

Kent Center School Board Of Education

Minutes Draft -April 9, 2018

The Kent Center School Board of Education held a special meeting on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 5:30 pm in the Kent Center School library. Present were: Chairman Martin Lindenmayer, CiCi Nielsen, Melissa Cherniske, Dana Slaughter, Principal Florence Budge, and Assistant Superintendent Lisa Carter. Also present were teachers Michelle Mott, Kathleen Robey, Marci Saunders, Ane Starr, School Psychologist Anne Dealy, Home/School Liaison Monica Rodriguez and members of the public and press.

Call to order - Martin Lindenmayer called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Approval of Agenda –

- No motion needed due to it being a special meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the March 12, 2017 special meeting –

- Melissa Cherniske made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2017 Special Meeting. CiCi Nielsen seconded the motion with Martin Lindenmayer, Cici Nielsen and Melissa Cherniske all in favor. Dana Slaughter abstained. The motion was approved.

3. Written Communication -

- a) Resignation of the HVRHS BOE Representative –** Jonathan Moore's letter of resignation from the Region One BOE was accepted by the KCS BOE.
- b) Parent Letter –** A parent letter was received by the Board. Marty acknowledged that the parents were present.

4. Kent Teachers' Presentation – Monica Rodriguez and Anne Dealy

- KCS Home/School Liaison Monica Rodriguez gave a presentation on the services she offers at KCS. Monica works with all students in Pre-K through eighth grade through classroom programs as well as individual counseling. Her programs include Second Step, which promotes healthy relationships, being assertive and managing feelings in healthy ways, as well as the Botvin Program and Shifting Boundaries Program, new this year. Each program builds on the programs from previous years. Monica stated that she incorporates outside agencies so students know there is support from different areas.
- KCS School Psychologist Anne Dealy shared that this is her thirteenth year in the Region and fourth year at KCS. She works four days a week in Kent and one day in Canaan. She works very closely with Florence and Monica which includes crisis response. A large part of her job is communication with parents and students. Her approach is to do whatever needs to be done to reach a child. She uses a variety of tools which include art therapy and relaxation exercises. Anne stated that she tries to build in a lifelong awareness that

it is ok to reach out for help. She participates in special education observations and evaluations as well.

5. Principal's Report – Florence Budge

- Florence read highlights from her report. She noted the spaghetti dinner was a huge success and profited \$3800. She shared the excitement of Judy Barrett Day. Judy was in attendance as well as Bob Maxon from NBC CT. Florence commended the teachers and students for successful student led conferences. Florence shared that Chris Hurly has come on as the new Cafeteria Manger. Chris has chef experience and will be taking the place of Beth Mernard. Beth has shifted to the full time custodian position. Dave Scholz with be retiring on April 13th. Mary Roseboom has been hired for the part time cafeteria support staff position. A copy of her report has been submitted and filed.

6. High School Report – Jonathan Moore was not in attendance. No report was given.

7. KCS Personnel Recognition –

- There is a new Regionalized program in place to recognize staff. Marty stated that the Board is looking for input from the public members who would like to recognize staff at KCS for outstanding efforts. As representative, Melissa publicly recognized David Poirier and Sandy Kleisner for their dedication and efforts as shining stars of the KCS music program. Because of their dedication, KCS students were able to attend the Northern Regional Music Festival. David and Sandy were unable to attend and will be recognized on Friday, April 9th at the Special Recognition Assembly.

8. Committee Reports:

- a) **Facilities and Safety** – Marty reported that Beth Mernard is to take the place of Dave Scholz as full time custodian. Dave will be retiring. The Lions Club is looking to do service projects in the community. They will be repairing the dugouts on the baseball field which is to include a new cement floor, benches, roof repairs, paint and a safety fence. This will take place on April 20th and 21st for anyone who would like to help. New clay will be applied on the baseball field. The Committee is working on negotiating with a company to provide an estimation and information on solar panels. Marty shared that the Committee is looking at the possibility to replace the glass in the current windows in the building that need attention.

- b) **Budget** – CiCi Nielsen reported that she attended the BOF meeting along with Florence and Rita Limbos. The BOF asked the Board to cut an additional \$25,000 in the 2018-2019 budget. A revised budget that reflects the decrease was presented. Melissa Cherniskie

made

a motion to replace the initial 2018-2019 budget from the March 12, 2017 meeting with the budget presented at the April 9, 2018 BOE meeting, with a total of \$7,294,308. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter. The motion was approved unanimously.

- c) **Wellness** – None
d) **ABC Meeting** – None
e) **Personnel** – None
f) **IT** – None
g) **Community Relations Committee** – None

9. Superintendent of Schools' Report - Pam Vogel, Superintendent

- Pam was not in attendance. Lisa Carter read highlights from Pam's report which included a congratulations to the recipients of the Superintendent's Award. A copy was submitted and will be filed.

10. Assistant Superintendent of Schools' Report - Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent

- Lisa read highlights from her report. A copy was submitted and will be filed.

11. Business:

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a) Region One District One Job Description for the Superintendent – Second Reading –

The job description was reviewed and will be brought to the May 2nd BOE meeting for a reading and final approval.

b) Mastery Based Learning/Acceleration Policy – Second Reading – The policy was reviewed and will be brought to the May 2nd BOE meeting for a third reading and final approval

c) Discussion and Scheduling of Open Forum- Grading Policy Way Forward – Marty stated the Board is looking to have a give and take, open forum, to discuss grading practices. Melissa suggested there be a moderator for the forum. Cici asked that a committee be formed ahead of the forum to look at the information that will be presented. The teachers on the Leadership Committee will develop and present a review of the current Grading Program, specifically looking how it affects 5-8th grades as well as recommendations for follow on proposals, and will present their findings to the Board at a date to be determined, hopefully in the last week of April.

d) Discussion of the HVRHS BOE Representative Position- Marty read the current policy that is in place for replacing a Region One Representative. At this time Kent does not have a Region One Board representative. There was discussion on how the Board would like to proceed. Melissa Cherniske made a motion to allow the Town of Kent Selectmen to bring the Region 1 Board of Education Kent Representative position to a town meeting vote to decide if the town wants to amend the by-laws policy number 9150 and the ordinance 14-4 and allow The Kent BOE Representative position to the Region 1 Board and its alternate position to be a voted position in future elections. There was failure to hear a second to the motion and the motion was denied. Marty stated that he was in favor of the current policy with appointing a representative at large. Melissa Cherniske made a motion to nominate Stephanie Raftery to be the temporary Kent Representative to the Region 1 Board of Education to finish out the current term expiring in November of 2018. The motion was seconded by Dana Slaughter. The motion was approved unanimously.

12. Public Comment:

- Tim and Jessica Sneller asked if their son could not continue as a student at KCS, would a tutor be provided? They asked if his absence would be excused if a doctor's note was provided. Jessica asked what the school's policy is for bullying. Florence responded that all incidents are documented and then go to a coordinator. Marty stated there is professional staff that gets involved with bullying incidents. Jessica shared concern that the current policy in place does not occur and would like it to be followed in the future

to avoid further incidents. Marty stated he will continue to talk with staff and clarify concerns. He will look into any gaps and make sure the policy is followed.

- Susan Scullery stated she would like to encourage parents as well the Board and teachers to be heard and not just ask questions in reference to grading. She feels it is important to have a group openly discuss happenings at KCS and to work as one community.
- Scott Trabucco asked a grading practices update be sent out that can be looked over and read. He would like to be informed before the forum is held.
- Jenn Christen shared that she feels it is imperative that the dates for the forum happen as soon as possible to get the information out. She stated the new grading practices are confusing for all and asked that the information that is already in place be shared.
- Lynn Harrington stated that she feels parents voice opinions and no action is taken when concerns are raised in the Region. She believes that the parents' voices are not being taken into consideration. She relayed that she went to the Kent BOS and asked that the ordinance pertaining to the Region 1 BOE Representative be changed to an elected position.

13. Adjourn

- Motion made by Cici Nielsen to adjourn at 7:58 pm. Melissa Cherniske seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary R. Cox, Board Clerk

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 non-discrimination laws. Inquiries regarding district non-discrimination policies should be directed to the director of Pupil Services, 236 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031, 860-824-5639, ext. 4