



Board Briefs

Update from Kent City Schools Board of Education

At the May 13, 2014, meeting held at Roosevelt High School, the Kent City Schools Board of Education (BOE) took the following actions:

COFFEE TALK:

- Heard Roosevelt choir students and Choir Director Corey Fowler provide a preview of Pops 2014 concert during Coffee Talk presentation in Roosevelt Choir Room. The Pops Concert is on Friday, May 16, 7:00 PM, at Roosevelt High School's Richard Roberts Auditorium

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Recognized former BOE member Jan Rusnack with Resolution of Appreciation. The Resolution acknowledged Mrs. Rusnack's 23 years of service on the Board
- Welcomed new BOE member Pam Freeman. Board President Rebekah Wright Kulis explained to the public various facets of Ohio's Ethics and Conflict of Interest laws and their impact on individual board members' choices to abstain during a vote. For example, the law prohibits the use of a public position for personal gain.
- Approved contract with Kent Education Association (KEA). KEA President Mike Walton expressed appreciation for positive negotiations and cooperation with the district administration and Kent Board of Education.
- Provided public update on superintendent search. The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) established a search timeline, to include: May 19 (deadline for applications), June 9, 10, 11 (first round board interviews), June 23 (second round public interviews), and June 30 (board meeting to hire new superintendent.)
- Recognized Roosevelt students Christin Duncan and Haley Stuver for earning local and state recognition in "Laws of Life" essay contest. Contest Coordinator Aaron Hido explained the contest, and Roosevelt teacher Pam Harr made positive comments about the young women.
- Provided update on District Advisory Committees. Reports were distributed from the Franklin Transition Team and Roosevelt Pool Committee. The next Pool Committee meeting is on May 14, at 6:30 PM, Room 124 at Roosevelt High School.
- Recognized Operations for safety awards. Jim Soyars presented two safety awards from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.
- Approved site change for summer BOE meetings to Roosevelt Library. The board meetings previously scheduled for the Depeyster Board Office are now scheduled for 5:30 PM at Roosevelt Library on the following dates: June 17, July 15, and August 19.
- Discussed end-of-year schedule and events. Especially noted was Commencement on June 1, 2014, at the Kent State MACC Center. Baccalaureate begins at 1:00 PM, and regular Commencement begins at 2:30 PM.
- Presented special recognition from General Assembly and House of Representatives to retiring Superintendent Joseph Giancola. Rebekah Wright Kulis read two proclamations from Ohio's governor bodies. Giancola expressed his gratitude to the Kent Board of Education, students, parents, and staff.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Recognized Dr. Natalie Bish, KSU Nutrition Outreach, as a collaborative partner for assisting Roosevelt students by providing backpacks filled with food for needy families.
- Recognized Lucy Koogle as “Friend of Kent Schools” for exemplary contribution to Kent City Schools, including Davey, Stanton and Roosevelt involvement with Instrumental Boosters, PTO. Especially notable was Lucy’s work with organizing concessions stands at home football games.
- Adopted a revised Five-Year Forecast. Treasurer Debbie Krutz presented a PowerPoint presentation that described the elimination of the FY 2017 deficit of negative \$7.6 million dollars. Instead, the projected positive cash balance for FY 2107 is now over \$3 million. In addition, the new deficit for FY 2018 has been reduced to a deficit of negative \$2.8 million. (See the Power Point posted on the district’s Home page at: kentschools.net, “Future Plans for 2014-2015—Communications from the Superintendent.”)
- Heard financial reports on cash journal, receipts, appropriations and investments.
- Appointed Dr. Marlene Dorsey OSBA Legislative Liaison.
- Reviewed new board policies. Tom Larkin advised the board that policy changes are reviewed in May and are recommended for approval in June. Most policy changes are due to changes in Ohio law.
- Approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with City of Kent for School Resource Officer (SRO). This MOU is scheduled to be implemented in 2014-2015. The new SRO will be selected and hired before school starts in August, 2014.
- Approved health insurance renewal. This contract ensures rates for the next 12 months.
- Approved contracts for photocopiers. With this motion, we leave behind a five-year agreement and two one-year extensions. So, current photocopiers are seven years old, similar to our previous five-year agreement, we will own our copy machines after five years.
- Approved roofing contract. The cost is \$357,000 for replacing Roosevelt roof. The high expense of replacing Roosevelt’s flat roof is due to the prolific use of roof space for electro-mechanical, heating and cooling, sky lights, plumbing vents, etc. Finally, the sheer size of the roof requires great expense.
- Approved Athletics website contract. With this contract, schedules and other information will be posted in an improved format. Some of the cost will be paid by Rough Rider All Sports Boosters.
- Authorized membership in Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). This is an annual motion that coordinates our participation in OHSAA interscholastic contests and tournaments.

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

- Approved the retirement of Muriel “Sam” Edwards. Joe Giancola complimented Sam on her 40 years as the “Voice of Kent City Schools.
 - Accepted resignations of Scott Chouinard and Julie Troman.
 - Approved appointments, transfers and a leave of absence.
 - Approved a recall of six personnel from Reduction of Staff (RIS). The recalls of staff members on the RIS list were necessary to fill retirement positions that were not included in the cost-savings plan of the Five-Year Forecast.
 - Appointed three substitute teachers for 2014-2015 school year.
 - Approved a number of appointments for supplemental contracts. Annually, the Board approves at the May board meeting supplementals for fall athletics and activities, as well as for year-long supplementals such as student councils.
- MISCELLANEOUS:
- Accepted donations totaling \$4,431. Joe Giancola reported that several of the donations this month are earmarked for specific scholarships for graduates.