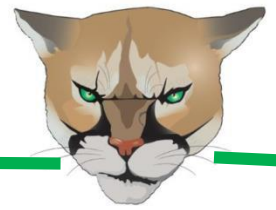


K.O. Knudson School Organizational Team



MEETING MINUTES

K.O. Knudson Academy of Creative Arts and Technology

School Organizational Team Meeting

K.O. Knudson Middle School – Library Annex

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

6:00pm

School Organizational Team Members present:

Rocio Franco, Jessica Fyffe, Amanda Hicks, Yolanda Lowry, Stacey O'Brien, Dora Salguero, Susan Sancrant, Lezlie Koepp (Principal)

School Organizational Team Members absent:

Amy Symes, Lana Pagkaliwangan (Student)

Welcome

Call to Order

Amanda Hicks, S.O.T. Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

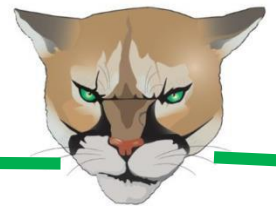
A motion to approve the 10/30/19 minutes was made by Susan Sancrant.

Second: Yolanda Lowry

Agenda Items

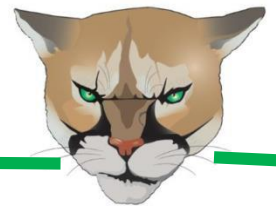
1. Possible Future Zoning changes
 - a. Mrs. Koepp explained that she was notified about 2 weeks prior to S.O.T. meeting about major zoning changes in area that will affect K.O. No plans are official as they must go through the A.Z.A.C (Attendance Zone Advisory Commission) process before becoming official. The plans scheduled to happen in about 1 year are as follows:
 - i. CCSD is currently rebuilding J.D. Smith M.S. to fit 1700 students compared to 800 students currently. They will be taking/inviting students from other zones to fill seats.
 - ii. A new magnet school will also be built (about 1 year for construction) on the old Bishop Gorman site. It will be grades 6-12 full Workforce magnet.

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- iii. Freemont M.S. will also be receiving a new building and reopen as grades K-8 dual language full magnet. Kids will attend classes at the new magnet school (B.G. old site) while construction takes place. Consequently, there will be no school for the students zoned to Freemont to attend. Those students would now be zoned to attend K.O.
- iv. In order for K.O. to be able to accommodate the Fremont students who will now be rezoned to attend K.O., approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of students currently zoned for K.O. will be rezoned to attend Roy Martin M.S.
 - 1. These plans will not impact current students or magnet students. This will only impact incoming students.
- v. It was mentioned that population enrollment will go up temporarily, but it will go back down. K.O. enrollment is already maxed out; administration is unaware of how they will be able to fit more students into the school. The biggest concern is that if there is an influx of neighborhood/zoned kids, there will be less seats for magnet students to attend K.O.
 - 1. Another point to this discussion is that K.O., since its 1997 opening as the 1st magnet school in the district, has been asking to become full magnet. 2 years ago, when 3 new full-magnet school were opened, the question for K.O. to become full magnet was asked again. K.O. administration was told that when the rezoning plans commenced, K.O. could be considered to become full magnet. The current response from zoning offices (10/2019) was that there are now no plans for K.O. to become full magnet because it was too expensive.
 - 2. K.O. administration would like to point out that all children that attend K.O. (magnet or zoned) are fully immersed into the magnet program.
 - 3. A question was asked about how many magnet seats are available for the Arts on the North of Desert Inn. K.O. is currently half magnet/half zoned. This results in there only being 650 seats for magnet students.
 - a. This points out the extreme inequality for families that live North of Desert Inn as they have less opportunities for their

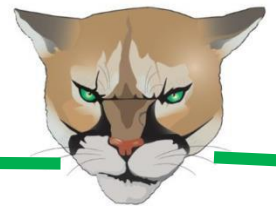
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students to attend magnet programs unless they plan to drive their students to and from school.

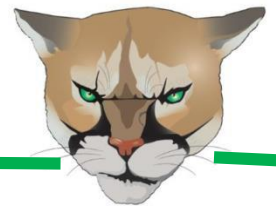
- vi. Linda Jones from Clark County Education Association (C.C.E.A.) was invited to speak to parents.
 - 1. Ms. Jones urged parents to contact the CCSD School Board Trustees Irene Cepeda who is the K.O.'s district's Trustee and Dr. Jesus Jara CCSD Superintendent to protest the inequity, unfairness, lack of equal access, and lack of opportunities for student success at K.O.
 - a. A parent asked if letters/messages could be sent in Spanish. A: Yes.
 - 2. Parents were reminded that as taxpayers they have the right to demand a quality education for their children.
 - 3. She also recommended that parents attend the Board of Trustees meeting and the AZAC meeting to express their concerns.
- vii. A.Z.A.C. meetings are held on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Parents are urged to attend or submit comments for the record to make their voice heard and let them know the K.O. community is not on board with their decisions.
 - 1. Admin was told that public input meetings will be held specifically about this topic, but no information had been given. Information tends to be given very quickly with short notice for the public regarding agenda items.
- a. Public Comments:
 - i. Q: After Fremont and the new workforce school go full-magnet, and K.O. stays 50/50 or if they go full magnet, where will neighborhood kids go?
 - 1. A: There is no known answer to that question since all information is not given. The argument to go full-magnet is to give an equal opportunity to students living North of Desert Inn.
 - ii. Q: How many seats are reserved for magnet?
 - 1. A: Every 6th grade class has about 245 magnet seats reserved. Compared to the full-magnet school South of Desert Inn takes about 500 seats roughly.

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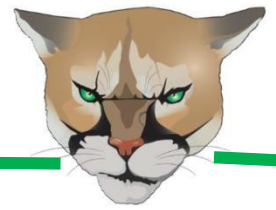
- iii. Comment: With other school being implemented as full-magnet and K.O. having to take the neighborhood children is completely unfair. This feels like an attack on the arts. K.O. is a jewel for the arts, and it is under attack. This seems like a problem of equity. What makes the children that attend K.O. any less valuable than those students that attend school in Summerlin, Henderson, or Centennial Hills?
- iv. Q: If there is only a small amount of parents that express their concerns compared to the number of students at K.O. will it matter or will they say that majority wins?
 - 1. A: It depends on whether the concerns brought up are an agenda item or a discussion. Parent comments may be taken if the comment is regarding a discussion, but they are not required to allow comments. If they are going to take a vote, people interested in making a comment will need to sign in. Sometimes just being seen will make a difference, and make the board think twice about what they are deciding.
- v. Q: Regarding students that live in the neighborhood and applied for the magnet program, if there is a limited amount of magnet seats will they be accepted to the magnet program or will that affect them?
 - 1. The way the magnet program runs, 25% of seats are reserved for neighborhood kids, CCSD fills 25% of seats with neighborhood kids. If the kids are not selected for the 25% their name goes into the general pool and it runs through for the regular seats. Neighborhood kids have a higher chance of getting in. To clarify, that is only 25% of 50% of the school's population. Neighborhood kids will be opted in. Currently neighborhood kids are accepted but they do not receive the additional classes that magnet kids get. However, rezoning any siblings of current students may not be zoned for K.O. and if they do not get in with a magnet seat, they do not come to K.O. at all. It was brought up that families will be broken up if the rezoning occurs.
- vi. Q: For Thurman White, do they go through the same process of only having 25% of seats?

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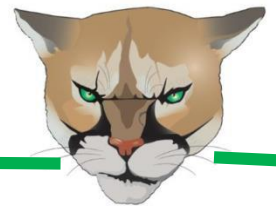
1. A: No. It is the same process but they have 500 seats for 674 applicants. When comparing to K.O., 25% of 500 seats at Thurman White compared to 25% of 274 seats at K.O.
- vii. Q: Does this affect only 6th grade of all grades?
 1. A: All of the proposed plans are a year out. So a current 6th grader will be in 8th grade when this is planned to go in effect. Students in 4th grade or younger will be the ones affected.
- viii. Q: Is there any way to get the students to write a letter about this issue?
 1. A: Yes. However, because administration cannot be involved, they can't request or require students to write letters during class. This will have to be done on their own time. Students are also welcome at the meetings to express their voice. Students also have the ability to email any of the trustees or the superintendent from their school emails.
- ix. Q: Has media been contacted?
 1. A: Because this topic is currently under discussion, it is unwanted that it goes any further until A.Z.A.C has made a decision or actually discussed it on the record. However, the person to contact to put it on their radar is Eric Huey who writes the blog CCSD School Watch.
- x. Q: Can flyers be handed out to students?
 1. A: It is not allowed for parents to hand out flyers to students. However, because the school is private property as a parent or community member, there is nothing that can stop someone from passing out literature that is not attacking staff or administration due to the nature of this topic.
- xi. Comment: Speaking parent would like to thank parents for attending meeting. Having parents at the meeting means a lot. She is requesting that parents pass the message around if they are unable to make the meeting. The school she works at went through the same process and had a drop in the number of students the year after the changes went into effect. Unlike her school K.O. is given the opportunity to express their opinion.

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- xii. Comment: The reason that more parents were able to attend this meeting was because the time it was held was more convenient. A lot of parents work and later meeting allow for them to attend.
- xiii. Comment: Parent stated that she lives next door to Thurman but chose to have her child attend K.O. because of the all of the positive comments/stories from alumni and parents. As a musician, she never had opportunities to attend a school like K.O. that gives student opportunities they otherwise may not have been able to experience. She wanted her child to attend a great school with different opportunities that would also give her an experience with different cultures. She is saddened that this school does not receive the same opportunities as others schools in more affluent neighborhoods.
- xiv. Comment: Student mentioned that zoned students, have a different attitude when compared to magnet students. Because some zoned students don't have to apply to attend K.O., they aren't as conscious about their behavior and academics since they will be able to come back to school after suspension or be able to stay with bad grades opposed to magnet kids who will be sent to their home school.
 - 1. Mrs. Koepp wanted to clarify that there are a lot of zoned students who do care and some magnet students who do not care. However, magnet students do have to sign a contract to be able to attend K.O.
- xv. Comment: Parent of zoned student knew that K.O. was a magnet school but they did not think about the magnet program of school when enrolling. Exposure to the magnet program has had a positive effect on her child. It motives student to work harder and is very appreciative of the artistic opportunities at K.O. Parent feels that if K.O. becomes full magnet, student who are not aware of the opportunities at K.O. or are not thinking about their future in elementary school will not have exposure to the different programs in K.O.
 - 1. Mrs. Koepp does not want to lose her zoned students. She loves all of the students and feels as though they are a family. All of the students are integrated and there is no "us" or them." She would rather have an opt-out option where neighborhood students can say they don't want to attend vs. having to apply to come become because not everyone fully

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understands the magnet process. Magnet recruiting also happens in neighboring elementary school because not all people realize that the magnet program gives them an extra elective. The full magnet status would make more seats available to neighborhood students.

2. Standard Student Attire Vote

a. Standard Student Attire (SSA)

- i. K.O. is a Standard Student Attire school. Every 4 years the school must go through a resurvey process to make sure that everyone is on board to continue or discontinue SSA.
- ii. A letter was sent out discussing the pros and cons of having SSA at K.O.
- iii. A mailer vote will happen in the spring so parents could vote on whether or not to keep it, parents must then mail back their vote.

b. Public Comments:

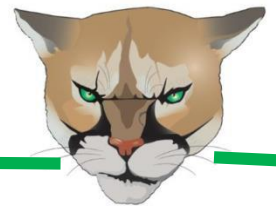
- i. Mr. Martin, assistant principal, was invited to speak on this topic.

1. Mr. Martin spoke recently about SSA at a PAC meeting. At the PAC meeting, there was overwhelming support to continue SSA at K.O. K.O. has had SSA for about 12 years and is one of the longest running schools. SSA has been maintained for 12 years because of parent support. Mr. Martin listed his biggest pros as an administrator for SSA:

- a. There is great socioeconomic disparity at K.O. Having SSA makes it very difficult for students to know which students are homeless or near homeless. K.O. also accepts donations and purchases some SSA items to donate to the neediest students.

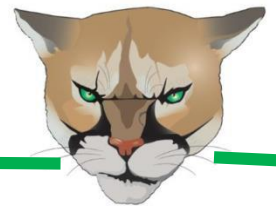
- b. SSA also impacts chronic absenteeism. Students will skip school because they are embarrassed about their clothing.

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- c. This also helps to combat gang proliferation on campus. Numerous compliments have been given from CCSD police to K.O. about not allowing gang activity on campus.
- ii. Comment: Student has researched and found that SSA does not directly help students. Academic achievement and violence and become worse when schools have SSA instead of helping to improve the issue. Having SSA is a burden on low-income families because it costs more to purchase clothes solely to attend school. SSA also can affect student's self-esteem; because not all bodies are the same, some students feel uncomfortable in how SSA fits them compared to others. CCSD already has a dress code that prevents any type of inappropriate pictures/slogans and that would still allow students the freedom to wear clothes they are comfortable with opposed to SSA. Student had a presentation ready that is available upon request.
- iii. Comment: Student addresses SSA guidelines of bottoms being fingertip length and the ban on wearing jeans with tears/rips above the knee. As pointed out wearing a skirt that is fingertip length shows more skin than a small hole on jeans with tears/rips above the knees. Student mentioned that some students have shorter arms than others and the guidelines should be more clear on how long a garment should be. Student stated that they are for SSA because of zoning changes and what the new population could introduce in regards to gang affiliations from different neighborhoods. To summarize, student is for SSA, but changes should be made to rules for K.O.
 - 1. Mrs. Koepp responded to some of the student's concerns:
 - a. There is a difference between CCSD student attire and K.O. standard student attire. CCSD social media is discussing a more gender-neutral guideline to address different body types. Guidelines for holes in jeans are mandated by CCSD, not K.O.
- iv. Comment: Parent addressed that they are both for and against SSA. They are for SSA due to the ease of finding what to wear on a daily basis; although it can be difficult to find the specific colors allowed at K.O. On the other-hand, her student also grows rapidly which results in having to purchase new SSA

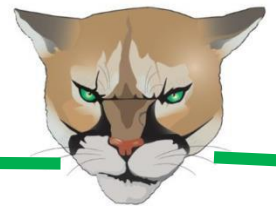
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approved clothes, which can be costly. The costs can be a burden for some, especially school district employees that do not work during the summer so there is more of a struggle to purchase clothing.

1. Administration mentioned that students are given some leeway during the first week of school before enforcing SSA to alleviate some of the costs of the new school year.
2. Mrs. Koepp stated that as an administrator and parent she has found that she is spending less money on school clothes with SSA. Even if a student only has 5 polos, they can make it through the school week.
 - a. Mr. Martin mentioned that as a school K.O. is cognizant of the costs of purchasing clothing that adheres to SSA guidelines. K.O. is working on building a stock-pile of SSA shirts to hopefully be able to have an exchange rack where students turn in non-fitting clothes for gently-used items of a different size.
 - i. During the last days of school students are asked to bring in clothes they do not fit into and in return they receive a free-dress day pass.
- v. Comment: Coming from a non-SSA school to SSA school was indifferent. As a parent of two teenage girls, SSA has been a lifesaver because as students go from 6th grade where they are awkward and don't care what they wear to 7th & 8th grade where they are now worried about certain clothing brands. Having SSA has saved a lot of money in comparison to the cost of purchasing a few polos.
- vi. Comment: Former student, who always complained about SSA; now comes to visit and mentions how much they miss SSA. At K.O. with SSA the student always knew what to wear and now at a non-SSA school, the students are now trying to figure out what to wear on top of everything else.
- vii. Q: Gangs and gangs on campus were mentioned, what colors are the gangs associated with? Why aren't parents receiving information about gang activity?

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1. Gang activity is kept away from K.O. There is a difference between being a gang member and gang activity. All schools, regardless of affluence or location, have gangs and drugs; some worse than others. Some students have outside influences, and may not have other choices. There are issues with high-schoolers trying to come on campus and with the park near the school. SSA helps administration quickly differentiate K.O. students from non-students. Being a comprehensive school there are students who are in gangs and gang affiliated at K.O. Administration does have a high concern where if they lose SSA they will lose the immediate recognition and not be able to see any possible problems as quickly.

General Discussion

1. Districtwide Survey: <https://surveyplatform.ccsdapps.net/>
 - a. Districtwide Survey is now available and parents are urged to fill it out. Parents are reminded that they can fill out the survey for as many students they have in the district. It is important that K.O. has high numbers of participation because the numbers can affect the school rating.
2. Suggestions for future agenda items
 - a. If someone would like to add an agenda item, they could send an email to Amanda Hicks, and she will add it to the agenda for a future meeting.

Information

1. Next Meeting: Monday, 12/16 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Period (2 minutes maximum allotted)

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.