

Regular Meeting

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

7:00 PM

Town Hall, 172 Main St.

MINUTES

Present: Greg Biggs, Doug Farrow, Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Janice Joly, Jason Muscara, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, and Chris Viens (7:12 p.m.)
Craig Hanford-Absent with Notification.
Student Board Members: Russell Farnsworth and Alexandra Purcell.

Others Present: Superintendent Steve Rioux, Assistant Superintendent, Paul Brenton and Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Killingly Board of Education Vice Chairman, Mr. Doug Farrow called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

4.a. Friends of Learning in Killingly (FOLK)

Janice Ahola-Sidaway shared some background information about how the FOLK fund started and how much it has grown over the years. FOLK was created by the KHS Class of 1966 and this year is FOLK's 20th- year anniversary of grantmaking. FOLK partnered with Greater Worcester Community Foundation, a public 510c charity organization in 1998. Their mission is to support innovative, enriching schooling initiatives that are proposed and led by Killingly educators. Through a competitive process, open to all teachers, applications are reviewed by the FOLK Advisory Committee. To date, ninety-six(96) teachers have received grants totaling approximately \$49,000, supporting 149 projects. Thirteen (13) grants were awarded this year totaling, \$5,725.00.

This years' recipients are, Lorie Nordman, Ellen Huie, Carol Records, Holly Bunning, Kelly Davidson, Meghan Therrien, Brittany Bissonette, Michael Morrill, Joe Lewerk, Michael Craig, Meghan Sirimongkhoun, Jamie Carver, Cheryl Wakely, Nick Bousquet, and Jim Hutson.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Claudia Terwilliger Allen- Graduate of KHS, past resident of Killingly. Shared her concerns regarding the proposed construction by NTE of a fracked-gas powerplant on Lake Road. This is within a 3-mile radius of 4 Killingly district schools, and a public park, exposing children within a 3-mile radius to pollutants. Urged Board members to consider a public statement opposing the construction of the facility and write a letter to Governor Lamont. A powerplant will negatively impact the children and the environment.

Raymond Wood- Town Council member, supports the initiative of hiring an armed SRO and hopes

the Board continues to pursue this initiative. Concerned that turf field information recently shared with Town Council was not all inclusive.

Jason Muscara- Board member. In support of armed school resource officer, creating a safer environment for our students. Mr. Muscara read aloud, school districts that have had active shooter incidents and tragedies. Read a letter by a parent whose child was a victim of an active shooter at school.

6. BOARD CHAIRMAN COMMENTS- No comments.

7. REPORT BY KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Russell Farnsworth and Alexandra Purcell shared the following information.

SAT for Juniors will be held on March 25. KMS's Scholastic Book Fair is during the week of March 23rd KMS Parent Teacher Conferences on March 24 & 26.

KCS Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on March 18 & 19. KCS Scholastic Book Fair will be March 16th- 19th.

Alexandra shared that students should be notified and students should understand why a Police officer is being considered.

Ms. Flexer shared that the restructuring of the SRO position was not clear in the decision package and asked for clarification of who would be responsible for a police officer's salary.

Ms. Joly shared that she feels safer having police officers at her current work place.

Board members asked Mr. Rioux about Corona Virus safety measures.

Mr. Rioux shared that he receives updates & guidelines every day and he shares updates with the schools. Information and guidelines have been put on the website. For now, those events that anticipate less than 100 people in attendance, will be allowed. Some field trips have been cancelled.

8. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, seconded Mr. Biggs to approve 8.a. February 12, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Yes- 6

Abstain-2

Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded Ms. Rivera-Abrams to approve 8.b. February 26, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Yes- 6

Abstain-2

Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Ferron, seconded Ms. Rivera-Abrams to approve 8.c. February 5, 2020 Special Meeting of the Whole Board Minutes.

Yes-5

Abstain-3

Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded Mr. Biggs to approve 8.d. February 19, 2020 Special Meeting of the Whole Board Minutes.

Yes-5

Abstain-3

Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded Mr. Biggs to approve 8.e.
March 4, 2020 Special Meeting of the Whole Board Minutes with
edit, adding Ms. Flexer as attending the meeting
Yes- 7
Abstain-1
Motion Carries

9. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS

9.a. Correspondences

9.a.1. KPS Monthly Principal Reports

Ms. Flexer asked about research or data related to post-traumatic stress to staff or students involved in active shooter incidents and do we provide such training?

9.b. Town Council Liaison

Town Council moved forward for town residents to vote on the KMS project. Voting will take place at the Killingly Library Community Center did not move forward. The turf field project will be addressed at a Special Town Council meeting on April 14th.

9.c. Board Chairman's Report

9.d. Committee Reports

9.d.1. Fiscal Subcommittee

9.d.1.1. February 2020 Financial Report

Doug Farrow shared that we are currently in the 8th month in the fiscal year. Spent 66% of this years' budget Special Education Net Outplacements projected line item deficit increased by \$84,482 over the previous month. Outsourced pupil transportation is showing a deficit of \$68,000. Offset by a surplus of about \$164,000 in the Teachers' Salaries account.

9.d.2. Facilities Subcommittee

9.d.2.1. Capital Improvement Plan (Discussion and Possible Action)

Ms. Rivera-Abrams was elected chairperson at last nights' Facilities subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Rioux summarized the proposed Capital Improvement Plan by building. Projects are projected out to year 2025. The plan includes projects at all 5 buildings, including the Westfield Ave. building.

The plan included anticipated completion dates, estimated costs, and prioritizing of each project by building. Mr. Rioux shared that some Federal and State reimbursement for projects are contingent upon ADA compliancy.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve the Capital Improvement Plan with one edit on page 3. (omit \$346,000 in column 5)
Yes-8
Motion Carries.

9.e. Board of Education Liaison Report

CABE Liaison, Mr. Biggs shared that CABE recently offered a webinar for Board members. The monthly CABE Journal is now available on-line option available.

Ms. Lydia River-Abrams, EASTCONN liaison, shared increased Federal resources and increased resources are anticipated for Head Start and Vocational Education programs.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

10.a. Representative Re-Appointment to Killingly Regional Ag-Ed Center Consulting Committee.

The Killingly Agricultural Education program is mandated to have a Consulting Committee by State Dept. of Education, regulation, Sec. 10-64-1. Representatives are typically residents of the District, involved in the business of agriculture and its related industries. Mr. Anastasio has been re-appointed several times to serve in the capacity of a consulting committee member.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs that Mr. Frank Anastasio be re-appointed as a Killingly representative to the Killingly Regional Agricultural Education Center's Consulting Committee for an additional 3-year term.

Yes-8

Motion Carries.

10.b. Review of Estimated FY21 District Revenue and Grants

Mr. Rioux shared information on revenues and how it offsets the mill rate. Figures are all projected. October 1st numbers are used for all the counts.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked for clarification regarding the amount of a proposed budget in addition to revenue. Ms. Rivera-Abrams communicated that the Board should present a lower budget.

Board members disagreed with Ms. Rivera-Abrams and shared that they are presenting a very fair budget. Mr. Rioux shared that bad decisions will have to be made if the budget is lowered.

10.c. Numeracy and Literacy Performance Update

Mr. Brenton shared that all of his academic assessment presentations are available on the KPS website.

Guided Reading levels in grades k-4 are assessed 3-5 times per year. Grades 5-8 are assessed less frequently. STAR assessments in grades 2-8 are given 3 times per year.

Star looks for student growth, students performing at proficiency and compares proficiency to national trends. Earlier identification of struggling students and earlier student support is needed. As of March 1, six of eight grades show growth since Fall 2019.

STAR and Guided Reading Levels showed concerns about school readiness in kindergarten and other grades. Mr. Rioux shared that a high number of non-tenured teachers, in addition to behavioral issues, special education needs and lack of interventionists impact student learning.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked how much professional development time is dedicated exclusively towards improving student reading and math skills. Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked about our current interview process and if poor assessments are related to changing the Math program midyear, in 2016. Ms. Joly asked if students are being pushed too hard academically or if students are emotionally ready to move to higher levels. Mr. Biggs and Ms. Flexer shared how data confirms students who experience an adverse childhood are likely to struggle academically.

10.d. Approval of FY 2021 Board of Education Budget

Mr. Rioux summarized the Board of Education Proposed Budget. The proposed budget is result of many discussions and decisions made at several Special Fiscal Subcommittee of Whole Board.

MOTION: by, Mr. Biggs seconded by Mr. Ferron that The Killingly Board of Education adopt its FY2020-21 budget in the amount of \$45,057,831.95 and recommends the same to the Killingly Town Council and Town Manager.

Roll Call Vote

Yes-4, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Ferron, Mr. Muscara, Mr. Viens
No-4, Mr. Farrow, Ms. Flexer, Ms. Joly, Ms. Rivera-Abrams
Motion Failed

MOTION: by, Mr. Biggs seconded by Mr. Ferron that The Killingly Board of Education adopt its FY2020-21 budget in the amount of \$45,057,829.95 and recommends the same to the Killingly Town Council and Town Manager.

Roll Call Vote

Yes-5, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Ferron, Ms. Flexer, Mr. Muscara, Mr. Viens
No-4, Mr. Farrow, Ms. Joly, Ms. Rivera-Abrams
Motion Carries

11. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent item 11.d., KHS Baseball Team Field Trip Request to Massachusetts was excluded due to the cancellation of the trip.

MOTION: by, Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve consent items.
11.a. February 2020 Authorized Checks
11.b. March 2 2020 Student Enrollment
11.c. March 2020 EOM Nomination

Yes-8

Motion Carries

12. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Biggs asked that in order to avoid the late hours in which Board meetings have been adjourning, to implement time limits on public comments, presenters/speakers but not limit Board member's time for questions.

Mr. Viens asked that agenda items be tabled to the next Board meeting when meetings are approaching 10:00-11:00 p.m.

Ms. Joly echoed that the meetings are adjourning too late.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams announced that the Adhoc sub-committee meeting is next Wednesday, March 18 at Town Hall and invited community members to attend. The committee will be introducing proposed Killingly logos.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Yes-8

Motion Carries

The March 11, 2020 Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary