

KENT CENTER SCHOOL

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Kent Center School Board Of Education

Approved – Minutes October 4, 2017

The Kent Center School Board of Education held their regular meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Kent Center School library. Present were: Chairman Allan Priaulx, Vice Chairman Martin Lindenmayer, Gonzalo Garcia-Pedroso, CiCi Nielsen, Rob Ober, Dana Slaughter, Principal Florence Budge, Assistant Superintendent Lisa Carter and Jonathan Moore. Also present were teachers Nancy Ackerman, Linda Miller, Michelle Mott, Kathleen Robey, Lee Sohl, Ane Starr, Ellen Tarabara and members of the public and press.

Call to order – Allan Priaulx called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Approval of Agenda

- Martin Lindenmayer made a motion to approve the agenda. CiCi Nielson seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the September 6, 2017 regular meeting

- Dana Slaughter made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6, 2017 meeting. CiCi Nielsen seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Communications:

- a) High School Student Report – None
- b) Comments From Public – None
- c) Written – None

4. Kent Teachers Forum – Personalized Learning – Ellen Tarabara

Ellen gave a detailed presentation on the Teaching for Artistic Behavior Program (TAB) which is a choice based art education approach where students learn how to be self-directed learners. Ellen provided the reasons as to why she switched to the TAB approach as well as shared how the program works. She noted that the students have been enthusiastic and excited about the new program.

5. Principal's Report – Florence Budge

Florence shared highlights from the October Principal's Report including upcoming events at the school. Florence noted that as a part of the 5th and 6th grade Language Arts curriculum, the students will be reading the book Wonder by R.J. Palacio. In the spirit of the message of kindness in the story, students will be purchasing fifty hardcover copies of the book for the school. The funds will be raised by hosting five Friday after-school movies for Kindergarten through 4th grade. Florence also reported that on September 28th Trooper Katherine Cummings from the CT State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force gave a presentation on internet safety to the 6th and 8th graders. Testing of the iBoss remote filtering system has been

completed. It showed that the system is effective regardless of the location of the laptop. The system effectively blocks students from accessing restricted websites while allowing them to access educationally related sites. Laptops will be configured with the system in October. Florence summarized the work done thus far with grading at KCS.

6. High School Report – Jonathan Moore

Jonathan noted that the Region One Board meetings will now be held in the library at HVRHS. He reported the October meeting was the first E-Meeting. His report included that NEASC will be visiting in March. The Parent/Community Partnership group held an informational meeting. It will be a time for people to come together to hear topics and then discuss and provide feedback. He noted that anyone interested in volunteering for the group should contact Pam Vogel. Jonathan explained the Bridges Program which is a program to support “All Children Can Learn” that is being implemented by the Counseling Department.

7. Committee Reports:

a) Building Committee – Martin Lindenmayer

Marty reported, as noted on the Capital Plan, the window replacements will be addressed in 2018. He will be in contact with Bill Hurley.

b) Budget – CiCi Nielson

CiCi reported the budget process has not been started but they will be looking at insurance costs.

c) Wellness – Gonzo Garcia-Pedroso

Gonzo read highlights from the Wellness Committee meeting. He reported on the Kids Marathon, the garden tower and that they are looking into a breakfast program. There will be a Life Skills class for 7th and 8th graders and Shifting Boundaries, a program that will be addressing bullying that will last six weeks.

d) ABC Meeting – Martin Lindenmayer

At the last meeting the ABC Committee discussed that the SBAC results were a concern as far as how the results were coming into play for people coming into the community and how they view them. They are looking at enrolment for the region and how to promote the region by getting positive information out to the community. With concern of the budget, the ABC Committee has drafted a letter to the legislators in the northwest community to express their concerns with the most recently proposed bill. Marty shared that the Committee is looking at how they can generate interest in the Special Olympics and to be a part of the program.

e) Grants Committee – Dana Slaughter

Dana reported that the alternate seating grant is pending. She will be investigating a grant for Robotics.

8. Superintendent of Schools’ Report – Pam Vogel, Superintendent

Pam was not in attendance. A copy of her report was submitted and will be filed.

9. Assistant Superintendent of Schools’ – Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent

Lisa read highlights from her report including curriculum mapping, instruction and assessment. She reported on regional professional development and EL programming for the region. Lisa mentioned that KCS will have seven professional development days in our building.

10. Old Business:

(a) Instructional Coaching Position(s)

- Documentation was accepted by the Board as the first reading and will be presented at the November meeting for a second reading and discussion.

11. New Business: None

12. Comments: None

13. Adjourn

Motion made by Martin Lindenmayer to adjourn at 7:14 pm. Cici Nielsen seconded the motion.
Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Mary R. Cox, Board Clerk

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