

Regular Meeting

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday April 22, 2020

7:00 PM

Town Hall

The meeting was streamed on Channel 22

MINUTES

Present via Zoom: Greg Biggs, Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Janice Joly, Jason Muscara, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, and Mr. Doug Farrow
Chris Viens, absent with notification.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Killingly Board of Education Chairman, Mr. Doug Farrow called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS- No public comments.

Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams shared that the Northeast Early Childhood Council has resources available for parents experiencing stress due to school closures and she provided a phone number.

4. BOARD CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Mr. Doug Farrow shared that Mr. Craig Hanford officially submitted his resignation.

4.A. Discussion and Possible Action to Disband Community Engagement Subcommittee

A considerable amount of this subcommittee's work intersects with discussions and actions of the whole Board. Mr. Rioux is aware of the time it takes to be involved on such sub-committees and the charge of that committee could be accomplished by members of the whole Board.

MOTION: Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Flexer to disband the Community Engagement subcommittee.
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

4.B. Reappointments on Subcommittees.

Chairs on each sub-committee remain the same except for Fiscal subcommittee. The Board chairman does not typically chair on any subcommittee but may act as an ex officio on all subcommittees. Ms. Joly volunteered to be the Town Council liaison alternate in the event Mr. Viens is not able to attend.

5. APPROVAL OF APRIL 8, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Ms. Joly to approve the April 8, 2020 Board meeting minutes.

**Yes - 7, Unanimous
Motion Carries**

6. GENERAL UPDATES

6.A. Device Distribution

Mr. Brenton shared that the IT department is doing an outstanding job. 780 iPads were distributed to KHS students at the start of the year. 650 laptops were distributed to other KPS students from the KIS location and deliveries. Some requests for a second device have been received from parents with more than one child. A parent's request for a device can be fulfilled within a couple of days. About 1,600 devices are in possession of students. As previously reported, the district purchased 175 Chromebooks to meet this demand. IT staff prepared and programmed each of those devices for remote distant learning. Families are required to give back the devices once school resumes. An additional 40-50 devices will be distributed next month for families that did not initially submit a request and for families that need a second device.

The IT Team configured new T-Mobile hotspot devices and delivery began on April 21. Devices were delivered to 170 families that do not have internet access. KPS is implementing GoGuardian as their web filtering application and uploaded the GoGuardian web filter to all Chromebooks.

6.B. Food Distribution

Food distribution continues at KMS. Approximately 550 meals are prepared and distributed every other day. Of the prepared meals about 150 prepared meals are transported to families.

6.C. Remote Learning

During school closure priorities for our students and families are connection, engagement, and learning. Staff have been focusing on developing criteria for grading students. The goal has been to adopt a "Do No Harm" mindset and to ensure that students' grades will not be negatively impacted by the school closure.

Teachers will continue to administer assessments and provide feedback. Teachers, counselors, and administration will monitor student engagement and provide additional support to families in need. The SDE released a valuable resource document entitled "Grading, Graduation Requirements, and Prescribed Courses of Study." Guidance for students will be communicated this week that includes, flexible assignment timelines, semester scores as pass, fail, and pass with distinction for semester II in grades 9-12, as recommended in the SDE document.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked how do we gauge where students are academically, at this time.

Leadership Teams are prioritizing standards and reviewing what the standards should be focused on. Mr. Rioux shared that our curriculum expectations for students will not be where they would have been if schools were open. Teachers are making the personal connection. Staff are monitoring student log-ons every day.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared her concerns the current situation of school closures will impact students for many years and that the district must set some sort of pace for student learning.

Mr. Rioux and Mr. Brenton have had conversations regarding long-term planning for remote distant learning and understand the impact this will have on students in the future.

Some special education PPT meetings were postponed, but PPT meetings are still being held by priority and student needs. Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked for more information regarding the Step-Up Plan for the return to school.

6.D. DKMG Testing Site

Mr. Rioux asked Dr. Gerald Sullivan about clean-up and sanitation at KIS, after COVID19 testing is done. A third-party company will be hired by Day Kimball Hospital to provide this service. Currently, about 10-20 cars a day are arriving at KIS. Testing is performed outside.

6.E. Red Cross Blood Drive

Mr. Rioux thanked Mr. Randy Duquette for coordinating a Blood Drive. It was held at KHS and was very well attended. More than 60% of the donors were first time donors.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FY20 BUDGET SURPLUS AND NON-LAPSING ACCOUNT

7.A. Pre-spending Options for Consideration

Mr. Rioux shared that as of 4/1/20 the estimated FY 20 BOE budget surplus is projected to be \$1,570,000. Today's list is to start conversation with Board members regarding pre-purchasing. Projections may change through June 30. When building the FY 22 budget some line items will appear to have large increases, but is actually restoring a line item to its typical funding level. Mr. Rioux shared some pre-spending options for consideration and other considerations for the budget surplus.

\$357,154 contribution into the Non-lapsing account.

\$68,500 for a vehicle and equipment for the new School Resource Officer program.

\$245K for pre-spending supplies and equipment accounts.

\$42,000 to replace a pickup truck in the Operations and Maintenance department.

\$100,000 for technology infrastructure and additional supplies and purchases as needed.

\$200,000 contribution to the Turf Field project, pending a \$300,000 allocation from the Town's General Reserve account.

\$557,350 to be returned to the Town. If the Turf Field project is not approved, the amount to be returned to the Town would be approximately \$757,350.

Mr. Ferron asked that annotations regarding pre-purchases be included in next years' budget process.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams suggested that the Board review and reinstate the wish lists that the Board received at the beginning of the budget process and perhaps some surplus could also be used to support remote distant learning needs.

Mr. Biggs and Ms. Flexer shared that sending some money back to the Town is good and pre-purchasing some items would be wise.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams suggested that the Board be given a revised pre-purchasing list and that the Board present a 0% budget increase. The Board should acknowledge where the district is today, as opposed to two months ago. Mr. Rioux shared that it is appropriate to share and show a budget that supports the districts' needs in the initial proposed budget. The district is required to follow the budget process. Mr. Farrow liked the recommendations provided by Mr. Rioux.

7.B. Unexpended Education Funds Account (Non-Lapsing Account)

Mr. Rioux reminded Board members, that the current balance in the Non-Lapsing account is \$955,997 and the Board requested \$436,849 be put into the Non-lapsing Account from the FY 19 budget surplus. This request will increase the balance to \$1,369,000. Due to the \$1.75M cap and a projected allocation surplus of \$1,570,000 in the FY 2020 budget, the Board may request \$357,154 be contributed to the Non-Lapsing account.

Statutory contribution changed last year from 1% to 2% maximum annual contribution of a Board's annual budget allocation. If the non-lapsing contribution cap is increased to \$2,250,000 (from \$1,750,000) and the allowable contribution is raised to 2%, the Board could contribute up to

\$857,154 into the Non-lapsing account. This would reduce the amount to be returned to the Town by \$500,000.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer seconded by Mr. Ferron to approve forwarding the revised Non-Lapsing MOU as presented, to the Town Council for consideration.
Yes - 7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

7.C. BoE Capital Improvement Projects for Consideration

- 7.C.I. KHS Parking Lot Reseal
- 7.C.II. Goodyear Bathroom
- 7.C.III. Central Office Generators

If some smaller capital improvement projects were funded by the non-lapsing account, funds would not have to be spent by June 30th and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) could be implemented across fiscal years. Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked if new lighting for the KIS auditorium could be added to the list of recommendations and if projects could be completed by June 30th. Mr. Rioux shared that it would be difficult to have any capital improvement projects completed by June 30th.

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING BOARD FY 2021 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Board members reviewed Mr. Rioux's FY 2020-21 Board of Education Budget PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Rioux will be presenting to the Town Council on Saturday, April 25 at 10:30 a.m. The Town Council will be using Microsoft Teams platform for a virtual meeting. Mr. Rioux showed the Board members how to log-in and access the meeting.

The total budget increase is \$1,010,557 equivalent to a 2.29 % increase. Salaries and Benefits continue to be the biggest budget drivers at \$837,000 in addition to Out-of-District tuition at \$211,000. Several positions have been reclassified and moved to non-certified salaries line item.

Mr. Rioux asked for input regarding the PowerPoint budget presentation. Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked that the May 14 Public Hearing be reflected as a *Virtual* Public Hearing and to use the words *restoring* or *upgrading*. Mr. Biggs pointed out that the *Budget Priorities* was not in priority order and this be articulated. Board members will email Mr. Rioux with any other suggestions.

Ms. Flexer suggested including revenues, grants and tuition and show the impact of lost revenues. Mr. Rioux's presentation included FY 21 anticipated Federal and State grants, including the elimination of the Preschool Development Grant last year, and the award of the McKinney-Vento Grant for FY 2020-21. Mr. Rioux shared that Current Executive Orders are allowing unexpended grant funds in FY 20 to be expended in in FY21. There will another virtual budget presentation in mid-May. Due to the current situation, historical practices will change. The Town Council will most likely make recommended reductions to the current proposed budget. Mr. Rioux will work with the administrative team and will make new recommendations for the Board to consider at that time.

9. ADJOURN

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to adjourn.
Yes -7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

The April 22, 2020 Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary