

KEHSA MEETING
February 7, 2012
Sisco School, 9:30 a.m.

KEHSA Executive Board

Laura Coyne* and Erin Gadhavi, Co-Presidents

Olga Gilhooley, Treasurer

T.J. Fitzgerald,* Corresponding Secretary

Irene Dedio,* Recording Secretary

Amber Howell, V.P., Fundraising

Faith Porada,* V.P., Fundraising

*board member in attendance

Call to order: 9:35 a.m.

I. Noreen LaFergola, Supervisor of Elementary Education

- A. The K-5 teachers had a very successful Martin Luther King in-service day. They worked on social studies, reading and writing workshop. Mrs. LaFergola had the privilege of going to Columbia University for five days, where she participated in a coaching institute. As a result of the Columbia Teachers College Writing Program that has been implemented in the K-5 curriculum, students are writing much more, and the quality of the writing is improving. A writing literacy team has been implemented, which consists of teacher representatives from K-5.
- B. The Everyday Math program will now have specific benchmarks. We are evaluating Words Their Way, the former spelling program, and collecting data to see how that process works. Kiel is now using Foundations as the spelling program, and with great success. Giving the current educational research on spelling, this is the most practical approach.

II. Mr. Opiekun, Superintendent of Schools

- A. The board moved the school election to November. This will likely preserve the 2% budget increase. The board is committed to involving the public in the budget process, even though there will not be a budget vote. The community will still have input, and be able to vote for the officials who will ultimately determine the budget.
- B. There are 29 applications for the new superintendent, and the screening process will begin this month.

- C. Governor Christie will deliver the budget message this month, and that will determine our state aid, and thus our budget.
- D. We have declining enrollment in the lower grades. So far the trend is continuing. The high school population will decrease significantly in the near future. From a budget standpoint we will eventually need less staff. This may also translate into fewer services offered over time.

III. Mark Mongon, Principal, Stonybrook School

- A. Author Day was a great success. Tom Birdseye was a very powerful experience.
- B. The third marking period has begun.
- C. The Chinese New Year parade was a great success and wonderful cultural celebration.
- D. GOAL testing is happening (gifted and talented program eligibility), and full value education program has been working very well.
- E. Fun At Lunch has been a great success thanks entirely to the efforts of very dedicated volunteer parents.

IV. Mrs. Jodi Mulholland, Principal, Kiel School

- A. PRM students came to Kiel and shared reading and writing with our second grade students.
- B. The school is seeking older students (6-8 grades) to be assistants/counselors at Safety Town, which will be presented this summer for incoming Kindergarten students.
- C. Kindergarten registration is happening this week.
- D. The Cat in the Hat is visiting Kiel School on Valentine's Day
- E. Jump Rope for Heart will take place this month — an educational and fundraising event for the American Heart Association.

V. Tricky Tray, Faith Porada

A. Planning is underway for KEHSA's 23rd annual Tricky Tray on March 22. The theme is "Wine and Dine." Tickets are currently on sale (\$45 dinner packages and ticket bundles are available). Among the new features this year will be a wall of wine, where guests can buy a \$10 ticket to pull a bottle of wine from the wall, valued anywhere from \$10-\$80. The deadline for the ad journal is March 1.

B. We are looking for donations of bins and baskets to wrap gifts

VI. Other Business

A. Kehsa is planning better avenues of communication and are looking forward to the new district-wide web site, which will be a vehicle to better communicate Kehsa's programs and services.

B. Kamelot will be sponsoring events to increase awareness of drug and alcohol issues in the town.

C. Yearbook update: The Kiel books are still available for purchase on line.

D. A health and fitness assembly will be coming up. May is physical fitness month

Meeting Adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Upcoming KEHSA Meeting Dates:

March 13th, April 3rd (night meeting), May 8th, June 5th (turnover meeting)