Kingston Parent Group Meeting October 23, 2017
Kingston High School

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Suzanne Jordan, Priscilla Lowe

KCSD ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY PRESENT: Dr. Padalino, Meagan Ziegenfuss


MEETING DISCUSSION:

At the June 2017 meeting, it was decided that fundraising would be the topic of discussion for the first 2017-2018 meeting.

Dr. Padalino posed the question- does the Kingston Parent Group want to fundraise as one enterprise or should it remain within individual the PTA/PTO groups?

Wes Seery explained that to fundraise as one group, the Kingston Parent Group should consider becoming a 501C3.

Dr. Padalino mentioned the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley Field Trip Fund and the Bardavon as community organizations that help sponsor field trips and special programming.


Dr. Padalino discussed the Arts in Education Co-Ser through BOCES, which helps support the arts and arts-integrated learning experiences for K-12 students and teachers. *For more information, click on link: [https://www.ulsterboces.org/programs-services/instructional-sevices/is-services-a-z/arts-in-education/arts-in-education-co-ser-directory](https://www.ulsterboces.org/programs-services/instructional-sevices/is-services-a-z/arts-in-education/arts-in-education-co-ser-directory)*

*It was decided that each school representative would come up with their top three fundraisers and e-mail them to Meagan Ziegenfuss at MZiegenfuss@kingstoncityschools.org*

Wes Seery addressed the group with a concern about bus safety, particularly at Miller Middle School. He explained that although he feels behavioral issues have drastically decreased within the halls of Miller, those issues remain on the school buses. He cited bullying, the inconsistency of monitors and the fact that younger children were not separated from older children, as concerns.

Dr. Padalino explained that bus safety is a top priority right now. He is working closely with KCSD Director of Safety LeShawn Parker to address the issue.

Dr. Padalino explained that the district has recently hired four new security guards. The district is currently consulting with its attorneys to discuss the legalities of assigning security team members to buses with behavior problems.

Several members of the group had suggestions as to how to improve bus safety:

- Katelyn Semon suggested that problematic students be appointed as bus leaders as a way to give them authority in a positive way.

- JoAnn Uhl suggested students be assigned bus buddies.

- Stephanie Nystrom recounted her positive experience with a bus driver that was actively engaged with the students and how that was effective in improving bus behavior.
• Suzanne Jordan suggested that the students that share a bus could have meetings outside the bus, where issues and concerns can be openly addressed in a safe setting.

The next Kingston Parent Group Meeting will take place in November at George Washington Elementary School. Exact date TBD.

Following the November meeting, the next meeting to take place will be in January 2018 at Myer Elementary followed by Robert Graves in February.