

Kinnelon Elementary Home and School Association (KEHSA)
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2011
Sisco School, Room 202

KEHSA Executive Board

Co-Presidents: Laura Coyne, Erin Gadhavi

Treasurer: Olga Gilhooley

Vice Presidents, Programs: Denise Kosco, Sandy Godfrey

Vice Presidents, Fundraising: Amber Howell, Faith Porada

Corresponding Secretary: T.J. Fitzgerald

Recording Secretary: Irene Dedio

I. Call to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. Laura Coyne and Erin Gadhavi, Co-Presidents

- A. Introduction to Kehsa, which provides programs for K-5 students via fundraising.
- B. The Kehsa Web page is updated, outlining Kehsa events. Go to www.kinnelonpublicschools.org and click on the Kehsa link for important dates, events and information.
- C. Box Tops fundraiser is ongoing, bake sales for Back To School Night were successful

III. Jodi Mulholland, Principal, Kiel School

- A. All of the staff members feel blessed to have strong Kehsa support despite the current economic climate.

IV. Mr. Mongon, Principal, Stonybrook School

- A. We are fortunate to work in a community that cares so much.
- B. Character Education Program – a set of core principals that can be found on the school's Web site. We are setting these expectations and it creates a great learning environment. Each class has a contract that is based on those principals.
- C. We will be meeting with students in bus groups – principals are needed on the bus to discuss: caring for self and others, etc. Speaking with the bus groups will resonate more with the students.
- D. Next week is School Violence Awareness week.
- E. On-line communication is growing. Text caster, Web and E-mail is effective means of communication and helps with green initiative.
- F. Nov. 7-9 are early dismissal days, when parent-teacher conferences will be taking place. Stonybrook parents can make their appointments via the on-line scheduler on the school's Web site beginning on October 17.

- G. All 5th grade students have 2 teachers in preparation for middle school change of classes

V. Noreen LaFergola, Curriculum Supervisor, K-5

- A. Curriculum is a road map to use to determine what is appropriate at each grade level, as mandated by the state of New Jersey (part of Common Core Curriculum). We work with the teachers and write updated curriculum, focusing on language arts and math. We also work with staff development.
- B. After School Institute – teachers teach other teachers after school hours. We want to make sure teachers can use the new tools like Smart Boards.
- C. We are proud to be part of The Teachers College Project via Columbia University. We are now a project school — we applied and were approved for this status. It is an ongoing piece. Professional staffers come in for each grade level to work with teachers on improving reading and writing instruction. Many of our staff have been going to Columbia for training.

VI. Mr. Opiekun, Superintendent of Schools

- A. Affirmation and validation has been lacking in recent times. If you don't feel valued, you don't do a good job — we are fortunate to get this validation from Kehsa.
- B. If it doesn't happen at the K-5 level, then high school doesn't work. Our high school success is based on our elementary success.
- C. SAT scores on the mean have gone up 90 points in the last 5 years. 98% of our kids go on to higher education.
- D. Passing our budget gave us the opportunity to put back staff and overcome deficits due to budget cuts. A guidance counselor was able to be reinstated at Stonybrook.
- E. HIB policy (Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy) has been mandated. The state of NJ has defined bullying specifically, even from a single incident. Definitions are on the Kinnelon Public Schools Web site (see address above). A community meeting may be necessary to flesh out the protocol for parents. We are working on a process and need to educate parents on the common definition of bullying. The paperwork is overwhelming – even if it's not classified as bullying, paperwork must be filled out. As a community we need to educate families.

VII. Margaret Maher, CEP, Community and Education Partnership

- A. We inform the community about what's going on with the Board of Ed, we are liaison between community and Mr. Opiekun, communication between all: parents, community and BOE. Accurate and effective communication across the board is the goal. For more information and to

add your name to them mailing list, please contact:
communityandeducationpartnership@yahoo.com

VIII. Other Business

- A.** Spirit Wear was a successful fundraiser
- B.** Holiday Shop planning is underway, Kehsa is looking for volunteers to work the day of the sale, December 6-7. Tara Jacobus and Beth Wood are the chairpeople
- C.** Yearbook will be on sale soon. Any parent can submit photos to the yearbook.
- D.** Save the date for the Tricky Tray: March 22 at The Villa in Mountain Lakes. Volunteers are needed in all aspects of the event: ad sales, donations, basket wrapping. Amber Howell and Faith Porada are chairpeople.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next KEHSA meeting is Tuesday, November 15th, 9:30 a.m. at the Sisco School