam reported training was offered for teachers to become instructional coaches. The position will be posted for each school. Pam asked the board for the Instructional Coaching Position(s) to be added to October's agenda for discussion and approval.

**12. Comments:** None

**13. Adjourn**

Motion made by Dana Slaughter to adjourn at 7:30 pm. Martin Lindenmayer seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Mary R. Cox, Board Clerk

