

REGULAR MEETING

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, September 09, 2020

7:00 PM

TOWN HALL

The meeting will be streamed on Channel 22

MINUTES

Present: Greg Biggs, Hoween Flexer, Janice Joly, Jason Muscara, Kyle Napierata, Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Chris Viens,(7:35) and Doug Farrow.

Absent with Notification: Mr. Norm Ferron

Others Present: Interim Superintendent Dr. Diane Summa, Assistant Superintendent, Paul Brenton and Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Greg Biggs shared that some parents have communicated their concerns regarding the hybrid model and the difficulty it imposes on families in securing childcare and finances. The Board should consider, that especially the elementary level students return to a full-time school schedule. Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared that she too, had some parents contact her with the same concerns.

5. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

5.A. Killingly Paraprofessional of the Year

Robin Hubert, KMS paraprofessional was recognized by the Board as Killingly Public Schools' 2020-21 Paraprofessional of the Year. Robin has been with Killingly since 1989 and considered a valued and respected member of the Killingly Memorial School Team.

5.B. Killingly Teacher of the Year

Meg McCulloch, KIS Technology Teacher since 1998, was recognized by the Board as Killingly Public Schools' 2020-21 Teacher of the Year.

Meg McCulloch has been nominated in past years for this distinguished honor. Meg's contributions over the years go way beyond any requirements or expectations. Meg has played a crucial role in the success of on-line learning and bridges the KIS community together with her video productions.

6. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT- Jason Anderson not present at this time.

7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT/UPDATES

7.A. Committee for KHS Student Board Representative Selection

Jason Muscara and Greg Biggs expressed interest in serving on this committee. Mr. Farrow shared that Mr. Ferron expressed interest prior to tonight's meeting.

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Joly to move agenda item #9 and allow Dr. Erardi to present to the Board at this time.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

9. JE Consulting Services

Dr. Erardi prepared and reviewed with the Board, a Superintendent Search draft packet that included an advertisement brochure. A Superintendent survey will be put on the Killingly website. A thorough background check will be carried out on each candidate. Dr. Erardi would like to launch the advertisement this week with a closing date of October 10. Dr. Erardi suggested that the Board meet on October 12 to review applications. Board members will have the applicant's packets in advance and categorized into three levels. The October 14 Board agenda should be abbreviated to allow time for discussion of the candidates in a non-public meeting. Suggested dates for first-round interviews are Tuesday, October 20 and Wednesday, October 21. A total of 6 to 8 interviews, divided up into two evenings. Possibly on October 27, the Board would hold a semi-final round with 2-3 candidates. Board members should discuss the ceiling for a superintendent's salary. Saturdays are also an option for interviews.

Who would make up the Hiring Committee was discussed. Confidentiality is extremely important amongst members of a Hiring Committee. It is only Board members who will vote to appoint a new Superintendent. Mr. Biggs did not agree to limiting members of the Hiring Committee to only Board members.

The applicant being considered as the new superintendent should have the support of a full Board.

Dr. Erardi will work with Dr. Summa to discuss dates for a community forum (virtual forum).

Mr. Biggs shared that input from parents, teachers and staff regarding the choice of a new superintendent should be taken into consideration and is important. Dr. Erardi will gather and look for consistent feedback and concerns from the net results of a superintendent survey.

Ms. Flexer shared that she would not be available to participate in interviews on Tuesdays.

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Joly to address agenda item # 6, at this time.

**8-Yes
Motion carries**

6. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Anderson shared that the Hazardous Waste Day was well attended. Town Council approved a \$436,849 transfer into the Board of Education's non-lapsing account. A Town Council member resigned. Board and commission vacancies were filled. There will be a Public Hearing on October 13, virtually, to authorize a purchase and sale agreement to sell 140 Main St. town property. Town Council approved up to \$45,000 transfer into the River Trail Capital Project account.

8. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

8.A. New Hires

Dr. Summa shared that approximately 30 new certified staff have been hired and approximately 11 non-certified staff were hired. Currently there are approximately 25 vacancies. Job openings can be viewed on the Killingly Public Schools website.

8.B. Opening of Schools

Mr. Brenton shared that staff have done outstanding job of getting the schools ready for Opening Day and adapted well to a hybrid model. O & M staff, teachers and administrators did an excellent job getting rooms prepared. Efforts by parents and students have been outstanding in adapting to the new hybrid model schedule.

There have been many changes decided at the State level and some of those changes include guidelines for athletics. The SDE has changed timelines relative to distribution of federal funds, and coding student attendance.

Managing technology for distance and in-person learning is challenging. On September 22, the first 4 weeks of the re-opening of schools will be re-evaluated and adjustments will be made if needed.

Mr. Biggs asked if the district is working on benchmarks or indicators to have students return full-time. He shared that the elementary level students should return to a full-day schedule because the hybrid model causes financial burden and childcare issues for many families.

8.C. School Construction Projects

Phase I for Killingly High School and Killingly Intermediate School is complete. Phase II will begin in October. Phase II at KHS will be a ground installation. Phase II at KIS will be an expansion of the area where the solar panels are.

KMS roof installation will begin soon. Discussions are taking place to decide where the solar panels will be placed on KCS. The solar panel installation at Central Office should be finished mid-September.

The ADA work at KCS and KMS should be completed by now. The Town Manager and the contractor are reviewing the punch list for the KMS project. Projects went over budget. An additional \$25,000 may be needed.

The plans for the KMS addition project went before the PBC on 9-2-20. O & M Supervisor, Mr. Vassar reported that the Town will be hiring a Construction Risk Manager.

The new turf field at Killingly High School is completed.

Mr. Muscara asked for follow-up regarding removal of the islands remaining in the KHS parking lot. Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked what the monetary commitment was from Beagary Trust over the next seven-years for the KHS turf field.

8.D. Donations

The Rogers Corporation donated approximately 2,000 KN95 face masks for district staff.

The Town Manager and the Fire Department donated approximately 50 N95 masks for nurses.

The Beagary Trust Fund and Mrs. Pat Morgan donated the first payment of \$52,000 toward the new turf-field at Killingly High School.

8.E. Summer School

Mr. Brenton gave an overview on the Alliance Summer Success Program. The program ran for five weeks during the summer, Monday through Thursday and was held in a remote environment, using Zoom, due COVID-19 pandemic. The program focuses on literacy and numeracy skills. Sixty-six students, in grades 3 thorough 8 attended the 5-week program. A weekly report was emailed to parents providing learning targets and the student's academic effort, behavior and progress.

Feedback from staff and parents was positive. Funding for the Summer Success Program is supported by the Alliance Grant.

9.A. Discussion and Possible Action to Appoint the BoE as the Hiring Committee for the Superintendent Search

Mr. Biggs again expressed concerns limiting members of the Hiring Committee to only Board members and added that it is important to include administrators, and teachers in the process.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Muscara to appoint the BoE as the Hiring Committee for the Superintendent Search.

Roll Call Vote

Yes-7, Ms. Flexer, Ms. Joly, Mr. Muscara, Mr. Napierata, Ms. Rivera-Abrams, Mr. Viens, and Mr. Farrow.

No-1, Mr. Biggs

Motion Carries

10. SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

10.A. AD-HOC- the Ad-hoc has not met.

10.B. Curriculum- tentative meeting scheduled for September 23

10.C. Facilities- the subcommittee has not met.

10.D. Fiscal- the subcommittee has not met.

10.E. Personnel- the Personnel subcommittee met earlier tonight and reviewed and discussed the KAA proposal and tentative agreement. The subcommittee is forwarding to the full Board, their recommendation of accepting the contract as presented.

10.E.1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding KAA Contract

MOTION: by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, seconded by Ms. Flexer to approve the 1-year extension KAA Contract as presented with a 1.75% for 2021-22FY GWI +step increase for 2 members for a total of 2.02 % increase.

Roll Call Vote

Yes- Mr. Biggs, Ms. Flexer, Ms. Joly, Mr. Muscara, Mr. Napierata, Ms. Rivera-Abrams, Mr. Viens and Mr. Farrow.

Motion Carries

10.F. Policy-the subcommittee has not met.

11. CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Biggs asked to pull consent items; 11.E. July 23, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes and 11.F. August 5, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes. Ms. Flexer asked to edit the August 5 minutes and to reflect that she was in attendance via Zoom.

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve consent items;

11.A. June 3, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes

11.B. June 10, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

11.C. June 24, 2020 Board Regular Meeting Minutes

11.D. July 8, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes

11.G. August 27, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes

11.H. September 2020 Employee of the Month Nomination

11.I. Beginning of the Year Student Enrollment

11.J. Grants: SMART Start, Family Resource Center, School Readiness

Yes-7

Abstain -1

Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Ms. Joly to approve 11.E July, 23 2020, Special Meeting minutes.

Abstain- 1

Yes-7

Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Ms. Joly to approve consent item 11.F. August 5, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes with edit.

Abstain- 3

Yes- 5

Motion Carries

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Mr. Napierata to adjourn.

Unanimous

Motion Carries.

The September 9, 2020 Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary