

Kensington Town Hall Meeting

1/30/20 6:00pm Media Center

Goals:

- Transparency in communication
- Constructive dialogue between stakeholders and school leadership
- Input and voice from the community toward schoolwide decisions

Topic	Notes (for personal use)
Celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensory pathways are awesome!• Talent show was a ton of fun! Thanks to Ms. Moore for making it happen.• Hamilton's award from the Secret Service<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Going to be recognized by Board of Education in Feb• Elf on the Shelf made national news!• 3rd grade persuasive paper was well formatted and engaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bus 361 update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In need of a driver again<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ They had a retired driver who came back to substitute, but has since gone out on medical leave.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing in 3rd grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Almost every Friday<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Teachers try to alternate between math and reading to layer in multiple points of data that contribute to the students' overall grade for the quarter.◦ They try to be mindful not overlapping, but sometimes that unfortunately happens.• Assessing learning besides tests and quizzes<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Teachers do formative assessments on a daily basis, but do not use these for grades. Instead, they use them to understand who's got it and who doesn't, so mistakes don't hurt their grade and become a teachable moment.• Mid-unit 1/10, end of unit 1/31<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Is that the length of typical units?<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Yes, but they vary based on the curriculum resources provided by the county and our teachers' modifications to meet our students' needs.• Is it too much for 8-9 yr olds?<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Yes. 3rd grade is a taxing year on students because they receive the brunt

	<p>of both the lower and upper elementary assessments from the state and district as well as teachers trying to do their own local assessments based on instruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can teachers use flex time to help alleviate some of the overlapping of assessments? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This idea will be passed along for the team to consider.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Istation/iReady reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are small snapshots of student abilities on a specific day. Teachers use these as a small piece of the larger picture around a student's true strengths and weaknesses. The teacher will reach out to parents, after considering all the available data, if they are concerned about the student's ability in any given area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum and Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacing and sequence is guided by the district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teachers may adjust to meet their needs ○ Resources become available gradually throughout the year (i.e. 4th quarter resources have not been posted yet) • Science-based reading vs. Balanced Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More and more of our staff are being trained on the research behind the science-based approach to reading ○ There is a heated debate in the education world that started when supporters of the science-based approach (heavy phonics and decoding of words) challenged the validity of Balanced Literacy (whole word, Readers workshop)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the plan to handle the amount of kids going from 3rd to 4th? How many teachers will there be next year and how many kids per class? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes are similar in size now and are actually identical in number (157) when you subtract the students in Mandarin for each grade. • Things impacting the number of classrooms in 4th and 5th grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State requirements for class size in K-3 ○ No requirements for grades 4+ ○ No State Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Absorbing Costs ○ Audit Findings ○ Link to January 28 Finance Committee Meeting – (scroll to 16:58 for Budget Update)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Audit Report from January 9 Board of Education Meeting – (scroll to 52:56)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There has been talk about 5th grade teachers discussing departmentalizing again. Is this true? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We didn't really get to this conversation at the town hall, but here are the general thoughts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teachers are interested in exploring it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I have asked them to look at the research around it as well as successful and unsuccessful models in the district. ■ We will have a discussion and see if it would be beneficial to students ○ Would not go about it like what was done a few years ago.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why aren't 3rd graders assessed in science and social studies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They are, PBL (3-ish grades per unit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ However, in 4th grade our students move to content-based quizzes and tests and it is a big adjustment for them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fundraising ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Super Bowl of Caring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do we do a quick simple fundraiser? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Single dress-up day? ○ Trying not to collide with Boosterthon ● Boosterthon is coming up in February and info will be in the Feb. Principal's Post e-mail ● Other Fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Something useable for Fall fundraiser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greeting cards ■ Garbage bags ■ Light bulbs ■ Any other suggestions? You can e-mail me at terry.vaughn@ucps.k12.nc.us
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homework conversation next month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Let's invite staff, students, and parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Future Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Day Change for future months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Third Wednesdays of February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wednesday, 2/19 @ 6:00pm ● Would a morning meeting be beneficial? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eh...