



## KMS PTO Meeting Minutes November 8, 2018

Attendees

*KMS PTO Board Members:*

<input type="checkbox"/> K. Flynn	<input type="checkbox"/> D. Lechak	<input type="checkbox"/> M. Rees	<input type="checkbox"/> N. Thompson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Hirt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Martino	<input type="checkbox"/> C. Riscili	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L. Ullman-Koenig
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K. Jacobs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Meine	<input type="checkbox"/> C. Rosneck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Voudris
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/> M. Noah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Smith	
<input type="checkbox"/> J. Laishes - Olsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K. Phillips	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Spellacy	

Other Attendees:

M. Adante

P. Brockway

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 AM by KMS PTO President, Laryn Ullman-Koenig.

- I. Welcome led by L. Ullman-Koenig and Pat Brockway.
- II. Putting the "T" back in PTO- Mrs. Schwickert, Special Education Teacher was postponed until January.
- III. Principal's Report- Pat Brockway
  - a. Family Fitness night was a success with about 107 people in attendance.
  - b. Conferences:
    - i. In the past, parents with students who either have academic or behavior concerns, go from one negative interaction to the next with teachers.
    - ii. The thought was to make this a more positive approach and more private for parents with concerns. The open gym format didn't allow for this.
    - iii. Team conferences will be held by invitation only for students with academic and/ or behavioral concerns.
    - iv. This approach is new and we are trying this based upon the survey that was taken earlier this year.
    - v. Next year we are planning to reduce the number of conferences from three down to two for the school year.
    - vi. There was great discussion on how this method didn't allow as much flexibility for working parents or parents with multiple students in the building.
    - vii. One consideration for next year is having two nights versus the one night that is currently in place for conferences.

- viii. Mrs. Brockway encouraged parents to sign up for individual teacher conferences regardless of whether or not there were any concerns with their student.
  - ix. Parents felt they should have the opportunity to talk with a teacher in order to check in on their student regardless if their child was doing well in school and had no behavior problems.
- c. Important Dates as follows:
- i. Veteran's Day: Program for students 11/9
  - ii. Parent Teacher Conferences: 11/15
  - iii. Cookie pick up: Sending individual emails for pick up 11/15
  - iv. First D.C. Payment due: 11/16
  - v. Principal's Box Lunch Talk: 11/29
  - vi. Dance: 2:30-4:30 11/30
  - vii. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choral/Band Concert: 7:00 pm 12/3
  - viii. 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choral/Band Concert: 7:00 pm 12/5 and 12/6
- d. Veteran's Day Program
- i. Mr. Barr is leading the Veteran's Day Program.
  - ii. Nick Guy is the guest speaker.
  - iii. There will be a breakfast held afterwards for our guests.
  - iv. Veteran's Day is mandated by the state to have a celebration.
  - v. There will be two parent volunteers that day: Julie Meine & Marcie Adante.
- IV. President's Report- Laryn Ullman-Koenig
- a. Fundraiser Update
- i. K. Jacobs explained we budgeted \$10,000 for fundraising and we came in just under \$5,000.
  - ii. The point is not to fundraise and then let the money sit in our reserves.
  - iii. We just held the cookie dough fundraiser 7 months ago so it's hard to tell if this is the reason for the shortfall.
  - iv. This does impact the financial aid that the PTO provides to students in need for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C. We cannot promise moving forward that the KMS PTO will be able to fund the \$3,000 or so of financial aid.
  - v. We talked about maybe moving our fundraiser to spring in the future as well.
  - vi. We also talked about the possibility of conducting an "un-fundraiser" in which financial donations are collected from parents and/ or community businesses.
  - vii. We need to work on fundraising options in general.
  - viii. There was discussion that people generally like to get something for their monetary donations.
  - ix. Plan in the future: we need to improve upon informing parents what the KMS PTO funds.

- x. We will hold off on making a decision regarding the amount of financial aid provided by the PTO for students attending the Washington D.C. trip until our January meeting.
  - xi. The first Washington D.C. payment is due on 11/16 and the scholarship application is due at this time as well.
  - xii. Mrs. Brockway will mention in the weekly update that parents are welcome to donate in order for other students to attend the D.C. trip.
  - xiii. The PTO is considering funding one student at \$522 (full amount of the trip) instead of a \$3,000 total funding request.
- b. Budget Revisions
- i. We discussed removing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip line item of \$300 since the 8<sup>th</sup> graders no longer go to The Christmas Carol.
  - ii. We also discussed removing the student program line item of \$2,000 since the PTO Council is now sponsoring the Parent Engagement Series.
    - 1. Spring Agenda: Discuss what the plan is moving forward with the budget and agenda.
- c. Candid Pictures
- i. We still need a volunteer photographer to take candid pictures and replace the old pictures of students around the school.
  - ii. S. Jones offered to reach out to C. Stachiw personally and find out if she is interested in this position
  - iii. Heidi Mezanec was suggested for doing this as a photographer.
- d. Bomber Hangar Sneak Peek
- i. There will be a sneak peek at the home of Shelly McDonough today and tomorrow.
  - ii. Come out and enjoy shopping and order your apparel for gifts too.
  - iii. The PTO was invited to go over together and shop.
  - iv. The hours will be 10:00 AM -8:00 PM today.
- e. PTO Council Report-Kim Phillips
- V. Superintendent's Report
    - a. Athletics
      - i. Football team won its first play-off game on Friday. Next game is November 9 vs. Buckeye.
      - ii. Members of the Cross Country Team will compete at the State competition on November 10
    - b. Events
      - i. National Mix It Up Day
        - i. Students across the district participated
        - ii. This international campaign encourages students to move out of their comfort zone and connect with someone new over lunch

- iii. This simple act can have profound implications that promote year-round efforts to promote a healthy, welcoming school
    - ii. Candidates Night
      - i. Kenston hosted Candidates Night in conjunction with the Geauga County League of Women Voters
      - ii. This event provides candidates a forum to present themselves to the voters and offer pertinent information about the issues and candidates
  - c. Safety and Security Update
    - i. Retired Mentor Fire Chief, Richard Harvey, will be leading the district team on practical incident management for school emergencies, including:
      - i. Successful communications in stressful times
      - ii. Decision making when time is short
      - iii. Community partner relationships and expectations
      - iv. Potential challenges and solutions
    - ii. ALICE training available for parents on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>
      - i. Host is Sgt. Frank Chickos of the Bainbridge PD
      - ii. Register FREE through KCE
  - d. School Funding
    - i. Mrs. Santilli and other superintendents met with State Representatives regarding school funding
      - i. They want to find a funding formula that measures the cost of educating a student in Ohio and distributes state funding fairly among Ohio school districts
    - ii. Kenston Citizens Advisory Committee is encouraging citizens to reach out to their elected officials to advocate for increased state funding for our school district. Because of the phase out and Tangible Personal Property (TPP) taxes on business inventory, machinery & equipment our state funding has decreased 24% amounting to a \$1.7 million loss.
- VI. PTO Communication
  - a. Kenston Website
    - i. KCAC survey results show that a majority of parents want a more user-friendly website
    - ii. Changes will be coming, including the PTO site
  - b. Social Media
    - i. PTO Council discussed using social media as a communication tool
- VII. Events
  - a. Parent Engagement Series: Mental Health – It’s Time To Talk About It
    - i. When: Monday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m.
    - ii. Where: Kenston High School Auditorium

- iii. Topics
  - i. Warning Signs of Mental Illness in Children and Youth
  - ii. Dealing with Alcohol and Drug Abuse
  - iii. Treatment Options and Preventative Tips
  - iv. Programs Available in Our Community
- iv. Presenters
  - i. Jim Adams, Chief Executive Officer, Geauga County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services
  - ii. Kathleen Poe, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Director of Curriculum and Health & Wellness Initiatives
- v. Q & A session to follow the presentations
- vi. Resource Fair to follow Q & A session with representatives from:
  - i. Catholic Charities
  - ii. Family Pride
  - iii. Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services
  - iv. National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) of Geauga County
  - v. Ravenwood Health
  - vi. Womensafe

b. Silver Bells Holiday Boutique

- i. When: Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm
- ii. Where: Kenston High School
- iii. Enjoy a Holiday one-stop shopping experience, featuring:
  - i. Free admission
  - ii. Over 85 professional vendors
  - iii. Holiday cookie sale
  - iv. Jingle Bell Alley with Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade vendors
  - v. Raffle gift baskets
  - vi. Food and refreshments
  - vii. Lil Grandpa's Kettle Corn
- iv. Sponsored by KHS PTO will all proceeds supporting KHS AfterProm

VIII. Treasurer's Report-Kristin Jacobs

- a. K. Jacobs explained we budgeted \$10,000 for fundraising and we came in just under \$5,000.
- b. K. Jacobs explained in great detail the future of being able to withstand sponsoring the D.C. trip at a total of \$3,000 every year.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Dance Concessions- No update.
- b. CARE- Julie Smith

- i. There is a new student and Julie called and left a message with the new parents.
- c. Hospitality- Julie Meine/Michele Martino
  - i. Julie gave an update on parent teacher conferences.
    - 1. The sign-up genius was sent out for parents to volunteer during conferences.
    - 2. Please help if you can with this.
    - 3. There are plenty of drinks but we are still in need of signups for food.
- d. Bomber Hangar- Christine Riscili
  - i. The Sneak Peak is today at S. McDonough's house from 10:00 AM-8:00 PM.
  - ii. If you shop at the book fair, you get \$5.00 off at the Bomber Hangar.
- e. E-Communication- The website has been updated.
- f. Weekly Update- Kim Phillips
  - i. Please get your updates to Kim by 12:00 tomorrow for the weekly update.
- g. Volunteers/Membership- Maureen Hirt
  - i. Checking into the Encore team and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team for memberships.
- h. Beautification- Stacey Jones
  - i. The planters were updated for the fall season and the fall decorations were added.
- i. Book Fair- Missy Spellacy/Nicol Thompson
  - i. Missy explained that she really needs help on Thursday as this is a 12-hour day and Nicol and Missy both have students at Timmons.
  - ii. Most of the days are 7:30-3:30 and they still need time slots filled.
  - iii. There was discussion about a sandwich board and the process for getting this goes through the board of education office.
  - iv. Missy will send an email to the board of ed. office for this.
  - v. Missy will send a reminder for the bookfair to Kim for the newsletter.
- j. Fundraising- Maureen Hirt/Stacey Jones
  - i. Stacey and Maureen will meet to sort the orders and have these ready for pick up at conferences the evening of 11/15.
  - ii. The pick-up will take place from the end of the school day until 5:00 pm.
  - iii. Parents can come during conferences for pickup if his/her student has too much to carry on the bus.
- k. Skate Night-
  - i. No Update as M. Rees is not here.
- l. Staff Appreciation-
  - i. No Update as C. Rosneck is not here.
- m. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party- Stacey Jones, Maureen Hirt

- i. We will begin to meet and plan for this once the fundraiser is complete.
- X. Old Business
  - i. No update
- XI. New Business
  - i. Reminder as there will not be a December meeting. We will meet again on 1/10/19

A vote was taken to approve the KMS PTO minutes from October 11, 2018.

The vote for the KMS PTO minutes was approved and there were no changes requested on these minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

The meeting minutes were taken by Stacey Jones, Secretary.