

## KENT CENTER SCHOOL

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### Kent Center School Board Of Education

Minutes **DRAFT** – October 3, 2018

The Kent Center School Board of Education held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 5:30pm in the Kent Center School library. Present were: Chairman Marty Lindenmayer, CiCi Nielsen, Melissa Ross-Cherniske, Dana Slaughter, Stephanie Raftery, Principal Michelle Mott, Superintendent of Schools Pam Vogel, and Assistant Superintendent Lisa Carter. Also present were KCS educators Ane Starr, Scott Eldridge, Casey Burke, Kathleen Robey, Lee Sohl and Marci Saunders as well as members of the public and press.

Call to order – Marty Lindenmayer called the meeting to order at 5:33pm

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

- Changes were made to the agenda to add Approval of Minutes of the Special Meetings held on 20 September and 25 September right after Focus on Student Learning.

##### **2. Public Comment**

- Marty Lindenmayer opened the meeting for any public comments. There was none.

##### **3. Recognition of Those Who Contribute to KCS – Melissa Cherniske**

- Melissa Cherniske presented a pin to Mr. Steve Donzella, one of the custodians at KCS, in recognition and honor of his outstanding work ethic at KCS as well as his many achievements and positive efforts in and around the town of Kent. Outside of his duties at KCS, Steve has an additional job at Davis IGA, where his good humor and helpful attitude welcomes anyone who visits the store. Additionally, Steve's many hours dedicated to the annual Harvest Fair and Dinner in early Fall results in some of the best turkey dinners enjoyed in the community. This pin is in recognition of Steve's efforts at KCS and in the community and to thank him for doing it all with a smile.

##### **4. Focus on Student Learning- Morning Student Broadcast Teams**

- KCS teacher Scott Eldridge and the Morning Student Broadcast Team discussed and demonstrated how a live broadcast works in the school studio and everything that is involved in preparing and presenting a live broadcast from writing a script, coming up with jokes, news and information, and the editing process involved before the broadcast is transmitted to the main computer for viewing.
- They showed an example of a live broadcast and discussed the general format which includes a greeting, pledge of allegiance, this day in history, birthdays, jokes, special announcements and featured the Buddy bench located on the playground.
- The live broadcasts are presented on Tuesdays by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and on Thursday by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

- Kuddos to Scott Eldridge and the Morning Student Broadcast Team for their hard and excellent work, and the obvious enthusiasm which was displayed.

#### **5. Approval of the minutes of the September 20, 2018 special meeting**

- Melissa Cherniske made a motion to make the following revisions to the minutes:
  - i. The minutes should reflect that this meeting was a special meeting of the Board of Education
  - ii. Under item #9 (Written Communication), it was Marty Lindenmayer who reported the letter not Melissa Cherniske
  - iii. Under item #11 (Committee Reports), the word “passwords” should read networks
  - iv. Under bullet #2 in item #12 (Principal’s Report), it should read NGSX training
  - v. Incorporated under item #15 (New Business), there were 3 motions to change signatures on bank accounts:
    1. Melissa Cherniske made a motion to change the signatures on the technology bank account to Meghan Robb and Michelle Mott. Marty Lindenmayer seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.
    2. Melissa Cherniske made a motion to change the signatures on the cafeteria bank account to Meghan Robb and Michelle Mott. Dana Slaughter seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.
    3. Melissa Cherniske made a motion to change the signatures on the student activities bank account to Meghan Robb and Michelle Mott. Gonzo Garcia-Pedroso seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.
  - vi. Also under item #15 (New Business), it was decided to table the Homework Club decision for the next Board meeting, rather than table the agenda item.
- Melissa Cherniske motioned to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2018 special meeting with revisions. Dana Slaughter seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. Approval of the minutes of the September 25, 2018 special meeting**

- CiCi Nielson noted the following revision to the minutes:
  - i. CiCi Nielson was absent for this meeting, not present.
- Motion to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2018 special meeting with this revision. CiCi seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. Written Communication**

- Marty Lindenmayer read a letter from the KCS 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers (Mrs. Ackerman and Mrs. daSilva) regarding the new window proposal. A copy of this letter has been filed.
- Marty Lindenmayer read the resignation letter from Rob Ober. A copy of this letter has been filed.
- Melissa Cherniske asked for a motion to accept Rob Ober’s letter of resignation. Dana Slaughter seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. As soon as the Town Clerk has received a written request from Rob Ober to resign his elected position, the Kent Republican Town Committee will be asked to nominate candidates to replace Rob for one year, at which time the KCS Board of education will interview and choose a replacement to fill a one year position until the next Kent Town Elections where a candidate will run for the unexpired 4-year term.

## **8. Region One Report – Stephanie Raftery**

- Stephan Raftery read highlights from her report. A copy of this full report has been filed.

## **9. Academic Club – Action Anticipated**

- Michelle Mott reported on the proposed Academic Club, noting the estimated days it would run, the daily rate a teacher would be paid and the cost of 1 teacher versus 2 teachers. She noted this would be an after school academics club to be run through teacher referral and, depending on the number of students involved, could necessitate having more than one teacher. Michelle also noted that this would not be strictly a homework club but rather a place for students to finish work and receive some additional assistance. It was noted that this would be located within KCS, probably in the teacher's classroom, and would run from 3:05-4:15pm. If a student was not picked up at that time, the child would then be released to ASP in the cafeteria.
- Melissa Cherniske made a motion to approve the Academic Club. Dana Slaughter seconded this motion. This motion was approved unanimously.

## **10. Job Descriptions – Action Anticipated**

- Administrative Assistant & Secretary positions
- Discussion centered around seeking clarity about the job descriptions for both positions. Revisions were made to the job descriptions in order to have an accurate account of the duties and responsibilities associated with each position.
- A copy of these revisions has been filed.
- Both positions would guarantee 37½ hours per week
- Michelle Mott requests approval of each job in order to expedite the hiring process
- Melissa Cherniske made a motion to approve the Secretary position as amended. Dana Slaughter seconded this motion. The motion passed 3 to 1 in favor with CiCi Nielson opposing.
- Melissa Cherniske made a motion to approve the Administrative Assistant position as amended. Dana Slaughter seconded this motion. The motion passed 3 to 1 in favor with CiCi Nielson opposing.

## **11. Committee Reports:**

- Facilities & Safety – Marty Lindenmayer
  - i. Marty Lindenmayer reported on the final review of the window proposal
  - ii. A copy of the budget cost has been filed
  - iii. Marty Lindenmayer noted that the building committee will be meeting and a recommendation for final approval will be ready by the November Board of Education meeting.
- Budget – CiCi Nielson – NO REPORT
- Wellness – Gonzo Garcia-Pedroso – ABSENT!!!!
- ABC Meeting – Marty Lindenmayer
  - i. Marty Lindenmayer reported that every effort is being made not to lose IT support at KCS, and they are looking at collaborative processes.
- Personnel – Rob Ober – NO REPORT
- IT – Gonzo Garcia-Pedroso – NO REPORT
- Community Relations Committee – Marty Lindenmayer
  - i. Marty Lindenmayer followed up on the topic about what the Board is doing to increase enrollment. He received an email from the Kent Board of Selectmen detailing 5 core focus areas of the Community & Economic Development Director. Their next meeting will occur on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **12. Principal's Report – Michelle Mott**

- Michelle reported on the first evacuation drill that occurred on September 27<sup>th</sup>, that it took 35 minutes in total, the students followed procedures perfectly and the drill went smoothly. She discussed the new breakfast program that began on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and that students are asked to sign up on Friday mornings for the next week's breakfast.
- Michelle explained the Start with Hello week to support the Sandy Hook program "Start with Hello" to allow students to make a difference with their peers by encouraging them to take small but powerful actions to promote inclusion and connection.
- Michelle also shared the Fall Benchmark scores for both ELA and Math, and noted that the district adjusted the benchmark goal from the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile. A copy of these Benchmarks has been filed.
- A copy of Michelle Mott's full report has been filed.

## **13. Superintendent of Schools' Report – Pam Vogel**

- Pam wanted to point out two specific things. One, the CREC Report regarding the audit conducted last spring to provide information to our schools on the status of our technology services. The intent of this report is to determine weak areas in technology security and infrastructure, and meetings are now being planned for the schools' IT personnel to meet with Mike Ellington to review this report. Second, the Regional Task Force – comprised of ten 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders – is a focus group designed to compile data to determine what kids say they need, what is missing in our community that kids want, and what can the community do to help promote healthy habits for kids.
- A copy of Pam Vogel's full report has been filed.

## **14. Assistant Superintendent of Schools' Report – Lisa Carter**

- Lisa wanted to point out two specific things. One, regarding human trafficking curriculum to be taught to students in grades 7 & 8 as well as the high school in response to a new State mandate to raise student awareness and prevent them from becoming vulnerable to this predatory practice. Second, the EL programming is off to a great start.

## **15. Business**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of NARCAN policy
  - i. Changes made to Policy, "Take syringe off – 1<sup>st</sup> page in box" was removed; Region One will be administering only the nasal spray
  - ii. Melissa Cherniske made the motion to approve to a final reading. CiCi Nielson seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously.
- Stephanie Raftery announced that she is resigning as the Kent representative to the Region 1 Board of Education. This position will be announced as open to any interested and qualified member of the Kent community and will be reviewed at the November 2018 meeting.
  - i. CiCi Nielsen made the motion to re-appoint Melissa Cherniske as the Alternate Representative to the Region 1 Board of Education. Dana Slaughter seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **16. Public Comment**

- Marty Lindenmayer opened the meeting for any public comments. There were none.

## **17. Adjourn**

- Motion made by Dana Slaughter to adjourn at 7:39pm. CiCi Neilson seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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