

Regular Meeting

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Greg Biggs, Mr. Jeffrey Buchbinder (7:05), Mr. Doug Farrow, Ms. Hoween Flexer, Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Dr. Diane Summa, and Mr. Christopher Viens.
Student Board members, Terren Allen and Bryce Bentinck.

Absent with

Notification: Mr. John Burns, and Mr. Craig Hanford.

Others

Present: Superintendent Steven Rioux, and Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary.

1. Call to Order

Killingly Board of Education Vice Chairperson, Dr. Diane Summa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call-see above.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comments

Leah Ralls, Gifford St. Willimantic. Ms. Ralls is the President of the Windham County NAACP. Ms. Ralls shared her concerns regarding racism and bullying at KHS. She asked the Board to look into the lack of policies addressing racism and bullying and that more must be done. She feels the current Safety plan is not being implemented. The NAACP is willing to offer hands-on training for staff and students.

LaMonica Vazquez, 5 Oak St., Danielson. Mother of four children attending Killingly schools. Her daughter attends high school and has encountered racism remarks and bullying. Ms. Vazquez requested the administration do a better job of addressing negative behavior in the schools. Policies should be put in place and consequences implemented for those who express any type of racism.

Claudia Alvin, 56 Taylor Rd. Thompson, CT and member of NAACP. Board members and administrators need to be more aware of racism going on in their district and a partnership between Killingly Public Schools and NAACP should be established.

Lynn Toller, 30 Pleasant St., Putnam, CT, read a letter from a retired teacher and a NAACP member. The letter asked that the Board be aware of the school culture and include an action plan to address racism in the schools.

Sheryl Componachamp, Pomfret resident and NAACP member. She would like to see the district make a difference for the students and address racism issues.

Tammy Roche, 6 Nauset Avenue, Danielson. Voiced her concerns about the racism and bullying.

5. Superintendent of Schools Report

5.A. District Strategic Plan Update

Carolyn Dugas, Meg Walker, Marcia Griffiths-Farquhar, Barbara-Jean Toth and Dennis Walsh were members of the Killingly Strategic Planning Team. They presented a five-year Strategic Advancement Plan. The plan serves as a road map for the school and community and is comprised of specific goals, a shared vision, a mission, core values, and beliefs about what and how students and adults must learn. The plan includes meeting the demands of the 21st Century, including implementing more technology and recognizing current culture and climate issues and making our schools a safer environment. Part of the process in developing the plan was analyzing data from parent, student, community members and teacher surveys.

Four strategic placement goals were created. Action plans and next steps should be developed and implemented in order for the plan to be successful.

Jessica Mongeau shared that improving facilities should be a priority.

Melissa Brown asked that the Board revisit the implementation of the plan in another 6-12 month and asked that each Killingly school in the district become more unified and reflect more district-wide conformity. She asked the Board do away with the “Redmen” term associated with Killingly Public Schools.

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Flexer to add a motion to tonight’s meeting that the implementations of the District Strategic Plan be reviewed every six months by the Board.

Yes-7, Unanimous

Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Buchbinder, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams that Strategic Advancement Plan Goals that were presented tonight be adopted by the Board.

Yes-3

No-1

Abstain-3

Motion Passes

Mr. Rioux shared that the Strategic Advancement Plan and Goals will be on the next meeting’s agenda for additional Board approval.

5.B. Update Regarding China Trip

Mr. Steven Rioux recently accompanied KHS Principal, Elise Guari, and Mr. Kevin Marcoux, guidance counselor on the trip to China. BGE Company sponsored the trip and invited KPS administrators to share information with selected schools in China, regarding academic and other programs offered at KHS. Killingly partners with the BGE Company and BGE processes F1 student applications. (F-1 visa is for students who take on a “full course, full-time basis academic program in the United States.)

The focus of the trip was to build and establish new connections and to eventually grow our foreign student experience program. Mr. Rioux, Ms. Guari and Mr. Marcoux met with many students, parents,

business leaders and school officials and visited five charter schools. China school administrators are eager to have their students participate in authentic American learning environments.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Ratification of Supervisor's Union Contract effective from July 1, 2019 - June 30,2022.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to go into executive session.
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:44 p.m.

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Flexer to approve the Supervisors Contract, effective July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2022 as presented.
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Teacher Leave of Absence

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to go into Executive Session.
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:59 p.m.

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Mr. Buchbinder to approve an unpaid Leave of Absence for J. Tetreault during the 2019-20 school year.
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

8. Adjournment

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Buchbinder to adjourn.
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary