

Regular Meeting

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION Wednesday, February 10, 2021

**Town Hall, 172 Main St.
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

- Present:** Mr. Doug Farrow, Mr. Greg Biggs, Mr. Jason Muscara, Mr. Kyle Napierata, and Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams.
Present via Zoom: Mr. Norm Ferron, Ms. Hoween Flexer, Ms. Janice Joly, Mr. Chris Viens and student Board members, Grace Gilman, and Rhiannon Martin.
- Others:
Present** Superintendent, Mr. Robert Angeli, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Paul Brenton, Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary and former Interim Superintendent, Dr. Diane Summa.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board of Education chair, Mr. Doug Farrow called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT-Three public comments were received, via email, to the Public Comment email address and forwarded to Board members and the superintendent prior to the meeting. The three public comments were from;

1. Keith Connolly, regarding remote learning and snow days
2. Dedrick Baublitz, regarding the Redmen mascot
3. WINY, regarding Streaming Board meetings and Channel 22

5. REPORT OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON- No report.

6. REPORT BY KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Students shared information regarding many events taking place at all schools and how the schools are recognizing Black History Month. For example, at KHS, Elodia Johnson-Riche, a guest speaker spoke about what it is like for a black woman starting her own business in the area.

Some high school students are frustrated with security settings on their iPads, saying it's too restrictive. Some students feel they should switch to full-time remote learning until more people can get the COVID19 vaccine. KHS winter sports are up and running.

The Future Business Leaders of America students celebrated FBLA week during the week.

KIS recognized their eight Students of the Month, from all grades. Parents and students at KCS have been using the SeeSaw learning application and it has been extremely beneficial with parent contact and involvement.

7. BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR UPDATE- No report

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

8.A. KHS Solar Project Update

Superintendent Angeli shared that there is a second amendment to the KHS Solar Agreement because the solar panels will be installed farther away from the building.

8.B. Update on KHS Public Water vs. Private Water System

Recently, Mary Calorio sent the superintendent a copy of the KHS Utility Study Public Water System final report prepared by CPH Engineers, Inc, for the Town of Killingly. The report included an executive summary study of a public water system versus a KHS private well system and the final cost analysis. The current annual cost of maintaining a private water system, including monitoring, operation and maintenance is considerably less than connecting to the public water main system. At this point in time, the engineer's recommendation is that the Town maintain the current private water system.

8.C. Update Regarding Phone System Upgrade Project

Superintendent Angeli reminded the Board of their past action approving upgrades for phone systems. This was part of the Board approved Department of Administrative Services, General Improvements to Alliance Districts' School Buildings Grant Program Application at the October 14 2020 Board meeting. He shared with the Board an amended RFP is needed, due to a requirement of meeting prevailing wage. Projects proposed at the October 14 meeting included upgrades or replacements for phone systems, cameras, radios, replacing water bubblers with water filling stations, and possibly ADA door handles. The total grant application was in the amount of \$477,600. Estimate for repair and upgrade internal phone system at GECC, KCS, KMS, KIS and KHS was \$200,281. Bids were received but not opened and the amended RFP will be going out and all bidders will be notified.

8.D. Legislative Update

Superintendent Angeli gave a summary of a document containing over 150 education bills that are moving forward through the legislative process. The bills, if passed will impact school districts. Examples of some bills that may impact Killingly are; bills concerning Alliance Districts, a bill concerning inclusion of Native American studies, a bill concerning excused absences and calculation of truancy rates, a bill concerning an act regarding a task force of standardized testing, an act regarding Mascot names. Later in the year, an Education Legislation Summary of all passed educational bills will be sent to the superintendent from Shipman and Goodwin.

8.E. Month of January 2021 Financial Report

Ms. Christine Clark, Financial Business Manager shared that there hasn't been much change since last month's report. Special Education Outplacement is relatively stable but is anticipated to exceed the budget, but this line item is much better than it was last year. Applying for excess cost reimbursement will prevent significant impact to the overall budget balance. There is one 2019-20 open purchase order in the amount of \$57,400 but is anticipated to close-out soon.

A transfer is anticipated for the Unexpended Education Fund, up to \$880,945 and approximately \$349,611 will be returned to the Town.

9. BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.A. Curriculum Sub-Committee

Mr. Greg Biggs and Mr. Paul Brenton shared that the subcommittee met and the subcommittee has forwarded to the whole Board, a recommendation to approve three new KHS robotic courses. (below)

9.A.1. Discussion and Possible Approval of Robotics I, Robotics II, and Robotics III Courses

KHS technology teacher, Mr. Robert Polselli joined the conversation , via Zoom shared information about the robotic curriculum. The proposed courses include fundamentals of mechanical and electrical engineering, design, coding, problem-solving, collaboration and much more. The courses are very hands-on learning and project based and will serve well all levels of student learning. The courses will prepare students for entering the engineering and manufacturing workforce.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to approve Robotics I , II, and III courses as one motion.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

MOTION: Mr. Muscara, seconded by Ms. Flexer to approve the Robotics I, II, and III courses as presented.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

9.B. Facilities Sub-Committee

Mr. Kyle Napierata shared that the next meeting will take place on February 22 at 5:00 p.m.

9.C. Fiscal Sub-Committee

Summary given by Ms. Clark earlier in the meeting.

9.D. Policy Sub-Committee

Mr. Jason Muscara shared the subcommittee has not met.

9.E. Personnel Sub-Committee

Mr. Doug Farrow shared that the subcommittee has not met.

10. ACTION ITEMS

10.A. 2021-22 District Calendar

MOTION: by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve the 2021-22 District Calendar as presented.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

10.B. Discussion and Possible Action of Restructuring the Killingly Childcare and Alternative Suspension Program and Positions.

Mr. Brenton shared how restructuring this position would result in savings, and more efficiency. Mr. Brenton shared that due to Covid-19, data for this year reflects no in school suspensions (ISS) nor out-of-school suspensions. In past three years, the numbers have ranged from a minimum of 68 students in ISS to 128 students in out-of-school suspensions, in the same year.

The previous combined salary of \$99,387 supported 4 programs including, KCP coordinator, ISS support, homeless liaison and FRC coordinator. The new proposed Killingly Coordinator of Childhood Programming salary is \$60,000 and would include 3 of the 4 programs. The salary for the ISS support at KHS is \$20,243, saving \$17,144. This would be enough to establish a full-time position to support climate at KHS.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked for a copy of the job description, as did Ms. Joly. Ms. Joly also asked for clarification regarding evaluation and certification. Mr. Brenton shared that the position falls under his supervision. Qualifications were included in job posting, but they are not certified positions. Mr. Farrow asked about the continuance of McKinney-Vento funding and if this funding source will support the position.

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Flexer to approve the new position of Killingly Coordinator of Childhood Programming. (salary of \$60,000)

Roll Call Vote

Yes - 8, Mr. Biggs, Ms. Flexer, Ms. Joly, Mr. Muscara, Mr. Napierata, Ms. Rivera-Abrams, Mr. Viens, and Mr. Farrow.

No – 1, Mr. Norm Ferron

Motion Carries

10.C. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Transfer Request

The networking hardware to be replaced supports the KPS internet infrastructure. E-Rate funding is an opportunity to refresh an older infrastructure at an approximately 80% discount. FY2020 funding is the last of a 5-year use-it-or-lose-it funding cycle.

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve as presented, a transfer in the amount of \$45,020.40 from the I.T Contracted Maintenance Service account to the I.T Repairs and Maintenance account.

Unanimous

Motion Carries

11. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 11.a. January 2021 Issued Checks
- 11.b. January 13, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- 11.c. January 27, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- 11.d. February 2021 Student Enrollment
- 11.e. February 2021 Employee of the Month Nominee

Yes - 8

Abstain - 1

Motion Carries

12. ANTICIPATED EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE SUPERINTENDENTS' PERFORMANCE

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to enter into executive session.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Board entered executive session at 8:54 p.m.
The Board returned to regular session at 10:03 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Mr. Biggs to adjourn.
Unanimous
Motion Carries.

The February 10, 2021 Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary