

## Regular Meeting

### KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

7:00 PM

### MINUTES

**Present:** Mr. John Burns, Mr. Doug Farrow, Ms. Hoween Flexer, Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Dr. Diane Summa, and Mr. Christopher Viens.  
Student Board members, Terren Allen and Bryce Bentinck.

**Absent with**

**Notification:** Mr. Greg Biggs, Mr. Jeffrey Buchbinder, and Mr. Craig Hanford.

**Others Present:** Mr. Steven Rioux, Superintendent. Mr. Paul Brenton, Assistant Superintendent and Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Killingly Board of Education Chair, Mr. John Burns called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL-see above

#### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alvin Wilkerson, member of NAACP. Asked the Board to seek solutions regarding racial bullying, not in surveys. Seeking action to protect children.

Lamonica Vazquez shared her concerns about bullying and racism at the high school, especially with her daughter being bullied. Students that need to be discipline. The racism and bullying issues need to be fixed.

Allysha Zicolella, KHS student, grade 11. Allysha shared that she struggled with many absences due to an illness, teachers were not accommodating in helping her make up missed work. Sexually harassed at a high school dance. There are inappropriate behaviors by students and staff.

Elionna Vazquez, KHS student, grade 12. Elionna shared that she has been bullied for two years. Administrators fail to recognize and stop bullying and racism. She was placed in the same class with the person that bullied her. She asked the Board to recognize issues at the high school and to do something to change it.

Lamonica Vazquez read a letter aloud from her daughter.

Tammy Roche, 6 Nauset Ave. Ms. Roche suggested that parents be involved in future surveys and to address parents and students on Freshman Orientation Day.

Cheryl Kapelner-Champ, Pomfret Center, NAACP member. Ms. Kapelner-Champ urged students, staff, administrators to watch a PBS series called, *Reconstruction* and make it part of the curriculum.

Donna Duprey, member of the NAACP, asked the Board to consider making a relationship with NAACP so programs and material can be introduced into the curriculum.

Lyn Tolar, member of NAACP shared that that the district could gain valuable insight and learn strategies from NAACP. She shared a letter and read aloud a letter written by Claudia Allen.

Lamont Jameson, Thompson, CT, asked the Board to end the racism at Killingly High School.

## **5. RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2019 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

The Board of Education recognized Linda Leonard, KIS paraprofessional as Employee of the Month.

## **6. KILLINGLY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL REPORT**

Ms. Heather Taylor, KIS Principal shared information and introduced the concept behind Restorative Practices. Restorative practices focuses on positive relationships and community building for students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Restorative practice is a cultural shift and a philosophy that challenges past practices. Several staff are certified Restorative Practice trainers, including Ms. Taylor. Restorative practice encompasses methods in resolving conflicts. Ms. Taylor shared principles that include implementing a fair process, allowing everyone to be treated in a respectful manner and giving value to all voices. Components of the fair process are engagement, explanation and expectation clarity. Discipline and climate data shows over 30% decrease in office referrals and over 60% decrease in suspensions.

## **7. NEXT GENERATION ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**

Mr. Paul Brenton, Assistant Superintendent, shared data from a NextGen progress report. NextGen measures student performance in 12 areas, known as Performance Indicators. The report reflects percentages of points earned in the district towards improvement. Performance indicators include; ELA performance, math performance, science performance, ELA academic growth, math academic growth, chronic absenteeism, high school graduation rates, postsecondary entrance, physical fitness, arts access. Areas of most growth improvement were in ELA and math performance indicators. Indicators regarding chronic absenteeism was also an area of improvement, as was post secondary, college career readiness and on-track graduation.

## **8. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FACILITY USAGE FEES**

Mr. Steven Rioux shared revised proposed Building Use Fee Rates. Rates were discussed at the Facilities sub-committee meeting. The rates would go into effect July 1, 2019.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to accept Facility Usage Fees as presented.

**Yes-6, Unanimous  
Motion Carries**

## **9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING NON-LAPSING ACCOUNT**

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Dr. Summa to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to request a revision to the Unexpended Education Funds Account's Memorandum of Understanding in order to increase the total accumulation of funds to \$2,500,000.

**Yes-6, Unanimous  
Motion Carries**

## 10. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

**MOTION:** by Ms. Rivera Abrams, seconded by Ms. Flexer to set the last student day of school to June 14, 2019 and utilize June 17, 2019 as a professional development day for staff.

**Yes-6, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

## 11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING 2019-20 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Mr. Rioux shared with the Board a revised proposed that included a \$150,000 reduction as recommended by the Town Council. The chart reflected a large health insurance subsidy budget reduction. Mr. Rioux gave explanation to the proposed budget adjustments and he identified district needs.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to add a Teacher of the Deaf to the 2019-20 budget.

**Yes-6, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to increase the O & M administrative position to full-time.

**Yes-5**  
**Abstain -1**  
**Motion Carries**

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to make line item adjustments to the 2019-20 budget as presented.

**Yes-6, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to approve the Board of Education Budget at \$44,047,273.

**Yes-6, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Farrow to adjourn.

**Yes-6, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

The Board meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Keely Doyle*

Recording Secretary