



## “Bring back Jack!” Why?

When our former headmaster, Jack Pidgeon, was running Kiski for 40 years, he foresaw that Kiski might try to go co-ed one day. It was a subject discussed at board meetings when the wind changed direction or a budget was in trouble. As such, he studied why the founders of Kiski made it for "just" boys back in 1888.

During his tenure at Kiski, he studied the founding documents and mission of Kiski, as well as, the latest research on coed education. In his own words, *"boys in the all male environments are much more inclined to develop a sense of personal identity and learn more deeply who they really are than in a co-educational environment. In the absence of a female audience, they are more apt to give up posturing and role-playing and deal instead with the central issue of life which is to learn one's strengths and weaknesses and to develop the strengths while shoring up the weaknesses."*<sup>1</sup>

Many educators believe there is a place for co-ed... as did Jack Pidgeon. However, there are educators who are, *"not quite so honest... they believe a shortage of applicants can be solved by turning to co-ed education to survive. One would not have an argument with these educators if they were honest."*<sup>2</sup>

When some Kiski graduates heard that the board of directors and headmaster were taking the school co-ed, they knew they were just being expedient. A Kiski group of men who found their Kiski experience *"transformative"*<sup>3</sup> decided to help the school financially and preserve the boy learning experience for their sons and grandsons.

They formed a 501.C3 called Friends of Kiski Prep (FOKP) to try and support the boys. With the headmaster's pay package (\$300,000 + house + food + expenses), 100 employees and other costs, the school found itself overextended and were seeking funds. In less than 4 days, Friends of Kiski Prep raised \$520,000 (illustrating the **unsolicited power of the Kiski alumni and friends**) for the school. We asked them to delay their decision to go coed for 6 months

to a year, however, without any notice to us, they announced publicly they were taking it co-ed and attempted to stifle our fundraising efforts. This revealed their true intentions and new ideology, which contradicted the founding principles of the school.<sup>4</sup> In one swift move, the naive board (many members of the Kiski board of directors never went to Kiski, nor did they board there) voted unanimously and devalued the Kiski product. They removed Kiski's unique selling propositions, *"oldest all boys boarding school"* and *"we know how to teach boys."* As we consulted real world private school executives (**not the academia consultants who never ran a successful all boy boarding school hired by Kiski**) we learned how to take our school back from the current board and stabilize Kiski with a series of innovative steps which will once again preserve it as an all boy boarding school and become an example for other schools facing the same dilemma.

Year	All-boy boarding schools
1980	+500
2023	+23

Source: ChatGPT

We are raising capital to manage Kiski's return to greatness. We will no longer donate money to support the current Kiski board or its current headmaster who is leaving shortly. Your funds will support initiatives to return the school to its original intent for your sons and grandsons. The time to act is now.

Redirect or direct your tax deductible donations to Friends of Kiski Prep on the website (**FriendsOfKiskiPrep.com**) or by mailing a check. Donations will not go to the Kiski school until it is all boys again. In the meantime, donations will be used for the fight to bring back the all boys single-sex education school.

### Notes:

1. John A. Pidgeon, Civil Words for Troubled Times (Pennsylvania, 2000), pg. 2.
2. John A. Pidgeon, Civil Words for Troubled Times (Pennsylvania, 2000), pg. 2.
3. Richard Hawley, Kiski a Story of a Boy's School, pg. VII.
4. Wilson, Catalog of the Kiskiminetas Springs School, (Saltsburg, 1888), pg. 11.

## 3 easy ways you can make your tax deductible donation today!

### 1. Website:

Scan QR code to view our website



**2. Mail:** Friends of Kiski Prep  
P.O. Box 74  
Loyalhanna, PA. 15661

**3. Online:** GoFundMe.com or GiveSendGo.com



Thanks for your support. When you visit our website, be sure to fill in your contact information so we can keep you informed on recent progress.

*Joe Garcia*

Joe Garcia, Kiski Class of 1985  
Chairman

# “Bring back Jack!” Campaign