

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Town Hall, 172 Main Street**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Greg Biggs, Doug Farrow, Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Karen Fremuth, Craig Hanford, Jason Muscara, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Chris Viens (7:35).  
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**

Killingly Board of Education Chairman, Mr. Craig Hanford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**-see above

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Farrow, seconded by Mr. Biggs to move agenda item #8, Report by KHS Student Board Members, before agenda item #5, Public Comments.  
Yes- 8  
**Motion Carries**

**4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

**4.A. 2019 CAPSS Leadership Award Student Recipients**

The Board recognized and congratulated six Killingly students who are the 2019 recipients of the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents Award. The students are; Jacob Long, Sophia Moran, Raigan Leveille, Lauren Farquhar, Faith Boateng and Christopher Pawul.

**8. REPORT BY KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Jordan Dreibholz and Alexandra Purcell shared information about upcoming events at each school.

Staff development day on January 21<sup>st</sup>, district-wide.

KHS midterms start next week on January 13<sup>th</sup> and continue through January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Killingly Intermediate School students will be performing a winter concert on the January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sign-in sheets for public comments were separated into four subject areas:

1. In Favor of restoring Red Hawks name
2. In favor of restoring the Redmen name
3. In favor of a Compromise
4. Other Subject Topic

Seventeen people spoke during Public Comments- See attached list.

- **In Favor of restoring Red Hawks name.**

Kevin Marcoux, Killingly resident and KPS Athletic Director  
Melissa Brown, Killingly resident  
Shaquanna Sebastian, Mashentucket Tribe member  
Lanette Hernandez, Mashentucket Tribe member  
Donna Grant, Thompson resident, KHS teacher  
AJ Thompson, resident of Uncasville, CT  
Jessica Long, Killingly resident

- **In favor of restoring the Redmen name.**

Jason Muscara, Killingly Board of Education member  
Mr. Norm Ferron, Killingly Board of Education member read a letter aloud from Mr. Raymond Wood, a Town Council member

- **In favor of a Compromise**

Kyle Notis, Killingly resident  
Morriah Owen, senior at KHS  
Faith Boateng, a senior at KHS  
Ian McDonald, Killingly resident  
Kiku Langford McDonald, Killingly resident  
Blake Wolanin, KHS 2019 graduate  
Rose LeBeau, Killingly resident

- **Other subject Topic**

Kiku Langford McDonald shared her concerns as a parent of a KCS student, regarding building space and lack of resources at KCS and asked the Board to support KCS teachers.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Farrow, seconded by Ms. Flexer to take a 10-minute recess.

Yes-7

No -1

**Motion Carries**

The Board meeting resumed the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to move item # 6, Executive Session to later in the meeting.

**Roll Call Vote**

Yes-Greg Biggs, Hoween Flexer, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Chris Viens

No- Doug Farrow, Normand Ferron, Karen Fremuth, Jason Muscara, and Craig Hanford.

**Motion Fails**

## 6. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL MATTER

**MOTION:** by Mr. Farrow, seconded by Mr. Muscara to enter into Executive session for Personnel Matter.

**Roll Call Vote**

Yes- Doug Farrow, Norm Ferron, Karen Fremuth, Jason Muscara,  
Lydia Rivera-Abrams and Craig Hanford.

No- Greg Biggs, Hoween Flexer and Chris Viens.

**Motion Carries**

The Board went into executive session at 8:24 p.m. The Board meeting resumed the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Mr. Hanford asked for a motion from the Board for a five-minute recess.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Ferron, seconded by Ms. Fremuth to take a 5-minute recess  
**Roll call Vote**  
No- Greg Biggs, Hoween Flexer, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Chris Viens  
Yes- Doug Farrow, Norm Ferron, Karen Fremuth, Jason Muscara, and  
Craig Hanford.  
**Motion Carries.**

The Board meeting resumed the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

## **7. BOARD CHAIRMAN COMMENTS**

Mr. Craig Hanford shared why the format of the agenda is a little different and his reasons for adding ‘New Business’ to the agenda. New Business and having agenda items phrased with more flexibility would encourage and allow more opportunity for conversation between members of the Board and the Superintendent. He encouraged the student Board representatives to share any concerns or questions.

## **9. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 13, 2019 BOE MEETING MINUTES**

5 of the 9 Board members who were attendance at the Nov. 1, 2019 Board meeting voted.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Flexer to approve the Nov. 13  
2019 BoE meeting minutes with edit of striking Board member’s name on  
a non-roll call vote on agenda item #14  
Yes-4  
Abstain-1  
**Motion Carries**

## **10. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2019 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Farrow, seconded by Ms. Fremuth to approve the Dec. 18. 2019  
BoE meeting minutes.

Mr. Farrow rescinded the motion.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Farrow to approve the Dec. 18. 2019  
BoE meeting minutes with an edit of striking a Board member’s name on a  
non-roll call vote under agenda item #8.  
Yes- 7  
Abstain-2  
**Motion Carries**

## **11. 2020-21 BUDGET MEETINGS**

Superintendent Rioux explained the process of building a budget. Discussion ensued of whether to meet as a Committee of the Whole Board to build the FY 2020-21 budget. Superintendent Rioux suggested Jan. 29, Feb 5 and Feb. 19 for meetings.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Rivera-Abrams seconded by Mr. Farrow to meet as a Committee of  
Whole Board on Jan. 29, Feb 5 and Feb. 19.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Hanford, seconded by Mr. Farrow to amend the motion by removing  
the three suggested dates and deciding those dates at a later time.

Yes-8  
No-1  
**Motion Carries**

**MOTION:** by Ms. Rivera-Abrams seconded by Mr. Farrow to meet as a Committee of Whole Board to build the 2020-21 budget.

Yes-7  
No-2  
**Motion Carries**

Mr. Hanford shared that dates for the meetings would be determined in the near future.

## **12. FACILITIES AD-HOC COMMITTEE**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Hanford, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to turn the Facilities Ad Hoc committee into a Board of Education Standing Committee.

Yes-9  
**Motion Carries**

Superintendent Rioux shared information regarding the status of the district's solar panel projects.

## **13. KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL LOGO AND NAME DISCUSSION**

Mr. Craig Hanford shared that he recently learned from legal counsel, that he did not have authority to create a new Compromise sub-Committee at the December 11, 2019 Board meeting. Therefore, that sub-committee is dissolved.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Farrow, seconded by Mr. Ferron to reinstate the Killingly Redmen name and to form a subcommittee to look at updating the logo design so any imagery used shall not portray Native Americans in a negative stereotype and is displayed with cultural sensitivity and in an historically correct manner.  
The subcommittee will also develop an educational curriculum to install in students an appreciation of Native American Heritage and insure that they do not form the idea that it is acceptable to stereotype any group.

The Board members discussed, at length, the sensitivity and the controversy related to this agenda item. Student Board representative Alexandra Purcell shared that many students embrace the new Red Hawks mascot name and students are tired of this debate.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Biggs, and seconded by Ms. Flexer to move the question.

### **Roll Call Vote**

Yes-8, Doug Farrow, Norm Ferron, Karen Fremuth, Jason Muscara, Greg Biggs, Hoween Flexer, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, and Chris Viens.  
No-1 (Craig Hanford)

**Motion Carries**

The original motion was repeated previously made by Mr. Farrow, seconded by Mr. Ferron.

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**Roll Call Vote**

Yes- 5, Doug Farrow, Norm Ferron, Karen Fremuth, Jason Muscara and Craig Hanford.

No- 4, Greg Biggs, Hoween Flexer, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, and Chris Viens.

**Motion Carries**

**14. BOARD OF EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**14.A. Fiscal Sub-Committee**

Monthly Financial Report December 2019

Quarterly Revenues and Expenditures Report

Mr. Doug Farrow was elected as the Chairperson of the Fiscal Sub-Committee at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting Mr. Farrow shared highlights of the monthly reports. There is a net outplacement deficit of \$362,899. The deficit will be offset by a surplus of \$348,000 in the teacher salaries account. There are five open purchase orders from the 2018-19 budget. Current revenues are down slightly. Mr. Farrow also summarized the Superintendent's proposed increases for 2020-21 tuition rates.

**14.A.1. 2020-21 Tuition Rates**

Superintendent Rioux shared how operational costs and capital costs make up a per pupil total tuition amount.

Proposed tuition per pupil. rates are:

- KHS- \$16,363
- KIS-\$11,667
- KMS and KCS-\$10,168

**MOTION:** by Mr. Biggs seconded by Mr. Farrow to approve the 2020-21 tuition rates as presented.

Yes- 8 (Ms. Flexer absent when vote was taken.)

**Motion Carries**

**15. LIAISON APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Craig Hanford announced liaison appointments. They are as follows.

- Town Council – Chris Viens
- CABE- Greg Biggs
- Cable Advisory- Hoween Flexer
- EASTCONN- Lydia Rivera-Abrams
- Economic Development-Karen Fremuth
- Parks & Recreation-Doug Farrow
- Permanent Building Commission (PBC)- Jason Muscara
- Public Safety- Norm Ferron

**16. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked to pull item 16.B. January 2, 2020 Student Enrollment.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Flexer to approve consent items:  
16.A. December 2019 Authorized Checks  
16.C. January 2020 Employee of the Month Nominee  
Yes-9  
**Motion Carries**

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Ms. Rivera Abrams  
to approve consent item,  
16.B. January 2, 2020 Student Enrollment  
Yes-9  
**Motion Carries**

## 17. NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Hanford explained the reasoning for tonight's proceedings regarding the mascot. He, like all of Board members received many emails regarding this issue. Mr. Hanford did some research and learned that Killingly's mascot issue was very similar to a case in Pennsylvania and it was the best kind of compromise. Board members agreed that if Native American curriculum is lacking, that a more Native American curriculum must be taught in the classrooms. Mr. Rioux shared that a Native American Curriculum Survey was created and responses were collected. Results will be provided to the curriculum sub-committee and forwarded to the full board. Ms. Flexer shared that if the Board were interested, she is aware of a group working with West Hartford schools and she could provide their contact information.
- Mr. Hanford asked about an email that contained information about Red Hawks items being ordered and the time of these orders were in conflict of the Board's decision to rescind made in December. Mr. Rioux will look into this.
- Mr. Biggs and Ms. Flexer asked for the amount of any expenses incurred related to the mascot name change.
- Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked if funds raised through PTOs are used in the classroom and if so, how does it improve the educational experience? She also asked that Superintendent Rioux evaluate academic and learning experiences in both elementary schools as to ensure equity between them.
- Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked what impact the attendance bus has on the budget, what is the cost for guidance counselors, do other districts have an attendance bus, how many students who used the bus last year, graduated. Mr. Hanford shared that some of these questions could be addressed at sub-committee meetings or discussed at a future meeting.
- Mr. Ferron suggested requesting more data be limited so the superintendent can address other district matters, especially with budget season approaching.

## 18. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to adjourn.  
Yes- 9  
**Motion Carries**

The Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
*Keely Doyle*  
Recording Secretary