

Kensington School Board Meeting Minutes January 10, 2018

In Attendance:

Board Members – Tina Favara, Ben Cole, Jennifer Ramsey
Administrators – Esther Asbell and Becky Ruel

The regular meeting was called to order by Mrs. Favara at 6:25 pm...

Visitors: Pam Holland, Lili Spinosa, Barbara Greenwood, Tim Galitski, Courtney Prenata, Heather Antal, Wayne Antal, Shannon Cole, Kelsey Plourde, Wendy Lawler, Matthew Andrews

New Business –

Mrs. Favara asked visitors if there was anything to share or any questions. No.

Mr. Cole made a motion to adopt the budget as presented at the Budget Hearing. Mrs. Ramsey agreed, but to include amendments as discussed and to include the Warrant. Mrs. Favara seconded. All in favor.

Old Business –

Mrs. Favara read the goal as it is currently written. Some wordsmithing is needed.

Mr. Cole would like to see the Board communicate more often and through different avenues. He would like to increase and diversify the mode of communication as well as the Board being more clear when explaining the budget process.

Mrs. Ramsey shared that while these ideas are thoughtful, many methods of getting information out are not permitted.

There was discussion. Suggestions were offered such as a possibility of a quarterly financial posting, the use of Kensington Connects, and better use of the website.

Goal #1 - KES School Board will increase its use of the website in order to generate public feedback and better inform our Kensington Community.

Mrs. Favara moved to adopt Goal #1 as written. Mr. Cole seconded. All in favor.

Goal #2 - The KES School Board will work to develop specific and measurable guidelines for continued improvement in assessments.

Mrs. Ramsey moved to adopt Goal #2 as written. Mr. Cole seconded. All in favor.

Business & Financial –

Mrs. Asbell shared that financials are currently in good shape. Funds have been encumbered, to the best of current knowledge, in hopes that the Board would be able to determine if funds were available to commit to the energy project.

Mrs. Asbell shared that oil may go over budget and possibly snow removal due to the severity of the weather we have been experiencing so far.

Mrs. Ruel presented the Small Business Energy Efficiency Program from Unitil. The cost of the full replacement is \$39,584.37, of which Unitil pays half, KES cost \$19,792.18. This was discussed at length at the last meeting. In 4 years the changeover will have paid for itself, and should provide an

annual savings of \$5000.00. Mrs. Ruel also shared monthly payment options which were provided by Unitil. A decision on whether to move forward needs to be quick if work is to be done this year.

Mrs. Ramsey moved to authorize Mrs. Ruel to enter into this contract with Unitil. Mr. Cole seconded. All in favor.

Harold Bragg - Mr. Bragg is the School District Moderator as well as the Town Moderator. He was present to go over expectations and any concerns the Board may have for the Deliberative Session. There was discussion and the Board appreciated Mr. Bragg's efforts.

Minutes – Mrs. Favara moved to approve the minutes from December 13, 2017 with corrections. Mrs. Ramsey seconded. All in favor.

Policy Committee- Mrs. Ramsey shared that she would like some guidance from the other Board members regarding continued review of policy GBAA. She has found very little difference and is concerned about mincing words. Mrs. Favara and Mr. Cole, appreciatively, would like Mrs. Ramsey to continue her scrutiny of this policy.

Principal's Report – (see attachment #1)

Teaching/Learning – Mrs. Ruel shared that Senate Bill 193 was passed on 1/02/18. It affords families at least \$3500 (per pupil) to be applied towards private education or home-schooling. It now goes before the Finance Committee.

The new PNOA (Primary Number and Operation Assessment) is being used in K, 1, and 2 and is being administered one on one with students. It is time consuming but a useful tool for teachers.

Health/Community –

There were 591 visits to the Health Office in just 16 days in December! Nurse Antal is a very busy woman! She not only helps with every day nursing needs for students and staff, she has also become the go-to-person for snow pants, boots, gloves, and hats! DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!

KES 4th and 5th graders are now working with Lucy's Love Bus out of Amesbury, MA. This charity was started by a young person battling cancer who wanted to start a charity that gives things to other children going through similar experiences; things that make them feel good such as horseback riding and massage. KES received their "Butterfly Buddy", Luke, a young boy from MA who is battling leukemia. This is a new connection for KES and students are looking forward to helping to make a difference.

Design/Philosophy/Governance -

Student Council has been busy. They were solely responsible for choosing items to be sold, which was a great idea, as the store has just about sold out! They also launched a Holiday Shop so students could buy surprises for family and friends.

Spirit week will be the week before February break. KES Follies is being planned as well as a teacher raffle.

Lemonade will be sold to help raise funds for the Rowe family who recently lost their home and belongings to fire.

KES is now the home of the Crowned Hawks! Congratulations to Mrs. Plourde and grade 4 students for their efforts. This project served many learning purposes and helped many students improve their public speaking skills.

Calendar –

The January is very busy. Cultural Passport began January 8th. This year student will “visit” Croatia and Serbia. The bonfire will culminate the activity at the final celebration.

Instructional Rounds have been rescheduled for the end of the month.

Enrollment is currently at 121 students. 6 Preschool students will be entering kindergarten next year.

Staff continue to work on performance assessments and performance tasks.

Assistant Superintendent Report –

Mrs. Asbell shared the all school s in the SAU have been working on budgets, public hearings and next will be Deliberative Sessions.

An important issue to keep in mind is the Co-Op Renovation. A representative will be coming to the KES PTO meeting on Tuesday to answer questions and provide information about this important issue.

Mrs. Asbell shared that although the weather has been bitter cold, SAU schools have fared well as far as any weather related issues.

She shared information on Curriculum and the focus in math. Teachers shared ideas they have developed and elementary teachers were able to help high school teachers work through issues.

March 13 is an In-Service Day.

The Safety and Security Committee meets on January 25, 2018. They are working on scheduling a live Reunification Drill for grade 5 in the spring. Parents will be given the opportunity to “opt in” and participate with students. As the event gets closer a meeting with Mr. Kane will be set so parents can ask questions.

Personnel – There were two finalists for the Superintendent position. One withdrew and the other finalist did not interview strongly. The Co-Op School Board voted not to offer the person the position. The process now begins again. With voting in March Boards will be changing, so a new search committee will be selected. This time the Superintendent position should be open to all interested and qualified individuals without stipulation. Information on both the search committee and the job posting will be posted on the SAU webpage and/or via email blast.

The target date for the new Superintendent to start is July 1, 2018.

Ms. Chris Rath will continue to serve as interim Superintendent through the end of this school year.

Mr. Bill Furbush has accepted the position of Superintendent in Pelham, NH.

Mrs. Asbell shared that she withdrew her name from the position in Somersworth due to loyalty to SAU16.

Effective July 1, 2018, Mrs. Asbell's title will be Associate Superintendent.

When asked about applying for the Superintendent's position by a member of the public, Mrs. Asbell responded if she meets the criteria put forth by the Joint Board she will apply.

Mr. Cole shared that from his perspective at the Joint Board meeting, the support for Mrs. Asbell is overwhelming. Mrs. Asbell graciously appreciated the vote of confidence.

General Correspondence –

Mrs. Ruel received an email request from the Barnard School to organize a basketball game. She will keep the Board updated on this request.

No other business to discuss.

Mr. Cole moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Ramsey seconded. All in favor.
Mrs. Favara adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Lalime
Kensington School Board Secretary

Kensington Elementary School

Principal's Report

January 2018

Teaching/Learning

- Senate Bill 193 has passed the State House on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 with a vote of 184-162. This bill creates a voucher-like system which would shift at least \$3500 (per pupil) in state money into an education savings account. This money could then be accessed by families to spend on private education or home-schooling should they chose to not send their children to public school.
- KES teachers in grades K, 1 and 2 are now using the PNOA (Primary Number and Operation Assessment). This is a formative assessment based on curriculum standards and administered 3 times per year. While time consuming, the 1:1 format of the assessment allows teachers to really understand each student's mathematical thinking by having individual math conversations and by observing the strategies students use to solve problems. The PNOA has been helpful in determining math team placement as well as identifying the specific skills students need to practice more in order to show proficiency.

Health/Community

- In December, there were 591 visits to the Nurse's Office! These visits include a variety of reasons and ailments such as bellyaches, recess injuries, headaches, medication, bandaids, chapped lips, and more! Nurse Heather has also become the go-to person for snow pants, boots, gloves and hats. Several friends visit her at each recess to get the proper gear they need to go outside. Donations welcome!
- KES 4th and 5th graders are now working with Lucy's Love Bus which is a non-profit organization that encourages young people to engage in activism and philanthropy. Founded by 11-year old Lucy Grogan in 2006 after being diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, Lucy's Love Bus aims to support children fighting pediatric cancer and provide them with integrative therapies such as horseback riding to help manage the side-effects and late-effects of cancer treatments. In December, KES received our "Butterfly Buddy", a little boy from Massachusetts also battling Leukemia. Every 4th and 5th grader at KES wrote letters of encouragement and made beautiful cards for him. Before the holiday break, his mother reached out to tell us how much he loved getting our letters. He has a long battle ahead of him but our students are reminded that our support and encouragement will help him during those hard times. At the end of this month, students will be meeting with our Lucy Love Bus representative again to design and launch their own fundraiser to help support our brave "Butterfly Buddy". KES students know that they have been empowered to make a difference in a someone's life and they will!

Design/Philosophy/Governance

- Our Student Council has been busy already this year! There are 6 student representatives from grades 3-5 (2 from each classroom) and they have already started on their list of things to accomplish this year. They were solely responsible for ordering new items for the School Store which has proven to be very profitable as the items they selected have almost completely sold out! Student Council members have also begun to organize Spirit Week, KES Follies and the first annual Teacher Raffle. They are busy!
- Kensington Elementary School is now the home of the Crowned Hawks. Congratulations to Mrs. Plourde and our 4th grade class for completing such a worthwhile project for our school! Thank you to our school board members who participated in our mascot reveal in December. The final vote was as follows:

Crowned Hawks - 49 votes

Royal Raptors - 44 votes

Royal Hawks - 36 votes

Huskies - 15 votes

Trustworthy Pigs - 1 vote

Other - 1 vote

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Ruel

Principal