

Kensington Town Hall Meeting

9/26/19

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">• Teachers sharing “quizlets” is very helpful as they provide the information needed so parents can help their children prepare for tests. The “quizlets” include study questions and term/definition matching games for students and an answer key for parents.• Students are allowed to pick any book from the library• Announcements from the classroom are fun for students• Stuffed animal reading buddies in 1st grade• School spirit: student named stuff animal “Black Knight Puppy.”• Thanks for the spelling work in 2nd grade• Woohoo for getting to the standard algorithm where I could help my student in 5th grade!
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overcrowding in the upper grades continues. How do we combat that?• What activities are available to students at recess?• Testing dates keep moving back. Are we comparing apples to apples?• Bus shortage has created multiple adjustments, what is the status on this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State mandates on lower grades impact personnel for upper grades<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ School is working on a schedule where teacher assistants can push into 3rd,4th,and 5th grades for 30 minutes twice a week to help with differentiation• Students are able to play anything and everything at recess. Personal equipment is not allowed, but feel free to reach out to teachers and ask if they need anything for their recess arsenal (balls, jump ropes, etc.)• Great question and the data comparison is not as accurate as a research study. However, we treat testing data as one piece of the larger picture and make sure to compare it to other data that is collected more frequently as well as local data from the classroom. As a school, we never want our students stressed about “prepping” for a test and would rather invest our time in teaching them the standards in conjunction with social skills every day we possibly can.• Bus 345 was added to help with overcrowding on Buses 74 and 385. Students have been reshuffled and communication should have been sent to parents impacted.

<p>Focal Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperative Learning • Multi-Tiered Systems of Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Academic interventions ◦ Behavior norms • Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ School Chant ◦ Principal Lunch ◦ Connect with Cluster ◦ Focused Staff Meetings • Climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ STEAM lab ◦ Fencing ◦ Refreshed media Center ◦ Outdoor learning space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are constantly trying to create an environment where students are able to interact, problem-solve, and work together through content. This helps develop the soft skills they will need later in life. • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Focused on the documentation of interventions in academic realm and providing time for teachers to have meaningful discussions around the data they have. ◦ Trying to establish a universal system for the whole school with the hope of adding structured behavioral interventions next year. • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Every classroom gets a chance to have the principal come to their classroom for lunch one day in October ◦ Trying to create consistency with New Town and fun opportunities to connect with Cuthbertson MS and HS. ◦ 1st Wednesday- Staff Meeting ◦ 2nd Wednesday- Committee Meetings ◦ 3rd Wednesday- Data Meetings ◦ 4th Wednesday- Fun for Staff • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Another chance for student collaboration ◦ Safety around recess ◦ Fun reading/learning space for students instead of all tables and chairs ◦ Opportunities for students to learn in a different location and inspire creative collaboration
<p>Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open House • Curriculum Night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Couldn't make it from 3-5p due to work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We tried to match New Town and make sure ours was finished before Cuthbertson MS so parents who needed to attend both, could do it. ◦ Will look at trying to coordinate with New town on another day, maybe Wednesday, from 4-6 for parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We try to give teachers as much time as possible to get their rooms prepped and ready to showcase for Open House, so this would lessen their time to prep. • 2nd grade was awesome and briefly taught parents math so they could help their students. It was a huge Ah ha! Moment • Another grade level had virtual anchor charts, which

- **Boosterthon**

- What a great idea! We'll share with staff!

- 2 sessions is a must
- Possibly adding 10 minute transition times to allow for Q&A and walk between sessions
- Some are worried that stress of all the tests at the beginning of the year might have generated some struggles with classroom assessments because there was so much testing.
 - We'll work on juggling this going forward. Some tests are mandated on when they can occur, but frontend communication to students about not stressing about these mandated tests could help.
- Most of the testing we do is coming from state mandates and they place financial incentives on test scores.
 - If you have any feedback with these regards, feel free to reach out to your state legislators.
- - Will post needs for STEAM lab on <http://learn.livingtree.com/> at conclusion of coupon book fundraiser for any who simply want to give to help out.
 - Concerned about why the school has to do their own fundraiser in addition to what PTO does
 - It is nice to have a pool of non-restricted money for school leadership to do what needs to be done in the moment
 - PTO tries to focus on things that impact ALL students and sometimes there are things that need to be done with just a classroom or teacher.
 - Principal and PTO have developed a great relationship and regularly communicate with each other to coordinate efforts with expenses
 - PTO has offered to help the school with projects, if needed.
 - School and PTO are working on coordinating efforts with large capital projects on campus.
 - PTO is going to study the Boosterthon this year with the hope that next year they can run it for the school.
 - Money would be split 50/50 between PTO and school, but ALL the money would stay in-house for the best interest

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Perhaps parent volunteers if we could coordinate all the days ■ Need to get with Dena at Waxhaw Parks and Rec ● Specials Classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What do our Specials teachers need? We always help with the classroom teachers and we're sure they could use some things as well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We'll work on them creating wishlists ○ How are standards being met in Specials classrooms? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They struggled to get to all of them before, but now they're seeing their students even less with Flex. ■ They're doing their best, but with the influx of students and no adjustment in the number of specials teachers allotted, Flex was an effort to provide manageable class sizes for specials teachers and a creative way to still allow for common planning for classroom teachers. ■ We will reflect on the good and bad of this throughout the year and will adjust for next year as needed. ● Some teachers need help, but don't have as many parents able to help. What can those who have the time to help out all teachers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can we create a pool of volunteers willing to help any teacher?
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