

Kensington School Board Meeting Minutes  
November 7, 2017

**In Attendance:** Board Members –Tina Favara, Benjamin Cole, Jennifer Ramsey  
Administrators – Esther Asbell and Becky Ruel  
Visitors – Wendy Lawler, Barbara Greenwood, Kelsey Plourde

Manifests were signed.

Mrs. Favara called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm

Mr. Mike Davey from EEI had a conflict and did not attend the meeting tonight as planned.

No other visitors in attendance wishing to address the board.

**Minutes** – Mrs. Ramsey moved to accept both the non-public (with corrected word) and public meeting minutes from October 11, 2017. Mr. Cole seconded. All in favor.

**Committee Reports** – Mr. Cole was unable to attend the last Policy Committee meeting. Mrs. Asbell explained that many of the changes and/or additions are to the wording to make the policy compliant with recently changed legislation.

The Board discussed and reviewed the following policies:

- 6.1.1 EBBC First Aid and Emergency Medical Care - Revision
- 6.1.2 GBAA Sexual Harassment – Staff - Revision
- 6.1.3 IGE Parental Objections to Specific Course Material - Revision
- 6.1.4 IHBF Homebound Instruction – Review
- 6.1.5 ILD Non- Educational Surveys and Questionnaires - New
- 6.1.6 ILDA Non-Educational Questionnaires, Surveys, and Research - Delete
- 6.1.7 JICFA Hazing - New
- 6.1.8 JLF Reporting Child Abuse – Revision

A motion was made by Mrs. Ramsey to: Table discussion on policy 6.1.2 until December; to approve revisions on policies 6.1.1, 6.1.3, 6.1.4 and 6.1.8.; and to add policies 6.1.5 and 6.1.7, and to delete policy 6.1.6. Mr. Cole seconded. All in favor.

**Principal's Report** – Mrs. Ruel shared her report (attachment 1) that 17 new Chromebooks have been ordered to replace older ones. They are the same type that were issued to all grade 9 students at EHS this fall.

Permissions have been received from parents to issue Google accounts to grade 3 students.

This is year grades 3, 4, and 5 are using a Google program to develop positive digital citizenship.

A link to the same was shared with parents.

During Thursday's In-Service day staff will be working on performance assessments for Instructional Rounds which take place on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

KES is First Aid Compliant with 100% of staff trained in CPR.

The Wellness Committee met last week. They are in the process of getting information out to families regarding their goals and objectives.

An evacuation drill is planned for November. Students will evacuate to The Kensington Public Library.

Preliminary discussions are taking place and beginning plans are under way for a reunification drill that will possibly take place in the spring.

Mrs. Ruel shared there is new budget development software being utilized this budget season.

Grade 4 is conducting a study to identify a new mascot for KES.

**Calendar** – Friends and Family day should have a great turnout as always

Mrs. Ruel shared that 15 Veterans attended Monday's Veteran's Day Celebration. They enjoyed their visit, stayed late, and shared many stories.

**Enrollment** is currently at 116 students. Two student left KES and 5 new students were added. Current numbers for fall 2018 show there will be 27 students in Kindergarten.

The Competency Committee met a few weeks ago. They reviewed feedback from the year end survey. They have decided to disband until new competency initiatives are ready to be promoted and presented to the community.

**B&G** – Mrs. Ruel shared the EEI report. She also included a draft of both short and long term repair and replacement needs at KES. There was lengthy discussion regarding much needed repairs and replacements. Mr. Cole feels that the Board would be wise to seek all three options; raise and appropriate, end of year fund, and a maintenance trust. The Board determined they need more information and pricing before they can make an educated determination on how to move forward. Mrs. Asbell suggested that the Board review the proposed first budget and seeing those numbers may help drive a decision on building work needing to be done. It was noted that kitchen equipment was not itemized.

**Budget** – Mrs. Asbell shared that the summary includes an increase in health plan cost and is based on the current health plan. It does include a new kindergarten teacher salary, however for an unknown reason the ½ time case manager position was not built into the projected budget, but the position does still exist. Mrs. Asbell reminded Board members that the health care figures can change if employees go from single to two or from two to family.

There was discussion regarding salaries listed.

Mrs. Asbell will address questions asked by the Board with Mr. Markiewicz, as well as additions and changes they would like to see for the next draft.

The proposed budget draft was reviewed by the Board item by item. There was lengthy discussion on several areas.

**2017 -2018 Board Goals** – Mrs. Favara believes goals should be measurable.

The Board does not want to create goals just for the sake of creating... they are working on current concerns that should constitute as goals.

There was discussion about their goals and the items they are addressing. They will discuss again in December.

**Board Communication Plan** – The Board will discuss further in December and will continue their pursuit of better communication with the KES community.

**Assistant Superintendent** - Mrs. Asbell continues to work on budgets. She shared that a part time position has been posted for Human Resources.

Mr. Cole motioned to Adjourn. Mrs. Ramsey seconded. All in favor.  
Mrs. Favara adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Lalime  
Kensington School Board Secretary

## Kensington Elementary School

Principal's Report

November 2017

### Teaching/Learning

- 17 new **Chromebooks** have been ordered to replace older ones and complete our 1:1 ratio in grades 3, 4, and 5. Two of the chromebooks ordered are the x360 model which has an enhanced touch screen. This is the same model that all EHS 9th graders received this year.
- All incoming 3rd grade students have been issued **Google Accounts** with the permission of their parents/guardians. Technology is an integral part of learning and developing digital citizenship is an important skill for students now as well as for their future success as adults. Our Classroom Teachers, STEM Teacher and School Librarian take a collaborative approach to educating students about internet safety, cyberbullying and other topics associated with being a positive digital citizen. We also encourage parents to take an active part of developing students' ability to confidently use and navigate the online world. This year, our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are using **Google's Interland: Be Internet Awesome!** Program as a way to help build this digital citizenship.  
<https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/interland>
- Our Teacher Workshop on 11/9 will be focused on developing **Performance Assessments** and planning for our Instructional Rounds visit on 12/5. Performance Assessments are an important component in developing a Competency-Based system of teaching and learning at KES. Performance Assessments require students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, often integrating skills across content areas.

### Health/Community

- As part of the SAU Strategic Plan for Social and Emotional Wellness, all 2nd graders in SAU 16 are being administered the **DESSA** screening as a new initiative this year. The DESSA is a brief questionnaire filled out by classroom teachers which can identify a student's social and emotional strengths and areas of weakness. The DESSA screens in the following areas: Personal Responsibility, Optimistic Thinking, Goal Directed Behavior, Social Awareness, Decision Making, Relationship Skills, Self Awareness and Self Management. Mrs. Lawler and Mrs. Miller completed the DESSA screening on our 17 2nd graders earlier this month. Parents have been contacted should a student require additional social and emotional screening or supports based on the results of the DESSA.
- Every staff member at KES is current in **1st Aid** and **CPR/AED** certifications. NH RSA 200:40 requires a 1st Aid/CPR certified staff member at every school sponsored event including field trips, concerts, etc. KES is in compliance with this as all staff have completed the on-line course and received their "check-out" in person by RN Laura Conant.
- Also required by the NH DOE is a school-based **Wellness Committee**. Our KES Committee is lead by our School Nurse, Heather Antal. Other members include Lili Spinosa (PE/Health Teacher), Deb Plourde (Food Service Director), Becky Ruel (Principal) and several KES parents.
- 4 **Safety Drills** have been conducted with KES students so far this school year. These include both evacuations (fire drills) and reverse evacuations. Lockdown drills are usually practiced in the winter months when the weather does not always cooperate with outside evacuations. We are planning to conduct an evacuation to the Kensington Public Library at the end of this month to practice our procedures in the event that we are unable to re-enter the KES building due to an emergency. In the spring, KES has been selected to conduct a practice Reunification Drill at Exeter High School. This is in

the very preliminary stages of planning and more information will be available to the KES community as the drill gets closer.

### Design/Philosophy/Governance

- SAU 16 has switched to a new software for budget development. I recently attended training with our new Business Administrator, Frank Markiewicz, to learn how to develop the KES budget using the **Sunguard eFinance Plus+ System**.
- KES has been awarded approximately **\$19,000** in **REAP Grant** (Rural Education Achievement Program) money. According to our grant application, this money has been earmarked to improve and replace technology equipment/infrastructure as well as purchase Fountas and Pinnell literacy benchmark assessment kits for grades 3-5.
- Our 4th grade students have been working hard on identifying a **new mascot** for KES. I am proud of their efforts and will be able to report next month after the rest of the student body gets to voice their opinions and cast a final vote. Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Ruel  
Principal