

Regular Meeting

**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday February 12, 2020
7:00 PM
Town Hall, 172 Main St.**

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

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Brown-Killingly resident, asked the Board to reject E Pluribus Unum as a district motto.
Amy Langlois, KHS graduate does not support the turf installation at the high school.
Lauren Law, Killingly resident, mascot and logo mean the same thing. Reviewed goals of the Adhoc committee. Does not support E Pluribus Unum.

6. REPORT BY KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

KCS picture day on February 26.
Killingly Memorial School will have a Laser Science assembly on February 28th.
The KHS National Honor Society will hold a blood drive on February 27th.
The KHS Drama Club will give 3 performances on February 28th. and 29th. for the musical, One on This Island.

7. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7.a. January 8, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION: by Lydia Rivera-Abrams, seconded by Mr. Farrow to approve Jan. 8, 2020 Board meeting minutes.
Yes-7
Abstain-1
Motion Carries

7.b. January 22, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION: by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, seconded by Mr. Muscara to approve January 22, 2020 Board meeting minutes.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams withdrew her motion.

MOTION: by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, seconded by Mr. Farrow to approve with January 22, 2020 Board meeting minutes with three edits.

Yes-7

No-1

Motion Carries

8. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS

8.a. Correspondences

8.a.I. KPS Monthly Principal Reports

Mr. Rioux shared highlights from the principals' monthly reports. Monthly reports will now be presented at Board meetings, with opportunity for discussion and questions.

8.b. Town Council Liaison- No Liaison report.

8.c. Board Chairman's Report

8.c.I. Board Retreat/Workshop

Mr. Hanford shared that it would be best to have a Board retreat after budget. Mr.

Rioux shared, for new Board members, past practice and purpose of a Board retreat.

Some retreats have been held out-of-district, or at EASTCONN and were facilitated by a third party or consultants from CABE.

Topics for the next retreat could include, FOI requests, other legal issues, goal-setting, the structure of Board minutes.

Ms. Flexer asked if the Lighthouse initiative could be an option at the next Board retreat.

Ms. Flexer asked if Board members should continue their summer reading project and if Board members will participate in follow-up discussion.

Mr. Rioux shared that he has other books he could suggest at the Board retreat.

Mr. Biggs and Mr. Hanford shared that the retreat should be conducted locally to support community businesses.

8.d. Committee Reports

8.d.I. Adhoc Committee

The Adhoc committee nominated Norm Ferron as chairperson. The committee requested that the superintendent solicit input from the community, and students to submit examples of a new KHS logo by March 6th to his office.

The committee requested the superintendent draft a press release with approval by the Adhoc committee chairperson, that include the following parameters:

- not to portray Native Americans in a negative stereotype
- examples of non - Native American imagery are welcomed
- examples of Native American symbols are also welcomed

Ms. Flexer asked how Native Americans and students will be involved in the process.

Mr. Biggs shared that submissions should come from residents or those who live local. Ms. Rivera-Abrams reiterated that submissions will be reviewed by the Adhoc committee and input will be pursued and provided by Native American group, student, and member of the community. Final recommendations for a new logo will be brought forward to the whole Board. Ms. Flexer asked which Native American group will have input. Has the committee developed a process for getting the necessary input? Mr. Farrow reiterated that the Adhoc committee shouldn't rule out anything and welcomes all submissions.

8.d.II. Curriculum Subcommittee

Mr. Brenton shared with the Board that the high school would like to offer technology-based science courses to increase student interest. Funding for the software will be applied to the Perkins Grant.

Mr. Hanford asked Mr. Brenton to give Board members a brief synopsis of all five courses. The five proposed courses will be separated into two motions. (motion for the first 3 courses and then the second motion for the last 2 manufacturing courses).

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked if staff is already in place to teach these courses. New staff is not needed. Mr. Farrow and Mr. Hanford expressed concerns regarding current, low student enrollment in computer science courses. Mr. Hanford asked for the rationale of offering new courses in light of current low student enrollment in current science courses. Mr. Rioux and Mr. Brenton explained that newer and more interesting courses stimulate and drive student interest and enrollment.

8.d.II.1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of App Creators Course

8.d.II.2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of AP Computer Science A Course

8.d.II.3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Introduction to Data Science Course

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve 8.d.II.1., 8.d.II.2., and 8.d.II.3

Yes-8

Motion Caries

Mr. Brenton shared information and the rationale regarding the proposed manufacturing courses.

8.d.II.4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Introduction to Principles of Manufacturing Course

8.d.II.5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Advanced Principles of Manufacturing Course

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve 8.d.II.4., and 8.d.II.5.

Yes-8

Motion Caries

8.d.III. Fiscal Subcommittee-Mr. Farrow shared that the subcommittee was scheduled to meet on February 12th but they did not have a quorum

8.d.III.1. January 2020 Financial Report-No report

8.e. Board of Education Liaison Report

Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared that she went to EASTCONN for an introductory meeting. Protocol and guidelines were shared, if she were to be a Killingly representative on EASTCONN's Board of Directors. Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked for clarity regarding what the Board's intent is for her as a liaison to EASTCONN. Mr. Rioux shared that it is a wonderful opportunity for Board members to stay current regarding EASTCONN initiatives and news, via Ms. Rivera-Abrams reports.

Mr. Farrow shared that the Parks & Recreation committee met on January 27th. They discussed the possible move to Westfield Ave., the Veteran's Coffee House and upcoming events and tournaments.

Mr. Biggs shared that CABA is offering a webinar on February 27th. titled, *What Board Members Need to Know about the Next Generation Accountability System and the Connecticut Report Cards*. March is Board appreciation Month.

Mr. Ferron shared that the Safety committee met and initiatives were discussed regarding how to avoid phone scams. The Safety committee will add the information to their website. The Salvation Army gave an informative presentation on human trafficking.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

9.a. Central Office and Killingly Parks and Recreation Merger (Discussion and Possible Action)

Mr. Rioux shared that it is his recommendation that the Board turn the Westfield Ave. building over to the Town. The MOU reflected building responsibilities of the Town's side and responsibility on the Board's side. The Westfield Ave. building is not a public school, therefore, not eligible for any reimbursement related to renovation costs. The Board reviewed and discussed the parameters of the MOU.

Ms. Flexer and Mr. Hanford shared their concerns regarding safety and security. Mr. Rioux shared that alarms will be installed in egress areas. Mr. Farrow asked if the Veterans Coffee House would have its own designated space or would it be a shared space. Mr. Rioux said it would be a shared space. Ms. Rivera-Abrams urged Board members not to proceed. She added that a Town meeting has yet to occur and the Board should wait for community input. Ms. Flexer asked if the Town will be installing cameras for added security and if the building would still be used as a voting site. Mr. Rioux shared that the Town anticipates expanding the parking lot and installing a new ADA compliant entryway. Ms. Flexer and Mr. Hanford expressed concerns regarding security. Mr. Rioux reassured the Board that weapons will not be allowed in the building. Ms. Flexer asked for more information regarding weapons and cameras.

Mr. Hanford would like to get more clarification on MOU procedure items #6 and #9, adding that there is not enough clarity regarding who is responsible for any future renovations cost and why the Board would be responsible for damage created by..... *third-party tenant* if the Town is in possession of the building.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to table this item to the next regular Board meeting

Yes-7

Abstain -1

Motion Carries

9.b. Next Generation Accountability Index Report

Mr. Paul Brenton gave Board members a comprehensive report on Connecticut Next Generation Accountability System report. The accountability tool is applied only at the high school level and reflects a district's performance and progress. It is a tool to guide and track improvement efforts and also shows where support is needed. There are 12 indicators within the accountability system. Some indicators are, academic achievement, academic growth, participation rates, chronic absenteeism, career readiness, 4-year graduation for all students, postsecondary entrance, physical fitness and access to the arts. Each indicator is measured by Index rate, Target rate and a State average Index rate. Mr. Brenton's report included trends, achievement gaps, areas where improvement is needed and plans for progress. Mid-year data with adjustments and projections will be shared with Board in March. Mr. Farrow asked the reasoning for the difference in the 2018-19 physical fitness indicator. Mr. Brenton shared that this is probably due to the number of students tested. Mr. Hanford asked if the district has detailed actions plans and does staff explore and compare data to monitor progress. Are actions plans adjusted accordingly based on data. How often is the data reviewed.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked Mr. Rioux to include the attendance bus report as in attachment in his weekly update to the Board and to have Board packets available to student Board representatives.

9.c. Turf Field Project (Discussion and Possible Action)

Mr. Rioux distributed a revised Turf Field Project Summary. Mr. Rioux shared the significance of the \$364,000 pledge from the Beagary Trust Foundation and the time line of the offer. In order to move forward with this project, Town Council support is necessary.

Mr. Ferron shared that he has some questions regarding student safety. Mr. Rioux shared that about a year ago, Board members were given results from several safety studies.

Mr. Biggs asked about the certainty of an anticipated surplus from the 2019-20 budget at the end of the school year.

Mr. Farrow asked about funding sources for long-term replacement cost. Mr. Rioux shared revenues could be raised through fundraising, activities and facility use fees.

Mr. Hanford shared his concerns about the age of the cost summary (completed in 2018.) He asked if we put this project out to bid and why the district should partner Field Turf Inc. Mr. Rioux shared consortium pricing offered through CREC is lower and that there is a higher degree of confidence in the quality that the consortium provides.

Mr. Hanford shared that the non-lapsing account should not be used to help fund this project. The district has other important building projects already on the table.

Mr. Rioux reminded Board members The Beagary Trust offer will be expiring. The student Board representatives were in favor of a turf field, saying it would bring a sense of pride to many students.

Mr. Farrow asked about permanency lines on a field. Ms. Rivera-Abrams urge the Board not to be distracted by figures shown on the summary, specifically \$364,000 and the \$300,000. She asked that the Board use the money to fund other priority items.

Mr. Hanford thought it best that this item be tabled until more student input can be gathered and safety concerns are addressed. Ms. Flexer is not in favor of using the non-lapsing account and suggested that new Board members receive the informational documents and packets from safety studies that were shared with Board members in the past.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer seconded by Ms. Fremuth to table this item to the next Board meeting.

Yes-8

Motion Carries.

9.d. 2020-21FY Budget Review

Mr. Rioux summarized the proposed budgets for Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, Health

Services and Library/Media, Information Technology, and Instructional Improvement departments. Mr. Rioux shared that the elementary school budgets and pupil services budget will be reviewed next Wednesday.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: by, Ms. Flexer seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve consent items:
10.a January Authorized Checks
10.b February 3 2020 Student Enrollment
8-Yes
Motion Carries

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.a. School Motto

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Mr. Farrow to adopt E Pluribus Unum has the new school motto.

Mr. Muscara shared that he thinks the motto makes sense and is a motto that could unify the district. Ms. Flexer asked how many more mottos do we need? Mr. Biggs shared that more time is needed to think about it.

Mr. Muscara amended his motion to have E Pluribus Unum a district-wide motto.

Mr. Hanford asked if the proposed motto would replace the current one?

Mr. Biggs asked that the Board allow time for community input.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared that we have a motto currently, and the Board should be trying to unify and not divide. The Adhoc committee is working towards the goal of unifying the community.

Mr. Ferron shared that the proposed motto is inclusive, and sends a positive message.

Ms. Flexer asked that more time be allowed to obtain input from staff and students

Mr. Farrow in favor of it as a motto, but needs more time for further discussion. Table it for now.

Mr. Hanford also thought this needed more time to be discussed and should be tabled.

Mr. Muscara withdrew his motion.

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Mr. Farrow to table this item for the next meeting
Yes-8
Motion Carries

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to adjourn
Yes-8
Motion Carries

The Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary