

## Present

*Staff:* May Petrov (Assistant Principal), Darrell Williams (Principal), Jackie Romero (Technology Teacher), Bucky O'Hare (KOED director), David Murphy (Interim Superintendent), Neusa DaCosta (Family Liaison), Ada Riggins (1st grade teacher)

*Families:* Jackie Gantzer, Annie Coburn (K-Lo), Sean Bulger, Moe, Daniel Rich, Claire Yu (K-Lo), Kate McGovern, Sneha Tellis, Alison Munroe, Jose Jiminez, Aram Harrow

The main agenda item is a discussion of the plan to have grades K-2 from K-Lo (Kennedy Longfellow) come to King Open starting in the next school year. We were joined by two K-Lo parents and the interim superintendent, David Murphy.

Families or community members who want to follow news about the plans for K-Lo are invited to sign up for updates on their email newsletter at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqslhEaNIOOP5D692jO4feJFsXRtieR7XwkPRr2K7UKQYI9Q/viewform>

## Upcoming K-Lo Family Events

Tues Jan 21 9-10am in-person coffee

Wed Jan 22 6-7pm virtual

Thurs Jan 23 6-7pm in-person

Agenda: Welcome families and share about KO mission and values.

Student and staff voices. SEL. Instructional specialists. Ola. KOED. FOKO

KO families are welcome to help represent KO.

Getting feedback from K-Lo families about their needs.

We will also give K-Lo families contact information about school leadership and the school council.

FOKO will work on organizing playdates.

The current plan is for 1st and 2nd graders from K-Lo to go to PAUS for middle school.

## Q&A with Interim Superintendent David Murphy

KO was chosen because it's close to K-Lo, it's doing well and it's not fully using its space.

Q: What support will there be from the district for KO?

A: Resources freed up from K-Lo will generally follow the kids. Right now we're figuring out where all the K-Lo kids will go. In Feb we will then use this to decide on staffing.

KO already has a somewhat higher fraction of low-income families and this will increase slightly (maybe from 56% to 59%).

Q: Will K-Lo staff move to KO?

A: Probably. But this will not be automatic and KO will ultimately decide on its own hiring.

Q: What will happen with KOED/afterschool?

A: We'll look into it. Ultimately we would like to increase enrollment.

Q: What does success look like for an afterschool program?

A: [Bucky] We are closely connected with the school. Our afterschool teachers cover lunch and recess during the day and often spend time in the class during the day. More than half of KO students are in KOED.

The enrollment increase from the new K-Lo kids will be smaller than the one we did two years ago.

Q: What do KO teachers want?

A: [Darrell] They want to be sure there are enough staffing resources to support the incoming students. [David] This may mean some shared staff across schools.

Q: Will there be any changes for Ola?

A: Staffing should stay the same. Incoming K-Lo students can join Ola if they are either young enough or speak Portuguese.

Q: Will this impact the incoming JK+K capacity?

A: No. KO will still have 3 non-Ola K classrooms. A very small number of K-Lo students will enter K at KO.

Q: Will this affect size?

A: Class sizes are always capped at 20 (K) or 25 (1-8). Because we're adding one classroom per grade, we might slightly decrease class size. We don't want classrooms to be too small.

Q: What is behavior management like at KO?

A: [May] We have a robust SEL program with restorative circles and other activities in Tier 1, as well as a strong Tier 2 program with a social worker, music therapist, inclusion specialist, behavior specialist, and other staff.

Q: Many refugee children ended up at K-Lo. Is this likely at KO in the future?

A: This partly reflected a shelter being next to K-Lo. In the future we'll leave seats open across the district to avoid concentrating students from families that arrive in the middle of the year. Benefit of having more strands per grade = we have more space/flex in more buildings to take in students as needed.

Q: I've read that up to 100 students may come to KO from K-Lo; is this true?

A: This is incorrect; we're talking about maybe as many as 30 new students.

Q: If the disproportionate populations in some schools occurred because of choice system, then does the system need to change?

A: I don't favor uprooting the choice policy altogether; I think the choice policy gives many families what they want and works well in many of our schools. We need to make intentional changes to allow the choice system to create better integrated schools across the system. All

schools in the system need to be prepared to welcome students from any demographic group at any point in the school year.

Q: Could KOED focus more on academic support and homework help in the future?

A: With resources and support from district, sure. KOED is still rebuilding from COVID closures to be honest; our real work is about supporting the kids' academic growth and we are still working to build back up to that and increase our support. All of it is important. The program should be what kids need—as we become more intentional at the district level about building out these programs, we should be providing more of whatever that is.