

Regular Meeting

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION Wednesday, May 8, 2019

MINUTES

Present: Mr. John Burns, Mr. Greg Biggs, Mr. Jeffrey Buchbinder, Mr. Doug Farrow, Ms. Hoween Flexer, Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Dr. Diane Summa and Mr. Christopher Viens. Student Board member, Terren Allen.

Absent with Notification: Mr. Craig Hanford, Bryce Bentinck.

Others Present: Mr. Steven Rioux, Superintendent. Mr. Paul Brenton, Assistant Superintendent and Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Killingly Board of Education Chairperson, Mr. John Burns called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL- see above.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT -

Laura Powers, KMS art teacher and students, Savannah Frias, Clover Cooper and Connor Cummings shared that KMS formed a recycling club and the students came to bring to the Board's attention, the use of Styrofoam trays in the KMS cafeteria. The students shared that styrofoam is not biodegradable and contains toxic chemicals. The trays are not healthy for people and switching to a more "green" type tray would benefit the environment. The students asked to eliminate the use of styrofoam trays. Mr. Burns said that he would ask Superintendent Rioux to look into options for trays that are biodegradable and safer.

5. REPORT OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON-No report.

6. REPORT OF KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Terren Allen shared dates of upcoming district events. KMS will be holding Evening of the Arts on May 15. Students in grades 3 and 4 will participate in SBAC testing. Grade 7 & 8 students will perform a concert on May 9. KIS Steam Night is on May 23, with a concert performance at 7:00. KHS will host a Jazz Night concert on May 14 with KIS students. The senior prom is on May 17. The KHS Collage concert is on May 24. The KHS Art Show is on the May 29 and the Career Pathway Celebration is on May 30.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Mr. Steven Rioux shared with that conversations are ongoing regarding the use of the Westfield Ave. building. Proposals will be coming soon for Board input.

Beagary Trust Foundation made many notable donations this school year and recently approved a \$364,000 7-year grant. Mr. Rioux would like to have a more in-depth conversation at an upcoming Board meeting.

The Superintendent and the Town Manager started conversation regarding the use off solar panels at the schools and town facilities. Titan Energy will be preparing a proposal for consideration. To capitalize on state incentives an application needs to be submitted by June 12.

Mr. Rioux shared information regarding current certified vacant positions.

7.a. End of the Year Celebrations

Mr. Rioux invited Board members to attend the End of Year Celebration on June 10, at the Putnam National Golf Course from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

7.b. 2018-19 Diversity Awareness Professional Development

Mr. Rioux shared more details and summarized all of the diversity awareness professional development occurring in the district.

Restorative Practice training is ongoing at KIS and the training has been offered to KIS and KHS faculty, and paraprofessionals at KIS.

KHS faculty and staff participated in an Equity Training conference.

Social Justice and Equity Workshop was a 2-day interactive workshop covering discrimination, disabilities, economic diversity and identifying ways to move towards action and change.

Mr. Steven Rioux shared information from Middletown Public Schools and how they are addressing to resolve racial and prejudicial issues in their district.

The belief is that the change is one in mindset, not necessarily strategies. Mr. Rioux ordered several recommended books on this topic.

Mr. Rioux shared that he attended an Educator Network and gained insight regarding difficulties in recruiting teachers into Killingly to support workforce diversity. There is a need for district-wide District Equity Advancement Committee.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer seconded by Mr. Biggs that the Board direct the Superintendent of Schools to establish a District Equity Advancement Committee.

Yes- 8

Motion Passes

8. REPORTS BY BOE CHAIR AND SUB-COMMITTEES

8.a. Community Engagement Sub-Committee

Mr. Greg Biggs shared that the next meeting will be on May 23 at Central Office.

8.b. Curriculum Sub-Committee

Mr. Gregg Biggs shared that the committee reviewed and approved a new AP History textbook. The committee discussed a new proposed KHS physical science course that would be introduced in 2020. Discussion regarding new math curriculum for grades 7 & 8 took place and the committee will forward their recommendation to the full Board at the next meeting.

8.c. Facilities Sub-Committee

Mr. John Burns shared that the next meeting will be scheduled soon.

8.d. Fiscal Sub-Committee

8.d.I. April 2019 Financial Reports

Dr. Diane Summa shared that there is a growing deficit in special education. There are funds to offset that deficit. The audit has been extended to May 15. There were several donations accepted. There was a \$5,000 transfer for KIS, related to technology it was a matter of reclassifying the account.

Mr. Rioux reiterated that there are significant savings in the budget due to vacancies, leaves of absences and health insurance. Potentially there could be \$800,000-\$1,200,000 surplus in the 2018-19 budget. An official request was sent to the town asking that the Board be allowed to transfer more than 1% of the total budget. Currently a contribution of only \$436,849 is allowed into the non-lapsing account.

Mr. Rioux shared end of the year spending recommendations, in order of priority, totaling \$975,000.

MOTION: by Mr. Burns, seconded by Dr. Summa to authorize the Superintendent to prioritize end of the year spending.

Yes-7

Abstain-1 (Ms. Rivera-Abrams)

Motion Passes

8.e. Personnel Sub-Committee

Dr. Diane Summa shared that there are on-going negotiations with several unions at this time.

8.f. Policy Sub-Committee

Mr. Jeff Buchbinder shared that the committee met last week and reviewed many policies and brought their recommendations for first readings for Board approval.

8.f.I. First Reading of Policy #4121-Personnel-Certified, Substitute Teachers

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve the First Reading of Policy #4121 as presented.

Yes-7

Abstain-1 (Ms. Rivera-Abrams)

Motion Passes

8.f.II. First Reading of Policy #5125-Students- Student Records, Confidentiality

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Viens to approve the First Reading of Policy #5125-Students-Student Records, Confidentiality with 1 correction.

Yes-7

Abstain-1 (Ms. Rivera-Abrams)

Motion Passes

8.f.III. First Reading of Policy #5134-Students, Married/Pregnant Students.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to approve the First Reading of Policy #5134-Students, Married/Pregnant Students as presented.

Yes-8

Motion Passes

8.f.IV. First Reading of Policy #6171.2-Instruction, Special Education

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve the First Reading of Policy #6171.2-Instruction, Special Education as presented.

Yes-7

Abstain-1 (Ms. Rivera-Abrams)

Motion Passes

9. CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Buchbinder asked to take out consent item 9.b., April 24, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to approve consent items;
9.a April 10, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes
9.c. May 1, 2019 Student Enrollment
9.d. April 2019 Issued Checks
9.e. May 2019 EOM Nomination

Yes-8

Motion Passes

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve consent item 9.b., April 24, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Yes-6

Abstain-2 (Mr. Buchbinder and Mr. Biggs)

Motion Passes

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Buchbinder to adjourn.

Yes-8

Motion Passes

The Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary