

Regular Meeting

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

7:00 PM

Town Hall, 172 Main Street

Meeting streamed on Channel 22

MINUTES

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

Others Present

via Zoom Platform: Superintendent Steve Rioux, Assistant Superintendent, Paul Brenton and Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary.
Kyle Napierata-Applicant for Board.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Killingly Board of Education Chairman, Mr. Doug Farrow called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS- No public comments.

4. INTERVIEW FOR BOARD VACANCY

Mr. Kyle Napierata was interviewed for the Board vacancy created by Mr. Craig Hanford's resignation. Mr. Napierata is a Killingly resident of 26 years. Mr. Napierata is interested in learning more about the Board of Education budget process, school safety, the turf field, and special education.

5. POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to accept Mr. Kyle Napierata as a member of the Killingly Board of Education.

Roll Call Vote

Yes-8, Unanimous

Motion Carries

Mr. Napierata will be a non-voting guest for the remainder of tonight's Board meeting and will be sworn in tomorrow by Town Clerk, Ms. Elizabeth Wilson.

6. BOARD CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

6.A. Board Scholarship Committee

Mr. Farrow asked for volunteers to serve on the scholarship committee. The scholarship

committee determines student scholarship awards from three scholarship funds. The committee will be meet on Monday, May 18 at 1:00 via Zoom. Ms. Flexer and Mr. Ferron volunteered.

6.B. Teacher of the Year Committee

Mr. Farrow asked for Board volunteers to serve on the Teacher of the Year committee. Ms. Flexer and Mr. Muscara volunteered. The meeting typically takes place in early June in the afternoon. Mr. Biggs also volunteered if Ms. Flexer or Mr. Muscara cannot attend the meeting.

7. APPROVAL OF APRIL 22, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: by, Mr. Ferron seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve the April 22, 2020 Board of Education meeting minutes.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked if the April 22 meeting was the meeting that included a motion of whether the Board members would allow discussion under New Business. The approval of the April 22, 2020 minutes were tabled until this could be clarified.

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

8.A. Town Council's Liaison Report

Jason Alexander shared that a new Planning and Economic Developer was appointed. Town Council discussed the turf field project and the need for outside air quality testing at high school. A town contribution of \$300,000 towards the proposed turf field project was defeated. Town Council is considering a \$750,000 reduction to the Board of Education budget. Mr. Anderson confirmed that Town Council agreed to increase the maximum allowable balance to the Non-lapsing Account to \$2,000,000 and a 2% maximum contribution of the annual BOE budget allocation. The Town Manager is looking into the possibility of including the KMS project on a referendum in August, possibly on a separate ballot. The item was tabled by Town Council until June.

8.B. Correspondences

8.B.I. Principal's Updates

Mr. Rioux shared that the principals included information regarding remote learning updates in their monthly reports.

8.B.II. CABA Newsletter

Mr. Biggs and Mr. Rioux referred to CABA's May Liaison Newsletter. Topics included CABA dues freeze for 2020-21, professional development and links for issues related to the COVID-19 impact on public education.

8.B.III. KIS COVID Cleaning Details

Mr. Rioux and the Board reviewed a summary regarding cleaning details at the KIS Covid-19 testing site. Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared that areas inside the building should be disinfected by pressure pumps. Wiping down the areas is not enough. Testing is still taking place at the KIS site.

8.C. Committee Reports

8.C.I. Curriculum Sub-Committee

Mr. Brenton shared that subcommittee met on April 29th. They reviewed elementary health curriculum and talked about goals and priorities for the 2020 school year. Mr. Andrew Pearlman, KCS Social Worker has been invited to the next May 20th meeting. He will address the need of the elementary health curriculum.

8.C.II. Personnel Subcommittee

The subcommittee met on April 30th and the subcommittee will meet again tomorrow. Mr. Rioux shared who makes up the non-union employees. Approximately 40-50 people are not part of any bargaining group.

8.D. Liaison Reports

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked that Mr. Rioux share the most recent communications from EASTCONN. Mr. Rioux reminded the Board members that there is no concrete information at this time, regarding summer school, school openings and he is awaiting guidance and feedback from the Connecticut State Department of Education Commissioner.

Mr. Rioux will send the information and the link for the CT-N roundtable discussion to Board members.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

9.A. April 2020 Financial Report

Mr. Rioux gave a summary of the April 2020 financial report.

Salary projections haven't changed significantly since last month's report.

The secretary/clerical salary account shows a current deficit of 38K.

Teacher salaries accounts shows a budget surplus of approximately 188K. Paraprofessional and bus aides salary line items are showing savings. The health/dental insurance reflect a surplus \$463,000. HSA reflects a saving of \$56,000.

Ms. Joly asked about a 2018-19 payroll audit in the financial report. Mr. Rioux will follow-up with the Board.

Mr. Rioux shared why high percentages of budget allocations are already spent.

Based on current projections, approximately \$1.6 M of the 2019-20 budget would be unexpended.

9.B. COVID-19 Updates

9.B.I. Remote Learning Plans Update

9.B.II. Distant Learning Purchases

There are 31 Chromebooks and 10 iPads remaining in stock but it is likely those will be distributed within the next 2-3 weeks. Some devices have been returned due to breakage and will be replaced. 1,475 student devices have been distributed as of May 8th. 35 additional Chromebooks have been distributed since April 14.

Mr. Rioux authorized another purchase of 175 Chromebooks to ensure the students have the devices they need. Free devices from the State are pending and are anticipated to arrive in June or August.

The free devices are Windows based laptops and will pose new technological issues for students and staff who are familiar with using Chromebooks and iPads.

Hotspots are being delivered to faculty and staff who do not have access at home.

The district is averaging 185-190 meals delivered per week via bus, and 315-320 meals onsite delivered per week on site at Killingly Memorial School.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared concerns regarding how the district will serve those students who may not be keeping pace academically and asked if one-on-one tutoring can be provided.

Administrators and leadership teams meet weekly to discuss the needs of all students. Some students have already been identified and plans have been put into place. Interventions continued to be supported remotely to some students.

9.C. FY2021 Proposed Budget Update, Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Rioux shared a PowerPoint showing the superintendent's proposed budget adjustments, reducing the budget by \$750,000 or 2.29% increase over the 2019-20 budget, if required. The superintendent made the following recommendations to reduce the budget to \$44,312,830.

\$210,000- pre-purchasing supplies and equipment.

\$225,000-health and dental insurance (individual renewal rates versus Anthem's overall renewal rate. Subsidy line item in Health and dental was eliminated, resulting in a \$225,000 adjustment.)

\$74,844 -teacher retirement breakage

\$53,413- various budget adjustments (reductions to substitute, O & M dues/fees, and repairs accounts, adjustment to electricity savings, restructure SRO to 10-month position, increase pension allocation)

\$186,672-reliance on grant funding, (rely on Title I / Title II and Alliance grants to support district needs.

Underfunding this year will impact next year's budget. Need to pay attention to what were spending for special education.

Mr. Rioux shared that the under the federal CARES Act, Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund, Killingly is anticipated to receive \$382,700.

Tutors, summer school and others are paid currently from the Alliance grant.

Mr. Rioux shared that there are no programming reductions.

Ms. Flexer shared that the Board should not entertain any further cuts until after the public budget hearing tomorrow.

Mr. Rioux shared information about various grants, where they originate from and how the grants are used.

Mr. Rioux shared what additional cuts would look like if he were to present a budget that had a 0% increase.

Ms. Flexer expressed the importance of the public having access to view additional reductions if the budget was proposed at a 0% increase.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared her concerns about not reducing the correct items and to consider the districts priorities and asked about cutting stipends and or a part-time guidance counselor position.

Mr. Rioux shared that when stipends are cut, student programs are cut and the part-time guidance counselor position is essential and does not just serve the F-1 student exchange program.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Ms. Joly that Mr. Rioux present the PowerPoint as presented and that the Board not make any decisions regarding reductions until after tomorrow's budget meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Yes-6 (Greg Biggs, Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Janice Joly, Chris Viens and Doug Farrow)

No-2 (Jason Muscara, Lydia Rivera-Abrams)

Motion Carries

Mr. Rioux clarified that the motion means he would present a budget with a 2.29% increase and also include adjustments that include a reduction by \$750,000 resulting in a 0 % increase.

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs seconded by Ms. Joly to allow the suspension of rules to allow Mr. Anderson to speak about the budget process.

Yes-8 Unanimous

Motion Carries

Mr. Anderson shared that the public can make comments, give input and suggestions only at tomorrow night's virtual public hearing.

Town Council will take public comments and input into consideration and the Town Council could have a response regarding the Board of Education budget as soon as next week.

9.D. FY2020 End of Year Spending, Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Rioux showed the Board a revised version of his suggested year-end spending based on an estimated Surplus \$1,600,000. (as of 5/7/20).

The following recommendations are:

\$607,154 contribution to the Non-Lapsing account. Mr. Rioux reminded the Board members that Town Council agreed to increase the maximum allowable balance to the Non-lapsing Account to \$2,000,000 and a 2% maximum contribution of the annual budget allocation making the maximum allowable contribution (2%) from the FY 20 budget is \$880,944. The current balance in the Unexpended non-lapsing account is \$955,997 plus an additional \$436,849 from the FY 19 budget surplus, will increase the account balance to \$1,392,846.

\$210,071 in pre-spending for Instructional Supplies/ Equipment

When building the FY 22 budget some line items will appear to have large increases, when in fact it would be restoration to the typically funding level.

\$70,000 for SRO vehicle and equipment.

\$45,000 for a replacement pick-up truck for O&M.

The initial Operation and Maintenance budget requested replacement for a 2007 Ford F250 pickup truck.

\$100,000 for Technology Infrastructure and additional supplies

We anticipate some distant learning devices and equipment being damaged or lost. Other requests for supplies and equipment were denied in order to reduce the FY 21 budget to 2.29%.

\$567,775 returned to the Town.

If the non-lapsing account contribution, pre-spending plan, and equipment items are approved, the Board will return approximately \$567,775 to the Town. Additionally, the Town Council will be adding approximately \$322,000 to its Fund Reserve from the 2018-19 Board of Education budget surplus.

Mr. Biggs asked if Board members could receive an update regarding the turf field.

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded, by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to accept the 1.6M surplus considerations list as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yes- 6 (Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Janice Joly, Jason Muscara, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Doug Farrow.)

No-2 (Greg Biggs, Chris Viens)

Motion Carries

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- 10.A. April 2020 Authorized Checks
- 10.B. May 2020 Student Enrollment

MOTION: Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve the consent agenda.
Yes- 6
No-1
Abstain-1

11. NEW BUSINESS-None

12. ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Flexer to adjourn.
Unanimous
Motion carries

The May 13, 2020 Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary