Kingston Parent Group Meeting June 6, 2017
J. Watson Bailey Middle School

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Suzanne Jordan, Priscilla Lowe

KCSD ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY PRESENT: Dr. Padalino, J. Watson Bailey Vice Principal Deborah Fitzgerald, Meagan Ziegenfuss

MEMBERS PRESENT: JoAnn Uhl (JWB) Lisa Dittus (Crosby) Holly Miller (Myer) Shelley Burch (Myer) Stephanie Nystrom (Edson) Kristina Pavlov-Leiching (Graves) Wes Seery (JFK) Carolyn Boice (KHS) Madeline Hoetger (KHS)

OPENING DISCUSSION:
Members shared 2016-2017 accomplishments and highlights from their individual schools:

Kristina Pavlov-Leiching (Graves) is happy with the building of the new, handicap accessible playground at Robert Graves. She is also proud of the continued success of their school garden.

Holly Miller and Shelley Burch (Myer) shared that their Spring Social Dance was a success and a great fundraiser.

MEETING DISCUSSION:
JoAnn Uhl (Bailey) spoke about an interest in establishing a scholarship for graduating seniors that are J. Watson Bailey alumni. If established, she suggested each PTO/PTA could contribute to the fund. The scholarship would recognize students for accomplishments such as reaching reading goals, being on the honor roll all three years of middle school, etc., not just high performing students.
Madeline Hoetger (KHS) brought up the KHS Girls Athletic Mattress Fundraiser and suggested the PTA/PTO/PA’s participate in a similar type of fundraiser—one that raises one large sum of money and is divided between schools.

It was decided that fundraising will be the the main topic of discussion for the September meeting.

Dr. Padalino gave a progress report on topics that were discussed in previous Parent Group meetings:
- Bus behavior: Dr. Padalino met with his administrative team, they are collecting data and is confident they will come to a solution. Dr. Padalino personally reviewed security footage of buses and reassured the group that the issue is being addressed.
- New Playgrounds: Both George Washington and Robert Graves Elementary Schools received new playgrounds this year and an Edson playground is in the planning stages.
- “1,000 Books” Bags have been ordered by the Kingston Teachers Federation.

Stephanie Nystrom (Edson) asked if Dr. Padalino and Board Members if they ever saw the Kingston Parent Group as being in a position of advising on policy?

Dr. Padalino likes the idea of bringing in guest speakers from the district that are working on new policy and programs to receive feedback from the group.

Madeline Hoetger (KHS) suggested having quarterly or every other month meetings that focus on policy and how parents can be more involved on this level.

Dr. Padalino and Suzanne Jordan agreed that the Kingston Parent Group is a valuable forum to discuss feedback on policies, programs and important issues facing students and hopes that as the group evolves, parents will be able to expand this role.

Shelley Burch (Myer) values the informal setting of the Kingston Parent Group and believes it helps educate parents on the inner workings of the administration in a way that is accessible.
Madeline Hoetger (KHS) suggested having a meeting explaining the acronyms used by the district (PBIS, COGAT, etc.)

JoAnn Uhl asked about sports opportunities for younger athletes that want to play sports recreationally or need practice and not necessarily ready to play on a serious level.

Dr. Padalino explained that intramurals still take place throughout the year and there has been increased participation, there has also been increased participation in “no cut sports” and modified sports have been expanding.

Kristina Pavlov-Leiching (Graves) asked if there is training for school lunch monitors.

Dr. Padalino explained that during the recent Superintendent Conference Day, voluntary training on conflict de-escalation training was offered to bus and lunch monitors, with a good turnout.

Suzanne Jordan said that many parents have approached her about the issue of students walking to school from those places that are within the half mile radius and with no sidewalks. She suggested a seasonal group pick-up location for parents.

Dr. Padalino mentioned the City of Kingston’s “Safe Route to School” program and how it is helping with the issue of pedestrian safety.

Madeline Hoetger (KHS) suggested that parents of younger students encourage college visits early on. She believes by doing this, it will help streamline the college application process and will help students have a better understanding of what their college of choice requires.

Dr. Padalino suggested that a future meeting should be focused on college and what parents should expect throughout the process.

It was decided that the September meeting will take place in the new wing of Kingston High School. The date is TBD.