Parent Group Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2019

ATTENDANCE
Board Members: Priscilla Lowe
KCSD Administration and Faculty: Dr. Padalino, Kristin Shufeldt, Karen Seery, Kate Petrie
Parents: Heather Marshall (JFK), Alix Cutrone JWB), Joan Hess (Myer) Malia Cordell (Chambers)
Joann Uhl (KHS), Michael Hertle (KHS)

DISCUSSIONS

Board of Education Election/Budget Vote Polling Places-
The new polling place locations for the 2019 vote is posted on the KCSD website

The Ulster County Board of Elections can’t lend us their machines this year due to other elections taking place.
An agreement was made with the Board of Elections where we will rent six voting machines for election day.

Dr. Padalino contacted Assemblyman Cahill and the County Executive to ask if there is anything that can be
changed. We are unsure what will happen next year.

Polling place locations: KHS, MCM and JWB
Voting hours will be from 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM, keeping the timeframe after-school (non-instructional) hours only
for safety and security purpose.

Question from Alix – Will this affect the vote? Yes, most likely. Voters may not want to, or be able to get to new
voting locations.

Annual Testing-
Tests changed last year. There are shorter tests and fewer days (3 days to 2). Teachers are allowed to know about
75% of the questions.

Parents can choose if their child takes the tests or not. If their student is not testing, their days are still fulfilled as
a learning day.

Tests help KCSD see how the district is doing when comparing against state standards. The district does find
value in the data to learn the needs of our students.

Teachers like seeing the results from tests as it’s a good measure to see where needs are and how we can improve.
Tests can also measure if students are fit for advanced classes.
Tests are not currently computer-based, but KCSD is working to get there eventually. Computer testing is much
more efficient with quicker results.

Ms. Petrie: Schools try to make the testing environment as stress free as possible. It’s simply an assessment of
where we are and how well we are doing with aligning curriculum.
Budget/Ballot-
April 1 - State officials will give KCSD their state aid amount.

If there are any cuts, it will be as far from students and instruction as possible.

Dr. Padalino feels good about balancing the budget, efforts have already been taking place for 2019-2020. KCSD is working with state representatives and the teacher’s union to balance the budget. We are most likely not going to be able to add programs next year, but should be able to keep what we have in place this year.

The Board of Education will have 4 seats open for voting – 3 incumbents running again, 1 vacancy

Proposition on the ballot – KCSD Warehouse is up for renewal. Voting on the warehouse space happens every 5 years and typically passes.

Special Education (Question from Alix)-
Is there anything the district is planning for Special Ed. students beyond age 12? Center for Spectrum Services ends at age 12.

KCSD is working with Ulster BOCES to support Special Ed. locally.

Principal Search-
KCSD developing posts for KHS principal search. Ms. Bonville is leading the search committee. There were a lot of internal candidates who are interested.

GW Elementary post closed on March 29. Dr. Felicello is leading the search committee. There are four very good candidates.

Meagher Pre-K-
There are 14 students enrolled for September 2019.

Construction is moving along, on time and on budget.

Dr. Felicello has outreach events planned around the community. We are focusing on mid-town families at this time.

There are 4 classrooms with potential for 6 classrooms. There will be two dual-language classes and two traditional classes – parents can choose which class their child is enrolled.

Dual-language classrooms will start at the Pre-K and eventually roll-up into schools like Edson and Chambers.

Next Meeting-
Will be held in the JW Bailey Library on Thursday, April 25, from 5:30-6:30pm

Please think about how we can engage parents and get people more involved. What can we do?