

Regular Meeting

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

7:00 PM

MINUTES

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

Others

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

4.a. Members of Killingly Central School's Teacher & Parent Organization

Mr. Rioux and Mr. Burns recognized and thanked members of the KCS Teacher and Parent Organization for all their work on creating a new sign at KCS.

4.b. Introduction of New I.T Director

Superintendent Steven Rioux introduced the new I.T Director, Michael Klein. Michael shared some of his past experiences working in the field of technology.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Many Killingly residents and non-residents, including past and current alumni, students, parents, expressed their views regarding the use of the Killingly "Redmen" name, mascot and symbol. Forty-one (41) people participated in public comments.

6. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING KHS MASCOT

Mr. John Burns shared that this is a Board issue and the Board should make a decision.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams made a motion that the Community Engagement Subcommittee create a public survey and share results of that survey with the full Board in October and propose action at that meeting. Ms. Rivera-Abram's motion was not seconded. Mr. Buchbinder shared that it is the Board's responsibility to take action and as elected officials, board members should make the judgment call.

Gregg Biggs reiterated that this is the responsibility of the Board. Craig Hanford shared that the Board should consider survey responses from students and the community should be allowed to vote on this.

Mr. Buchbinder shared that it is the Board's responsibility to take action and as elected officials, board members should make the judgment call. Gregg Biggs reiterated that this is the responsibility of the Board. Craig Hanford shared that the Board should consider survey responses from students and the community should be allowed to vote on this.

MOTION: by Doug Farrow, seconded by Craig Hanford to put the question of changing the “Redmen” name on a November ballot.

Roll Call Vote: Yes - 2 (Doug Farrow, Craig Hanford)

No- 6

Abstain - 1 (Dr. Summa)

Motion Fails

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Lydia Rivera- Abrams to direct the superintendent to ensure Killingly Public Schools shall not have or adopt a name, symbol, or image that depicts or refers to another race, individual, custom, or tradition and that is used as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead or team name of the school.

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Jeff Buchbinder to amend the motion, adding that the Superintendent consult with members of the Nipmuc Tribe, and based on their input, take action.

Roll Call Vote: Yes - 5

No - 4 (D. Farrow, C. Hanford, Dr. Summa, J. Burns)

Motion Passes

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Jeff Buchbinder to direct the superintendent to ensure Killingly Public Schools shall not have or adopt a name, symbol, or image that depicts or refers to another race, individual, custom, or tradition and that is used as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead or team name of the school and that the Superintendent consult with members of the Nipmuc Tribe and based on their input, take action.

Roll Call Vote: Yes - 6

No - 2 (Doug Farrow, Craig Hanford)

Abstain-1 (Dr. Summa)

Motion Carries

Mr. Rioux, shared that the above would likely result in changing the Redmen name and symbol. He suggested having administration, students and community involved in selecting a new name and mascot. Mr. Rioux will share suggestions with Board members and a school-wide vote and/or community vote should be considered. Mr. Rioux added that there are significant costs related to removing or changing imagery on chairs, sport uniforms, helmets, high school gym floor etc.

The Board took a 5-minute recess. The Board meeting resumed at 10:16 p.m.

7. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING KIS/KHS LED LIGHTING UPGRADE

Mr. Steven Rioux introduced representatives of ELC, Efficient Lighting Consultants. Eversource offers incentives to municipalities to save money. LED replacement light fixtures significantly use lower amounts of kilowatts. New light fixtures will have at least a 5-year warranty. Savings would offset cost.

MOTION: by Jeff Buchbinder, seconded by Craig Hanford, to authorize the superintendent to enter into an agreement with Efficient Lighting Consultants for LED lighting projects at KIS and KHS.

Yes - 9, Unanimous

Motion Carries

8. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Jeffrey Buchbinder to postpone this agenda item indefinitely.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

9. END OF THE YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rioux shared with the Board, end of the year purchases. Estimated potential surplus in the 2018-19 budget is \$625,000 to \$700,000. It is recommended that \$175,000 - \$275,000 be returned to the Town.

10. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TRANSFER INTO THE UNEXPENDED EDUCATION FUND ACCOUNT

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Jeff Buchbinder that the Board request a contribution of \$436,849 into the Unexpended Education Fund Account Transfer from the 2018-19 fiscal year budget.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

11. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MCKINNEY- VENTO GRANT

MOTION: by Jeff Buchbinder, seconded by Hoween Flexer to approve the McKinney-Vento Grant application as presented.
Yes – 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

12. Discussion and Possible Approval of Second Reading of Policy #5113, Students/Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal/Truancy

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Jeff Buchbinder to approve the Second Reading of Policy #5113.
Yes – 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

13. Discussion and Possible Approval of Second Reading of Policy #6146, Students/Graduation Requirements

MOTION: by Jeff Buchbinder, seconded by Craig Hanford to approve the Second Reading of Policy #6146.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RATIFIED AGREEMENT OF CUSTODIANS, SECRETARIES, LIBRARY/ NURSE ASSTS., MAINTAINERS, FINANCIAL ASSTS., CAMPUS MONITORS, COMPUTER TECHS., & NETWORK ADMINISTRATORS.

Union members met on June 25 and they voted not to ratify their union contract.

MOTION: by Jeff Buchbinder, seconded by Hoween Flexer to postpone this agenda action item indefinitely.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

MOTION: by Gregg Biggs, seconded by Hoween Flexer to extend tonight's Board meeting to 11:15 p.m.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

15. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION AND CONTRACT REVISION

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Doug Farrow that the Board enter executive session.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Board entered executive session at 10:56 p.m. and came out of executive session at 11:15 p.m.

MOTION: by Jeff Buchbinder, seconded by Hoween Flexer to extend tonight's meeting to 11:30 p.m.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Jeff Buchbinder that the Board enter executive session.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Board entered executive session at 11:15 p.m. and came out of executive session at 11:28 p.m.

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Jeff Buchbinder that the Board extend the Superintendent contract by one year, apply a 2% raise to 2019-20, and move his annuity contribution to the base salary portion of his contract.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Jeff Buchbinder to adjourn.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary