

Regular Meeting

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

7:00 PM

Town Hall, 172 Main St.

Please Note: The meeting will be streamed on Channel 22

MINUTES

(Revised 6-23-20)

Present via Zoom Platform: Greg Biggs, Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Jason Muscara, Kyle Napierata, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, and Mr. Doug Farrow.
Absent with Notification: Janice Joly, and Chris Viens.

Others Present Superintendent Steve Rioux, Assistant Superintendent, Paul Brenton
Via Zoom Platform: and Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Killingly Board of Education Chairman, Mr. Doug Farrow called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Rivera-Abrams, Board Member, 45 Mason Hill Rd. Dayville. Ms. Rivera-Abrams conveyed her opposition to the turf field project and shared her disappointment with votes by Board members supporting the project. Ms. Rivera-Abrams does not agree with using non-lapsing funds for non-essential projects. Ms. Rivera-Abrams questioned the legality of the June 3, 2020 vote. Ms. Rivera-Abrams announced her resignation from the Facilities sub-committee.

Mr. Rioux read a public comment by Town Council Chair, Mr. Jason Anderson which was received at 6:50 p.m. before the meeting. Mr. Anderson's letter included concerns with the posting of the June 3, 2020 Board meeting agenda and not being able to access the agenda. Mr. Anderson also expressed concerns regarding public comments not being posted.

Ms. Flexer asked Mr. Farrow to follow-up on her previous request and email regarding her concerns about conversations on the budget between the Town Council and BoE members. Mr. Farrow shared that he is reviewing other emails on this matter and other matters and he will look into this. Ms. Flexer asked if Zoom meetings can be opened to citizens so they can share their public comments.

Mr. Rioux shared that he spoke with the district's attorney and according to the attorney, there is ample evidence that the June 3rd BoE meeting agenda was posted with good intent even though there was a technical problem and that the meeting was not in violation of the Freedom of Information Act.

Ms. Flexer read a letter aloud from Claudette Rogers, a KPS bus driver. Ms. Rogers expressed concerns regarding the lack of summer work and extra hours for bus drivers, significantly impacting their income.

Mr. Muscara asked about agenda item 7.B.I, and why it was included under correspondences. Mr. Rioux explained why he included this letter.

4. BOARD CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Mr. Farrow announced that there will be a special Board meeting on Wednesday, June 17th. The meeting will give Board members an opportunity to interview 3 candidates for Interim Superintendent during executive session. Mr. Farrow, ideally, would like to have Board members come to consensus at the special meeting to allow legal counsel ample time to craft a contract. He anticipates that the appointment of the interim superintendent will be on the June 24th Board meeting agenda.

Mr. Farrow shared that discussions regarding the process for a Superintendent search will be addressed soon amongst Board members.

5. APPROVAL OF MAY 27, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Ferron, seconded by Mr. Muscara to approve the May 27, 2020 Board of Education minutes.

Unanimous (7)

Motion Carries

6. APPROVAL OF JUNE 3, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Ferron to approve the June 3, 2020 Board of Education minutes.

Unanimous (7)

Motion Carries

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

7.A. Town Council's Liaison Report

Town Council approved the Town's and BoE budget. The mill rate is set at 24.64.

Town council approved several ordinance changes including clarifications and amendments to the Town Charter to clean-up some language. Town Hall union members will receive a 2.25% salary increase and negotiations have been extended for 1 year.

Mr. Anderson shared that there have been no violations of FOI and Board members have reached out to him on multiple occasions regarding budget. All conversations have been one-on-one and have not taken place during town council meetings.

Mr. Rioux announced that Town Council approved the KMS project and thanked the Town Council.

7.B. Correspondences

7.B.I. Principal's Updates monthly updates.

In addition to the principal's monthly update, Mr. Rioux shared that teachers are closing-up the year with students and scheduling parent/teacher conferences.

7.B.II. Beagary Trust Fund Donation for Summer Food Services

The Beagary Board of Trustees donated \$15,000 to support and continue food service delivery for students for during the summer. The FY20-21 budget does not include funds to support this service.

7.B.III. Letter from St. James Principal-

Ms. Linda Joyal, St. James Parochial School Principal, submitted a letter regarding the CARES

Education Stability Funds Allocation to Equitable Services for non-public schools. The letter is a formality and she is looking forward to working collaboratively with KPS regarding funding for equitable services.

7.B.IV. Letter from Citizen

A correspondence letter regarding the mascot name and logo and a newspaper article about Year-round schooling was shared with the Board and included in the Board's packets. The items were submitted by Judy Kramer, 45 Soap St., Dayville.

7.C. Committee Reports

7.C.I. Curriculum Sub-Committee

Mr. Brenton shared that members of the curriculum sub-committee are moving forward with new health curriculum units for Board approval.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked for an update regarding inclusion of Native American History in our curriculum.

Mr. Brenton shared that a curriculum audit took place and results were brought to the curriculum sub-committee. Due to COVID-19, the effort for this has not stopped, but is on hold right now while the district concentrates and focuses on remote learning priorities. Native American curriculum, in addition to other curriculum for other ethnicities will be looked into and Mr. Brenton is working with a State consultant to enhance our curriculum.

7.D. Liaison Reports-No liaison reports.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

8.A. COVID-19 Updates

8.A.I. Summer School Update

During the week of May 26th, summer school teams for the Extended School Year Program and for the Summer Success program began contacting families and scheduling students for summer programming. Due to the smaller staff to student ratio, we anticipate the need to support students with a higher number of certified staff this summer and staff will be hired to support remote summer learning opportunities.

Materials have been sent to the schools for distribution for Tier 1 Summer programming. Distribution of material were communicated to families the week of June 4th.

For Tier 2 summer programming students have been identified, contacted and scheduled. Students will meet in small groups beginning July 6 through August 7. KPS continues to hire staff to complete staffing the program.

Students are being identified for Tier 3. Contact with students will begin the week of June 15th. Remote Credit recovery for students in grades 9-12 supported by outside accredited institutions.

Students have been identified, contacted and scheduled for the Extended School Year Programming (ESY) There will be additional educational programming for special populations of students. Program delivery will be a blend of virtual and offsite services.

8.A.II. Opening of Schools Update

Uniform plans are needed across school districts. Committees have been formed and members of the committees are addressing transportation, class scheduling, lunch, curriculum and instruction, social emotional learning, blended learning, the district's assessment calendar.

8.A.III. Graduation Update

Administration is working with KHS students, families and the Northeast Department of Health to ensure a safe graduation. There have been multiple graduation rehearsals, which included students participating in vehicles.

At this time Killingly High School is moving forward with plans to host graduation ceremony on June 19th. There will be a vehicle parade of graduates from the KIS parking lot through town.

An in-vehicle graduation at KHS with designated parking for graduates' families. with limited in-person interaction that meet State guidelines.

Mr. Rioux shared that Board members who wish to attend the KHS graduation ceremony may park in the half-circle in the KHS parking lot but remain in their cars. Mr. Rioux asked Board members to email him if they do plan on attending. Graduation is scheduled for Friday June 19th with a rain date of Saturday, June 20th. The graduation will be live-streamed.

Mr. Farrow asked Ms. Rivera-Abrams to contact him if she wants to have a discussion added to a Board agenda regarding year-long school.

8.B. May 2020 Financial Report

A projection of 1.6 M surplus is anticipated. If additional unanticipated needs associated with remote learning or government mandates arise, this balance would change. Pre-spending has been completed. Savings in various accounts were identified on pages 1, 2 and 3 and are consistent with last month's report. Benefits has a substantial line item surplus of \$466,000. Out of district expenses remain stable. A Ford Pick-up was purchased for \$43,982 for Operations and Maintenance to replace a 2007 truck. This request was removed from the 2020-21 budget request. There were no significant transfers. The Town Council approved appropriation to 2% and to increase the maximum balance of the non-lapsing account to \$2M. The Town Council set the Board of Educations' budget at \$44,147,274 (.23 increase over 2019-20.)

8.C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Whitsons 2020-21 Contract Renewal Amendment

Mr. Rioux shared that the Board may postpone this to the next Board meeting but action is required by June 30th. This will be the fourth and final amendment on the current contract. Food Services management contract will be required to go out to bid for 2021-22.

MOTION: by Gregg Biggs, seconded by Ms. Flexer to postpone this agenda item until the June 24th Board meeting.

Unanimous (7)

Motion Carries

8.D. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Non-Lapsing Account Withdrawal for Repair & Maintenance to the KHS Parking Lot and Driveway

The Operations and Maintenance Supervisor is recommending to seal all cracks and remove curbed islands and seal coat the entire driveway and parking lots at KHS. This preventative measure is estimated to cost between \$85,000 and \$100,000. Mr. Rioux shared that the non-lapsing account is at a healthy level. While the project is not an emergency, the return on the investment is worthwhile. The Town Council does not vote or approve non-lapsing expenditures.

Mr. Rioux shared that the Board may make a motion to use the non-lapsing account up to a certain amount at the Board meeting on June 24.

Mr. Ferron is in favor of removing the curbing and the islands, making it easier to snow plow.

Mr. Biggs asked if Mr. Rioux would provide a summary of 4 other anticipated improvement projects for Board review before they consider approving this project.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Ferron to postpone a decision regarding this request until a summary is provided by Mr. Rioux for other pending projects.

Unanimous (7)

Motion Carries

9. CONSENT AGENDA

9.A. May 2020 Authorized Checks

9.B. June 2020 Student Enrollment

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve consent items, 9.A and 9.B

Unanimous (7)

Motion Carries

10. ADJOURN

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

Unanimous (7)

Motion Carries

The June 10, 2020 Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary