

KENT CENTER SCHOOL

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Kent Center School Board Of Education

Draft - March 12, 2018

The Kent Center School Board of Education held a special meeting on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 5:30 pm in the Kent Center School library. Present were: Chairman Martin Lindenmayer, Vice Chairman Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso, CiCi Nielsen, Rob Ober, Melisa Cherniske, Principal Florence Budge, and Superintendent Pam Vogel. Also present were teachers Nancy Ackerman, Linda Miller, Deb Morin, Michelle Mott, Kathleen Robey, Marci Saunders, Lee Sohl, Ane Starr, Ellen Tarabara, KCS Speech Therapist Jandi Hanna, KCS Occupational Therapist Angie Coleman and members of the public and press.

Call to order - Martin Lindenmayer called the meeting to order at 5:35pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Marty noted that during Public Comment there will be two minutes allotment per speaker for a total of twenty minutes. It is a time to hear the public and the BOE will take the concerns into consideration and act as necessary.

Marty honored a request for The Kent Teachers Presentation – Grading Practices Workshop/OT and Speech Presentation to be moved to the top of the agenda.

1. Kent Teachers Presentation

- Angie Coleman from Pupil Services gave a presentation on the services she offers to the students of KCS. Angie spends approximately one third of her week at KCS while serving other schools in the region as well. Angie sees students who have an IEP as well as other students as needed. She works on all around body mechanics as well as fine motor skill development. Jandi Hanna shared her role as Speech therapist which includes screening of pre-K and kindergarten students. Jandi works on developing articulation in students as well as listening for voice problems such as volume and distortions of speech.
- Linda Miller and Ellen Tarabara presented on the Grading Practices workshop they attended in January that featured Dr. Tom Guskey. Linda shared the ten main points they took away from the workshop on standard based. The grading based upon if the student meets the standards. Ellen spoke on the three types of grading criteria which include: Product- achievement of learning goals, Process- behaviors that enable learning and Progress- improvement and/or learning gain. Marty noted his admiration for the work of Dr. Guskey, however he commented that one of the most important aspects of implementing such a radical change in grading must involve getting the “buy-in” and understanding of the faculty, staff, and parents of the students in order to ensure that the changes to grading policies get the time and effort to support the “roll-out” of the new policies. Marty stated that in his opinion, there were many mistakes in the communications and discussions with the Region One community and that going forward,

better effort needed to be made by the Region One leadership. He also stated that moving forward the KCS Board will support the Leadership Team, teachers, students and parents by getting a better understanding of where we are going with grading practices.

A motion was made by CiCi Nielsen to approve the consent agenda with the Region One School Report and Written Communication being pulled and added later in the regular agenda. The motion was seconded by Melissa Cheniske. The motion did not pass with Gonzo Garcia- Pedroso, CiCi Nielsen, Rob Ober and Melissa Cherniske voting nay and Martin Lindenmayer abstaining.

A motion was made by CiCi Nielsen to remove all items from the consent agenda and to be brought into the regular agenda. The motion was seconded by Melissa Cherniske. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Written Communication** – Written correspondence from Toni Presti regarding Grading Practices received by Marty Lindenmayer was not read but was passed out to the board. Also, a letter was received from Allan Priaux thanking the Board and KCS staff for his going away tribute in January.
3. **Region One School Report** – Jonathan was not in attendance. The Region One School Report was read by Pam during the Superintendent’s Report.
4. **Minutes of the January 10, 2018 regular meeting** - Melissa Cherniske made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting. CiCi Nielsen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Mastery Based Learning/Acceleration Policy** – Melissa Cherniske made a motion to have the Mastery Based Learning/Acceleration Policy be a first reading and to bring it to the April meeting for a second reading with discussion and comment. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielson. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. **Committee Reports- Wellness:** Gonzo reported that the Wellness Committee continues to look at the breakfast program. A survey will be sent out to parents to see the level of interest in a breakfast program. Gonzo shared highlights from the Wellness Committee meeting.
7. **April BOE Meeting Date** – Melissa Cherniske made a motion to move the April BOE meeting date from Wednesday, April 4, 2018 to Monday, April 9, 2018. CiCi Nielsen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
8. **Budget Review and Approval** – The Budget Committee submitted the proposed 2018-2019 budget for review and discussion. During the discussion, it was noted that there was a reduction of one full-time position (Math Specialist) proposed. Melissa Cherniske made a motion to accept the 2018-2019 budget of \$7,319,308.00 for submission to the Kent BOF. The motion was seconded by Gonzo Garcia-Pedroso. The motion was approved unanimously.
9. **ABC Committee** – Marty reported that the ABC Committee will be meeting with Mike Ellington on the proposal to regionalize the IT program. A proposal will be sent out for review and comment by the KCS IT staff. Marty shared that the ABC Committee has proposed a Superintendent Job description as there was none in place.
10. **Review and Comments on the Region One District One Job Description for the Superintendent** – The job description was submitted to the Board for review and will be brought to the April meeting for a second reading with discussion and comments.

11. Wellness Policy – Third Reading – CiCi Nielsen made a motion to adopt the Wellness Policy as written. The motion was seconded by Gonzo Garcia- Pedroso. The motion was approved unanimously. Recess for the upper grades will be on the April agenda for discussion.

12. Committees: Review and Assignments – Public Relationship –

a) **IT Committee** – Gonzo will head the IT Committee to support the KCS IT staff.

b) **Facilities and Safety** – Marty Lindenmayer will continue to head the Committee with Chris Harrington and Mike VanValkenburg also serving. The Committee will be doing a review of the windows at KCS and will be looking to authorize additional funds from the Capital Plan. Melissa Cherniske made a motion to request the Board of Finance and Town Treasurer to move the remaining Capital Plan funds from the KCS roof project totaling \$96,626.35 and KCS security upgrade totaling \$24,049.37 to the KCS window project. The motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen. The motion was approved unanimously.

c) **Community Relations Committee** was established as a standing committee with Marty Lindenmayer volunteering to serve. It will work with the Kent Selectman’s Community Development committee as well as other areas to develop KCS as a valuable member of the town.

d) **Budget Committee** will continue as before with CiCi Nielsen and Dana Slaughter assigned.

e) **Wellness Committee** will continue with Gonzo taking the lead from the Board.

f) **Personnel Committee** was established to conduct a review of job descriptions and assist the Principal in ensuring all Non-Cert and Paraprofessional positions are aligned with established “Norms” for the Region in regards to duties and responsibilities commensurate with fair and equitable compensation. Rob Ober agreed to assist on this committee.

13. Tuition Requests –

- Brittany Barrett submitted a request for a tuition waiver for her daughter, Ella, to attend Kent Center School under policy 5118 for the school year 2018-2019. Gonzo Garcia- Pedroso made a motion to accept the request, the motion was seconded by CiCi Nielsen, and approved unanimously.
- Heather Darby submitted a request for a tuition waiver for her son, Jack, to attend Kent Center School under policy 5118 for the school year 2018-2019. CiCi Nielsen made a motion to accept the request, the motion was seconded by Melissa Cherniske, and approved unanimously.
- Jennifer Menniti submitted a request for a tuition waiver for her son, Max, to attend Kent Center School under policy 5118 for the school year 2018-2019. CiCi Nielsen made a motion to accept the request, the motion was seconded by Melissa Cherniske, and approved unanimously.

14. Administration Reports –

a) **Principal’s Report** – Florence thanked Megan Leach for all her efforts for a great Inventors Fair. There were many wonderful inventions! She reported that Scott Eldridge’s STEAM class did a news cast video which was streamed in classrooms during morning announcements . Highlights from the March Principal’s Report were read. A copy was submitted and will be filed.

b) **Superintendent’s Report** – Pam read highlights from the March

Superintendent's Report. A copy was submitted and will be filed. Pam read the Region One School Report from Jonathan. A copy was submitted and will be filed.

c) **Assistant Superintendent's Report** – Lisa was not in attendance. Pam read highlights from Lisa's report. A copy was submitted and will be filed.

15. Public Comment

- Lynn Harrington asked if it was possible for her husband, Chris, to be on the Building Committee. It was noted by Marty.
- Michelle Mott addressed the concern of recess for the upper grades. She stated that the Leadership Committee will continue to look at how it can be incorporated for the upcoming year. At this time the students who do not need makeup work or re-takes are offered recess during Flex on Wednesdays and Fridays. The schedule for this year was finalized.
- Kristin Wilkins was concerned that the BOE did not receive correspondence from her pertaining to recess for the upper grades. She spoke in favor of recess for the students and encouraged the Board to look at the importance of recess time.
- Toni Presti spoke with concern to the new grading practices. Pam stated she will follow up with Toni.
- Amy Raskind asked for information and clarification on grading practices. She spoke of her concern in how it was rolled out before it was clear. Pam stated she will follow up with Amy.
- Melissa Woodin stated she is not seeing the grading practices that were presented, being implemented in the classrooms. She has concern with the new grading practices and she asked that the board put a stop to the new grading practices.
- Tammy Lang spoke with concern of the new grading practices and how it is effecting the foundation of the students.
- Lynn Harrington spoke of concern with the new grading practices.
- Stephanie Raftery addressed the Board, Superintendent and Principal on the lack of time and training allowed for the new grading practices. She was unsure of who to get updated information from pertaining to the grading practices. She stated that the implementation was poor.
- Donna Wilkins stated that she emailed Pam multiple times looking for information on grading practices with no answers. She spoke with concern of the new grading practices.
- Marty will be looking to schedule a forum to review grading practices and where KCS is going with grading.
- Kristin Wilkins suggested the Board form a Committee to look at open enrollment to allow families to choose secondary education locations outside of HVRHS.

Marty Lindenmayer thanked all those who spoke and stated that a Community Forum would be investigated as a means to allow Board members, parents, Faculty and Staff, as well as Region 1 reps to further discuss these issues more thoroughly. Marty also stated he would investigate the idea of "open enrollments" in response to Kristin Wilkins question.

16. Executive Session: Personnel – The Board entered Executive Session at 8:40pm and the Board exited from Executive Session at 8:49pm. No action was taken.

17. Adjourn A motion was made by CiCi Neilson and seconded by Melissa Cherniske to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm, approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary R. Cox, Board Clerk

