

REGULAR MEETING

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Killingly High School, 226 Putnam Pike
7:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Greg Biggs, Doug Farrow, Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Karen Fremuth, Craig Hanford, Jason Muscara, Lydia Rivera Abrams, Chris Viens
Student Board Members: Jordan Dreibholz and Alexandra Purcell

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Greg Biggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOTION: by Greg Biggs, seconded by Hoween Flexer to suspend the rules and move agenda item #10, Report by KHS Student Board members before agenda item #7, Public Comment.
Yes - 9, Unanimous
Motion Carries

4. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Greg Biggs welcomed new Board members and members of the audience and read a statement about many of Killingly Public Schools' accomplishments and student successes.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5.A. Election of Board of Education Chairperson

Nominations opened for Killingly Board of Education Chairperson.
Doug Farrow nominated Craig Hanford for Board of Education Chairperson.
Mr. Rioux asked if there were any more nominations. There were no more nominations.
Request to close nominations made by Hoween Flexer. Nominations closed.
A ballot vote took place.
Seven (7) ballot votes were cast for Craig Hanford, with 2 abstentions.
Craig Hanford is Killingly Board of Education's Chairperson.

5.B. Election of Board of Education Vice Chairperson

Nominations opened for Killingly Board of Education Vice-Chairperson.
Jason Muscara nominated Doug Farrow for Board of Education vice-chairperson.

Mr. Rioux asked if there were any more nominations. There were no more nominations. Request to close nominations made by Hoween Flexer. Nominations closed. A ballot vote took place. 8 ballot votes were cast for Mr. Doug Farrow. 1 abstention. Mr. Doug Farrow is Killingly Board of Education's vice chairperson.

6. FIVE-MINUTE RECESS

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Greg Biggs to take a 5-minute recess.
**9-0, Unanimous
Motion Carries**

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 7:15 p.m. The Board resumed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

10. REPORT BY KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Jordan Dreiholz and Alexandra Purcell shared information regarding Holiday concert performances and events taking place through-out the district. They shared news about the Class M Football Championship game schedule for this Saturday, December 14 at 11:00 a.m. in New Britain.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comments commenced. Please see attached list.

The majority of people, including students, staff, and community members speaking at the meeting were in favor of keeping the Red Hawks name and added that if the Board made the decision to revert their decision, that it would send a negative message to the students. Some people shared that it is not a mascot that inspires and motivates students and they and members of the community have Killingly Pride. Some expressed disappointment in the process of how the name was changed and shared that the issue was not properly dealt with by the Board. Some expressed that the issue should have been decided through a town-wide referendum and the Redmen moniker should be reinstated. Some people communicated that opinions shared by the majority of students and community members to keep the Redmen name were ignored.

Approximately halfway through the public comment section of the meeting, the Board made a motion for a break.

MOTION: by Mr. Craig Hanford, seconded by Jason Muscara to take a 5- minute recess.
**Yes-9 Unanimous
Motion Carries**

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 8:50 p.m. The Board resumed the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Public comments continued. Public comments were finished at 10:16 p.m.

8. PRESENTATION BY NATIVE AMERICAN GUARDIANS ASSOCIATION

Mark One Wolf, member of the Native American Guardians Association expressed his disappointment of comments made earlier in the meeting, regarding his character, ethnic background, creditability. He shared that he was invited to speak at tonight's meeting. He shared that he hopes to provide an alternate perspective and educate, and not eradicate Native American symbols and history. He shared that perhaps Killingly can come up with a better image that honors indigenous Native American tribes of the Killingly area.

MOTION: by Greg Biggs, seconded by Hoween Flexer to extend the Board meeting by 1 hour. (time was 10:40 p.m.)
Yes- 8
No- 1
Motion Passes

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS REGARDING THE KHS MASCOT

MOTION: by Chris Viens, seconded by Lydia Rivera-Abrams to postpone agenda items, 9a, 9b and 9c until local Native American tribes are heard from and to place these agenda items on the 1/8/2020 Board meeting agenda.
Roll Call Vote
No-5 (D. Farrow, N. Ferron, K. Fremuth, J. Muscara, C. Hanford)
Yes-4 (G. Biggs, H. Flexer, L. Rivera-Abrams, C. Viens)
Motion Failed

9.A. Discussion and possible action to rescind the previously approved motion on 6/26/19, which directed 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.

MOTION: by Doug Farrow, seconded by Jason Muscara to move the question.
Roll Call Vote
No-5 (G. Biggs, H. Flexer, L. Rivera-Abrams, C. Viens C. Hanford)
Yes-4 (D. Farrow, N. Ferron, K. Fremuth, J. Muscara)
Motion Failed

MOTION: by Doug Farrow, seconded by Jason Muscara to rescind the previously approved motion on 6/26/19, which directed 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-5 (D. Farrow, N. Ferron, K. Fremuth, J. Muscara, C. Hanford)
No-4 (G. Biggs, H. Flexer, L. Rivera-Abrams, C. Viens)
Motion Carries

9.B. Discussion and possible action to rescind a motion, approved on 10/8/2019 changing the mascot name to Red Hawks.

MOTION: by Doug Farrow, seconded by Jason Muscara to move the question.
Roll Call Vote
No-5 (G. Biggs, H. Flexer, L. Rivera-Abrams, C. Viens C. Hanford)
Yes-4 (D. Farrow, N. Ferron, K. Fremuth, J. Muscara)
Motion Failed

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: by Doug Farrow, seconded Jason Muscara to rescind a motion, approved on 10/8/2019 changing the Killingly mascot name to Red Hawks.
Roll Call Vote
Yes-5 (D. Farrow, N. Ferron, K. Fremuth, J. Muscara, C. Hanford)
No-4 (G. Biggs, H. Flexer, L. Rivera-Abrams, C. Viens)
Motion Carries

MOTION: by Greg Biggs, seconded by Hoween Flexer to take a 5-minute recess. at 11:15 p.m.,
Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 11:15 p.m. and the Board resumed the meeting at 11:20 p.m.

9.C. Discussion and possible action to reinstate the KHS mascot to "Redmen".

Board members expressed how they felt about reinstating the KHS mascot name.

MOTION: by Doug Farrow, seconded by Jason to move the question.
Roll Call Vote
Yes-6 (G. Biggs, D. Farrow, N. Ferron, H. Flexer, K. Fremuth, J. Muscara)
No- 3 (C. Hanford, C. Viens, L. Rivera-Abrams)
Motion Carries

MOTION: by Doug Farrow, seconded by Jason Muscara to reinstate the KHS mascot name to "Redmen ".
Roll call Vote.
Yes - 4 (D. Farrow, J. Muscara, N. Ferron, K. Fremuth)
No - 4 (G. Biggs, H. Flexer, L. Rivera-Abrams, C. Viens)
Abstain -1 (C. Hanford)
Motion Fails

Mr. Hanford shared that he would like to create a subcommittee tasked with incorporating both the Redmen and the Red Hawks into a team name and logo in some sort of compromise.

MOTION: by Chris Viens, seconded by Doug Farrow to postpone agenda items 11, 12, 14 and 16 to a Board meeting next week.
Yes-8
No-1 (Greg Biggs)
Motion Carries

11. Postpone- NOVEMBER 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

12. Postpone-DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 2020-21 DISTRICT CALENDAR

13. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING USE OF WESTFIELD AVE.

Superintendent, Steve Rioux distributed a document summarizing the advantages of creating a partnership with the Killingly Parks and Recreation Department (KPRD). Walk-throughs and meetings took place to determine if KRPD's programming needs could be met. The building fits may of KPRD's needs but the aging building needs many repairs. Estimates for buildings repairs for current usage could range from 8M-9M dollars. The cost to configure the location and renovations for KPRD is about

6.5M dollars. If the Board were to approve such a partnership, the Board would retain all space currently utilized for Central Office operations and space used by EASTCONN. The Town would assume primary responsibility of the building and fields. The Town Council would need to approve such a move and a Memorandum of Understanding.

MOTION: by Hoween Flexer, seconded by Doug Farrow to approve KPRD to utilize space at Westfield Avenue, contingent on an agreed Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and Town.
Yes- 6
No- 3 (C. Hanford, L. Rivera-Abrams, and H. Flexer)
Motion Carries

MOTION: by Greg Biggs, seconded by Doug Farrow to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. (11:45 p.m.)
Yes-8
No-1
Motion Carries

14. Postpone-DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING NON-LAPSING WITHDRAWAL FOR KCS ADA PROJECT

15. DISCUSSION REGARDING SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Rioux asked Board members to fill out the forms, made available so sub-committee appointments liaisons can be determined.

16. Postpone-CONSENT AGENDA

- 16.A-November 2019 Issued Checks
- 16.B-November 13 2019 Board Meeting Minutes
- 16.C-December 2019 Student Enrollment

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 12:04. a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary