

# Community Conversation Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, September 5, 2019  
**Meeting Start:** 6:07 p.m.  
**Adjourned:** 7:32 p.m.  
**Location:** Khalsa Middle School

## Contents

- 1 *Making Connections*..... 1
- 2 *Who We Are and What We Do*..... 1
- 3 *When We Do It*..... 1
- 4 *Why We Do It*..... 1
- 5 *How the KCO Works*..... 1
- 6 *How to Help*..... 2
- 7 *Attendees, Roles, & Ideas*..... 2

### 1 Making Connections

We began with Ingrid introducing the Board and welcoming all the new faces and several regular KCO meeting attendees.

### 2 Who We Are and What We Do

Ingrid explained that the KCO is a legal non-profit organization with a board of officers, different teams, and a whole community surrounding us. She described the areas (pieces of the pie) on the large Organizational Chart (Wheel of Fun). The KCO’s role is to build community; fundraise; support the staff, administration, school environment, and parents; and keep everyone informed.

### 3 When We Do It

Ingrid reviewed the tentative calendar for the year that was provided in the handout, including the behind-the-scenes operations and schedules. She pointed at the main events and generally described each.

### 4 Why We Do It

Ingrid expressed the incredible luck our children have to benefit from a free Montessori education (Khalsa Charter School) in a state (AZ) that sits at the national bottom of state funding per child. Nirvair talked more about what that means in \$\$: close to \$1 million less in state funding than a similar sized school in other U.S. states. Private Montessori school can charge up to \$15–\$35K/year. Nirvair talked about the benefits of actively belonging to a community and the positive impacts on/modeling for our children. She also spoke of the satisfaction in working towards a common goal that we all believe is worthwhile and valuable to the community.

### 5 How the KCO Works

Audrie provided a summary of how the KCO works for submitting ideas, staying informed, and getting involved. See the following summary:

### 5.1 **Submitting Ideas**

If you have an idea, here's how to share it and how will it be processed:

- If you bring us a vision for a new fundraiser or a new activity, be prepared to lead the effort
- Send us an email with your vision and ask to present it at the next meeting, especially if it requires scheduling; we already have a tentative calendar for the year
- Or if you're in a general meeting and have a stroke of brilliance that isn't directly related to the current conversation, fill out a note card
- In both cases, we'll address the request at the next meeting

### 5.2 **How to Stay Informed**

To actively stay informed on our status and to understand what we do:

- Ask Audrie for Google Calendar access
- Read the KCO Konnection weekly announcements
- Read Abby's newsletter
- Check out Facebook

### 5.3 **Our Structure**

- The structure we have created may feel rigid, but it actually enables people to take part in the process.
- When things are done on the fly, people don't necessarily have a point of entry to know whether their ideas were received/processed adequately.

### 5.4 **How to Get Involved**

If you have an idea or many ideas/comments and an interest in change making (i.e., supporting the current direction of the KCO or changing it):

- Consider running for the Board
- Join a committee to be part of the planning, discussions, and voting
- Review the Minutes; attend the General Meetings to be able to vote on how we allocate funds

## 6 **How to Help**

Ingrid and Matt listed several of the many areas where we need volunteers and the kinds of tasks for which we most need volunteers.

We took a short break so everyone could get a drink, mingle, and review different areas of help, then we broke into groups to have discussions relating to different segments of the KCO, including Communications (led by Audrie), Fundraising (led by Matt and Ingrid), Community Building (led by Abby) and Parent Enrichment (led by Nirvair), Alumni Outreach (led by Naomi), and Staff Fund (no lead yet, but several new attendees were interested in helping).

## 7 **Attendees, Roles, & Ideas**

Name	Role(s)	Ideas
Nirvair Khalsa	Khalsa Director, Parent Enrichment Co-Chair	Nirvair is interested in hearing from parents what kinds of topics they'd like to discuss: current plans are for Internet safety for families; Montessori information

Name	Role(s)	Ideas
Naomi McIsaac	Middle School Director, Khalsa Assistant Director, Alumni Outreach Chair, Science Fair Chair, Parent Enrichment Co-Chair	Presented the idea of streaming seminars (webinars) and even KCO meetings using Zoom, so parents can attend from home
Ingrid Bregand	KCO Co-Chair, Alumni Outreach, Fundraising	
Matt Dunkel	KCO Co-Chair, Dining 4\$ Chair, Directory Team, Jim Click Team	For Dining 4\$, an idea was presented to invite friends and family from beyond the Khalsa community to get our numbers up; we could hand out printouts of the flyer at the event as in the past
Emily Mortara	KCO Vice Chair; Mariposa Lead Teacher, Arts Night Chair, Directory Team	For Arts Night, a suggestion was made for getting direct sponsors (money) from the larger Tucson community (not just Khalsa families)
Audrie Terre	KCO Secretary, Communications Chair, Directory Chair, Jim Click Raffle Chair, Google Calendar,	At a previous meeting, Orsi made a suggestion to have someone solicit ads from the larger Tucson community and make the directory look more like a theater program with ads distributed throughout
Heidi Landon	Treasurer (taxes, financial summaries and reports); Staff Fund Disbursement	Heidi, Jaime, and Alheli discussed working together on the Staff Fund; no chair was established, but a committee is forming
Amy Cormode	Parent Enrichment	She's presenting the first Parent Enrichment discussion and is willing to lead a series; Amy and Kresta discussed several potential topics
Abby Green	Community-Building Chair, T-Shirt Chair	Abby reported Savaya will no longer be our KCOffee sponsor; she has volunteers to donate coffee, put up signs, and set up tables for at least the first
Orsi Lazar	Yard Sale Chair, Pool Party Chair, Mesquite Parent Liaison	The fundraising group discussed emphasizing the Craft Fair side of the Yard Sale, delivering donations directly to Orsi instead of leaving them at the school, and recruiting more volunteers to transport yard sale items to and from the school (people with trucks, SUVs, etc.)
Susan Miller-Cochran	Box Tops Chair	

Name	Role(s)	Ideas
Leslie Woodford	Khalsa Curriculum Coordinator	Asked about school texting system for event notifications; Nirvair said it might be possible, but she doesn't want to overwhelm parents with texts so they ignore an emergency
Gontran Zepeda	Green Team Chair	Gontran, Emily, and Kris discussed potentially offering a service to recycle difficult items, like batteries, fluorescent lightbulbs, toxic liquids, etc.
Kelly Armet	Parent Attendee	
Frank Jude Boccio	Parent Attendee	Discussed an idea for a movie night and subsequent discussion involving yogic principles/concepts
Jaime Carbonell	Parent Attendee	Offered to work with the Staff Fund Committee
Stacey Cochran	Parent Attendee	
Divyanshi	Parent Attendee	
Jenny Merritt	Parent Attendee	
Alhelí Montaña	Parent Attendee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offered to do directory data entry</li> <li>• Discussed working on the Staff Fund Committee as well</li> </ul>
Todd Seger	Parent Attendee	Offered to donate the first KCOffee Break coffee
Kresta KC Werner	Parent Attendee	Discussed topics for parent-to-parent enrichment discussions
Kris Wright	Parent Attendee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offered to help for specific as-needed tasks as her work schedule is flexible</li> <li>• Offered to be a resource, in case we need HR skills for any reason</li> <li>• Suggested we get to know which skills are in the community and offered to prepare with Ingrid by the end of 2019 a "parent skills/competences info sheet" to be placed in the enrollment packages</li> </ul>