

REGULAR MEETING

Killingly Board of Education

Wednesday, January 22, 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, and Chris Viens.
Student Board Members: 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 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

4.a. The Board congratulated and recognized Jessica Lepire, KMS paraprofessional as January 2020, Employee of the Month.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Biggs shared that he appreciated Mr. Rioux's invitation for all Board members to attend yesterday's district-wide safety training. He took a lot of good information away from the training but the district should re-evaluate the current practice of using color codes in emergency situations.

Those opposed to the Board's rescinded decision to return to the Redmen name.

Nicola Able, Killingly Education Association president

Michael Morrill, KIS teacher

Joseph Zornado- Killingly resident

Lauren Law -Killingly resident

Alexandra Purcell, KHS student and member of the KHS national Honor Society. Read a statement on behalf of the Killingly High School National Honor Society.

Jessica Mongeau – Killingly resident

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to extend the time for public comments.

Yes-8

No-1

Continued Public Comments.

Camy Roach, parent of KHS alumni students.
Faith Boateng, former KHS student.
Claudia Allen
Lamonica Vazquez, Killingly resident.
Cliff Dunn

*In favor of changing the mascot, Killingly resident, Ray Wood.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.a. January 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION: by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, seconded by Mr. Farrow to add Mr. Muscara's comments that he made at the Jan. 8 meeting to Public Comments.

Board member discussion ensued regarding what, if any, comments should be included in Public comments. Ms. Rivera-Abrams rescinded her motion.

MOTION: by Craig Hanford, seconded by Mr. Farrow to table the minutes to the next agenda, until consistent language under Public Comments is determined.

Yes-5

No- 2

Abstain-2

Motion Carries

7. Discussion of Attorney-client privileged Communication Regarding Steps for Responding to FOI Request."

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to go into executive session.

Yes- 9

Motion carries

The Board went into executive session at 8:05 p.m. The Board returned to session at 9:01 p.m.

8. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS

8.a. Correspondence

Mr. Rioux shared that he had received 2 indirect correspondences and he will keep the Board informed of those correspondences.

8.b. Town Council Liaison-

Town Council Chairman, Mr. Jason Anderson shared that the council approved to extend a two-year contract with Suez Water Technologies.

The Town appointed a new town attorney. KMS and Westfield Ave. building projects will be discussed further at the next town council meeting.

Mr. Rioux gave a presentation to the Town's sub-committee regarding the proposed KHS turf field project. It is anticipated that the town's Fiscal Sub-committee will ask the council to consider a \$300,000 contribution towards the cost of the turf field.

8.c. Board Chairman's Report

Mr. Hanford shared that Mr. Ferron, Ms. Rivera-Abrams and Mr. Farrow are appointed to the new Adhoc committee. Mr. Biggs asked if there is an "expert" available for guidance to help determine

an appropriate logo. Teachers, students, community members should be involved I this process.

8.d. Committee Reports

8.d.1. Policy Sub-Committee Update

Mr. Muscara, chair of the sub-committee, shared that the committee gained knowledge of the process in regards to revising, and or adding policies. A list of policies needing updates and revised policies were reviewed as a result of a 2018 policy audit

The committee would like to further explore if CABE's suggested policies are the best ones to adopt. Mr. Rioux shared that Shipman and Goodwin also provide policy services. Mr. Hanford shared that he noticed some policies are contradicting with similar policies and suggested that the committee review and address those policies not in alignment.

9. SUPERINTENDEN T'S REPORT

9.a. Killingly Memorial School Building Update

KMS Principal, Ms. Tina Chahanovich shared information on Ruler, an evidence-based approach to social emotional learning, used by staff and students. Ruler stands for **r**ecognizing emotion, **u**nderstanding emotion, **l**abeling emotion, **e**xpressing emotion, **r**egulating emotion. Visions of desired emotional climate in the district, school and classroom were shared by faculty and staff. Charters were created based on staff's visions of ideal emotional climate. The document is revisited and discussed on professional development days.

Tools are used to measure mood, helping staff and students build greater awareness of emotions. Blueprints provides a structure to problem-solve interpersonal conflicts.

Implementing this approach promotes effective teaching strategies for students, at all levels, and students become better receptive learners. Students are less anxious, develop more emotional skills, experience fewer attention problems and demonstrate better academic performance.

9.b. Attendance Bus Update

Mr. Paul Brenton gave a comprehensive report regarding the Attendance Bus and the rationale regarding its need. The Attendance Bus is funded through the Alliance grant. Estimated cost to run the bus in 2019-20 is approximately \$3,200 per year. Staff cost is 45 minutes of KHS staff time per day when the bus runs.

Mr. Rioux reminded Board members that this bus is not used for ALL students who are tardy but only a very special targeted group of students.

It builds relationships and it is this type of out-of-the-box thinking that is making a difference. Students who utilized the bus passed 61% of classes. Attendance rates increased 76% for students who used the bus. *Mr. Hanford and Ms. Rivera-Abrams questioned what kind of values are being taught to students who have the option of utilizing the attendance bus.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Ms. Fremuth to table item 9.c to the next Board meeting.

Yes- 4

No-5

Motion Fails

9.c. 2018-19 Science Achievement Results

Mr. Paul Brenton shared a comprehensive report about the history and implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in Killingly. Mr. Brenton reviewed current practices, concepts and assessments. He shared results for grades 5, 8 and 11. A total of 499 students were tested. The percentage of students at level 3 or above are; grade 5-51%, grade 8- 58% and grade 11- 35%.

9.d. Turf Field Update

Mr. Steve Rioux shared much information regarding the KHS proposed turf field, including advantages of a turf field.

Turf fields can be played on continuously by many teams without incurring repetitive damage.

The project would be a community effort and create another positive partnership with the Town. A turf field would be an attraction for sending districts. Athletes typically experience less injuries.

There are costs associated with KHS athletic teams currently being bussed to Westfield Avenue and Owen Bell Park for practice and games.

The district has sustained ongoing maintenance costs of the current fields due to erosion and usage.

Mr. Rioux shared a proposal from 2016 for repairs and renovations of current fields totaling over \$321,000.

The cost for a new turf field is \$906,438 and includes a 7-year warranty. A 12-15-year life span is expected. Replacement cost in 15 years is estimated to be \$400,000. This would be offset by fundraisers that are currently very successful and ticket sales.

Beagary Charitable Trust pledged a 7-year grant in the amount of \$364,000, annual payments of \$52,000 and the Town will likely contribute \$300,000.

Mr. Rioux shared potential funding sources and financial options, including a 96-month term payment plan with Turf Field Financial.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared that she opposes this project. Mr. Hanford expressed concerns with the cost of the project, considering there are other needs in the district and he would not like to see funds from the non-lapsing account used this project.

Mr. Rioux asked the Board to carefully consider the generous offer from Beagary Charitable Trust and the savings it would present to Killingly.

*Mr. Hanford shared his concerns regarding turf field installation costs, especially in light of other priorities in the district. He also had concerns regarding student's safety when playing on turf.

MOTION: by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, seconded by Mr. Biggs to extend the Board meeting 2 hours.

Yes- 9

Motion Carries

9.e. Solar Project Update

Mr. Rioux furnished the Board with an update regarding Phases 1 & II for solar projects.

The anticipated completion date at Killingly Intermediate school will be late October or early November 2020.

At KHS, pending approval of the project by Panning and Zoning, construction will likely begin in the fall of 2020 but not completed until the first quarter of 2021.

Phases 1 and II at Westfield Ave., both elementary schools and Goodyear, upon approval by the Planning and Zoning Board, will begin in the spring of 2020. All four building will be complete by the end of the summer 2020.

9.f. Preliminary Budget Presentation

Mr. Steve Rioux suggested dates to meet as a whole January 29, February 5 and February 19th at 7:00 at Town Hall.

Mr. Rioux gave an overview of the budget building process and he shared how to decipher building codes and specific line accounts. Mr. Rioux shared a timetable for the budget process, including the deadline date that the budget must be submitted to the Town Manager.

Budget binders will be put together in detail, by building and department, and made available to all Board members.

MOTION: by Mr. Hanford, seconded by Ms. Rivera Abrams to meet on January 29, February 5 and February 19th as a Fiscal Sub-Committee of the Whole for creation of the FY2020-21 budget.
Yes-9
Motion Carries

10. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked Mr. Rioux that the Board receive the same information presented at this weeks' Town Council meeting regarding a KMS building project. Mr. Rioux shared that the proposed project went to Permanent Building Commission which was the proper channel. Mary Calorio and Mr. Rioux anticipate giving public presentations and sharing information via radio and possibly through brochures. If the project is moved forward, it could be on a March referendum.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked Mr. Rioux if he followed-up with a parent's comments shared at the January 8th. Board meeting. Mr. Rioux has communicated with the parent three times.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams expressed concerns regarding exchange students coming from China in light of the new virus-borne illness in China.

Mr. Rioux shared that the exchange students are required to get physicals before coming to the U.S. and CDC is utilizing monitored screening at airports. The students arriving from China are not from the area of Wuhan China, the area where the virus originated. Ms. Rivera-Abrams requested that the CDC be contacted to ensure all safety measures are taken.

Some Board members shared concerns regarding the New Business agenda item. Mr. Hanford shared that action cannot take place on topics brought forth during New Business, but it is an opportunity for discussions between the superintendent and Board members.

Mr. Hanford, for the sake of transparency, will look into the option of identifying or titling items under New Business on future agendas.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary

*Edited, per Board request.