

**Area C Parent and Community Meeting Notes**  
**Kenny Community School 6-8pm**  
**3-18-15**

Welcome to Kenny – Bill Gibbs, principal - We have a great little school. Kenny had been in decline and was in danger of closing. We now have great teachers, great staff, great parents to work with. Families take care of the media center and our foundation supports the building and the families.

The agenda has changed and no one is coming from budget or finance. The staff has been working through the night to get the budgets out and they are tired. The plan is to have the conversation at the site council level. Be sure to get involved at your school. There will be support there. This plan will support the School as the Unit of Change. There are different issues at different schools, it's difficult to have a general discussion with all of the variables. The principals are just getting their budgets and they look different than before. There will be some discrepancies from last year to this year so a conversation at this point would be premature. The Davis center redesign put dollars in the schools to support 3 of the main goals on the priority list, lower the case load for special education, add time for middle and high schools and lower class size K-2 in all schools.

Q: Keep this at high level discussion. I serve on the 2020 Workforce committee and the board has asked us to give feedback about how the district is doing on 5-8-10. How will the budgets support these goals? Was the 2020 plan considered when the budget was done?

A: Gibbs talked about how Kenny was impacted by the loss of Title I funds. Math reading specialists will be added

Q: What is the Title I threshold? – 35- 40% min for targeted schools.

A: 35-40% for Targeted Assistance and above 40% for Full Funding. The levels didn't change.

Q: Kenny has suffered a significant loss. The finance team is tired? Why the agenda was changed? We set the time aside and the agenda changed. It's off putting - \$230,000 deficit – not on the agenda – how can this work?

A: The deficit, an opaque number we will make sure we get it right. Budgets went out Monday late.

Q: Kenny wasn't singled out. Why can there be cuts like that to a functioning school? The budget that was released is ridiculous. Site council is strictly advisory. That there will be no family liaison, indicates how seriously you take the success of Kenny.

A: Don't know how concrete it is. Make sure all numbers are correct – The money isn't there to support the program at Kenny. I will continue to work with BG to see where the gaps are.

Q: When are the budgets due back to the district? Who is the advocate? Who will make sure that we have a program at Kenny that can be sustained?

A: The budgets are due back in 2 weeks. We had said 3 weeks but it is possible to turn it around in 2 weeks.

Q: CPS – budgets – what is the ratio of weights – what is the formula? We have been asking for 7 months. The budget is late, very concerned about how reliably the numbers were given. Why roll it out there? This is another example of sloppy workmanship.

A: Autonomy in the pilot program. We haven't landed on the weights.

Q: How much money is coming from the Davis Center right-sizing?

A: \$11.6 million for 3 targeted areas.

Q: Where did \$40million come from – Get a hard number? \_\_\_\_\_

Q: Many parents have invested in SBA discussion all year. All of us together that cross schools want this addressed in a larger venue. We have been disrespected as an area. We have not been heard. No one to say, sorry we don't have the answers. Write to the district, the school board, superintendent. The voice has not been heard. Something is wrong. Not a good time to take that stand. Get involved in your site councils. Go as public as you can.

Q: Are the budgets publicly available? Are these the final numbers?

A: The budgets from past years are available and we will create a link to the finance page and put in e-news. We don't have a date when the current budgets will be posted on the website, but they will be. We will also find out how "final" the numbers listed are.

Q: How do schools handle the notification of parents when their students are absent from school? Some schools don't call until 5 pm, it's too late if you thought your kids were at school. What is the expectation from the district or is this decided on a site level? Are there staff watching when kids arrive to know whether or not they are leaving again?

A: There are attendance teams at schools. Ron Wagner will take this question to an Associate Superintendents meeting to learn about what the practice is across the district.

Q: Who pays for the site of the school choice fair and why are charter schools allowed to be there too?

A: The space is free as long as MPS agrees to allow the charter schools to be in the same space.