

## Regular Meeting

### KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

7:00 PM

172 Main St. Town Hall

### MINUTES

**Present:** Mr. Doug Farrow, Mr. Greg Biggs,(via Zoom) Mr. Norm Ferron, Ms. Hoween Flexer (via Zoom), Ms. Janice Joly, Mr. Jason Muscara, Mr. Kyle Napierata, and Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Mr. Chris Viens (7:35, via Zoom). Student Board Members, Madelyn Sumer and Grace Gilman, (via Zoom).  
Absent with Notification: Ms. Hoween Flexer.

**Others:** Superintendent, Robert Angeli, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Paul Brenton,  
**Present** Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Doug Farrow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL- see above

#### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT-No comments.

#### 5. RECOGNITION OF JANUARY 2021 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Carol Dragon was recognized as January 2021 Employee of the Month. Carol is a paraprofessional at Killingly Central School and has worked in the district for 45 years. Carol's past positions include bus aide, teacher's aide and Title I reading tutor. She is an integral member of the KCS team.

#### 6. REPORT BY KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Inspired by a Goodyear student with Moebius Syndrome, Goodyear Early Childhood Center is spearheading events related to Moebius Syndrome Awareness Day. A school-wide bulletin board entitled "*Creating a World Where Everyone is Treated Fairly Whatever Their Face Looks Like*" has been created. Moebius Syndrome is a rare neurological condition that affects cranial nerves.

On Tuesday, 1/26, KCS held their second Parents as Partners Series online workshop.

At KMS, students in grades 2-4 are taking the winter STAR assessment, both at home and at school.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked if future student reports could include information about school climate, staff and student interaction, and if hardcopies of their reports could be made available. Mr. Angeli shared that if Board members have questions for the students, to contact him and he would pass along those questions to the students.

## **7. KILLINGLY CENTRAL SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

KCS Principal, Ms. Emily Caviggia and Heidi Auclair-Golden, KCS Assistant Principal shared information about the start of the new year. Ms. Caviggia shared the challenges of learning during a pandemic and changes that have come about since last year. Transitioning to remote learning began last year and students were given iPads. Additional technology training was provided to staff and families. KCS, like other schools, have made the environment safer with increased sanitizing procedures and protocols. Extra classroom support including paraprofessionals, reading tutors and math interventionist are in the classrooms.

Created by 4 teachers/specialists, is a new on-line interactive program for parents and children. *The KCS Remote Learning Academy* offers support for students and families including color coded schedules/assignments, social emotional learning support, technology assistance, links to videos and resources. Parent feedback is very positive.

Due to the impact of the pandemic and remote learning, KCS staff focus considerably on Social Emotional Learning (SEL). In addition to SEL, staff also are focusing on Equity and Diversity, Proficiency Based Learning and Writing with Early Childhood.

Data shows that KCS monthly crisis calls have decreased significantly since 2016. Many factors are taken into consideration when analyzing the data, including smaller class size since last March.

To help support the community, KCS staff created a series of virtual workshops to help families called *Parents as Partners*. The workshops offer a wide range of support that include small group discussions, behavior and communication scenarios, links to resources, educator's recommendations. All of these tools support students' academic growth while learning at home.

## **8. BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR UPDATE**

Mr. Doug Farrow shared all Board members should have received their preliminary budget books and budget meetings will be on alternating Wednesdays.

### **8.A. Personnel Subcommittee**

Mr. Doug Farrow shared that the committee met last week. As a result of that meeting, there are three items that the personnel subcommittee members support and moved forward to the full Board as an action item on tonight's agenda. (10.a, 10.b and 10.d)

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Superintendent Robert Angeli.

### **9.A. Waiver for Whitsons Contract Renewal**

A waiver was provided by the federal government to all school districts regarding contractual renewals with food service providers. Confirmation is pending to extend existing contracts with food service providers for one year. More information is anticipated in the spring.

### **9.B. Update on District-wide Phone System**

Contractors will need to meet prevailing wage requirements, therefore will be a delay of the district phone system upgrade facilities project. An addendum was created and contractors were notified of this requirement. Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared concerns that meeting this requirement would now increase the cost of this project and requested a copy of the addendum. Ms. Rivera-Abrams also asked if Board approval is required for the addendum and is approval needed if the project exceeds the previous estimate.

Mr. Angeli and Mr. Brenton shared that prevailing wage requirement does not necessitate a cost higher than the previously estimated for this project and RFP addendums are quite common. This project is funded by the Alliance Districts' School Buildings Grant. Mr. Angeli will look into protocol regarding addendums.

## 10. ACTION ITEMS

**10.A.** Discussion and Possible Approval of Restructuring the Killingly Childcare and Alternative In school suspension program and positions.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to approve the restructuring of of Homeless Liaison, FRC Coordinator and KCP Coordinator position as presented.

Mr. Muscara asked how many students are supported by these programs or services. Mr. Farrow shared that he would like to allow the Board more time to review this item.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Joly seconded by Mr. Napierata to amend the motion to postpone this agenda item and that it be presented at the next Board meeting  
**Roll Call Vote**  
**Yes – Mr. Biggs, Mr. Ferron, Ms. Joly, Mr. Muscara, Mr. Napierata, Ms. Rivera- Abrams, Mr. Viens and Mr. Farrow.**  
**Motion Carries**

**10.B.** Discussion and Possible Approval of Reinstating Substitute Teacher Pay Rate.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, seconded by Mr. Biggs to reinstate the same substitute pay rates as presented, effective immediately through the end of the 2020-21 school year.  
**Yes – 7, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**10.C.** Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Completion of the KMS Roof ADA Project, No. #069-0068 CV.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve the completion and project close-out KMS ADA Project, No. #069-0068 CV.  
**Yes- 7, Unanimous**  
**No-0**  
**Abstain-1**  
**Motion Carries**

**10.D.** Discussion and Possible Approval of a Non-Certified Sick Bank Request.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve the non-certified sick bank as presented and as recommended by the Personnel Subcommittee.  
**Yes - 7, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

## **11. DISCUSSION and REVIEW OF 2021-22FY BUDGET BOOK AND UPDATE REGARDING MEETINGS**

Mr. Angeli reminded the Board members it was decided at the previous Board meeting that the Board would meet as a Whole on alternate Wednesdays when there is not a regular meeting. The meetings will take place at Central Office.

The superintendent shared the following dates relative to the budget development process. An approved Board of Education budget must be submitted to the Town Council by March 15, Public Hearing on April 8 and Annual Town meeting on May 3. Mr. Angeli is waiting for final confirmation from Town Manager, Mary Calorio in regards to the dates.

The superintendent's preliminary 2021-22 proposed budget is \$45,486,197. This is a 3.03% increase over the 20-21 approved budget, or \$1,338,923 more. The combination of contractual salaries and benefits is the greatest driver in the increase. Mr. Angeli's PowerPoint included monetary differences in several categories when compared to the 2020-21 budget. There are some unknowns that must be considered before a final budget is proposed. Those include COVID-19, pre-K funding, State and Federal grants, pensions, out of district placements, decision packages, health/dental/life /disability/HSA, and the MOU with EASTCONN.

Mr. Angeli is talking with Eastconn Director, Gary Mala, and Mary Calorio about hosting Eastconn and the Community Center at 79 Westfield Ave. Reserved student spaces in the existing MOU with EASTCONN's program at Westfield, extends considerable savings to Killingly.

Decision packages have not been included in the preliminary budget at this time. Mr. Angeli shared that the estimate for decision packages is \$672,417 and he will meet with administrators to discuss high-level priorities, and determine if any decision packages will be included in the budget. The loss of some revenues may impact the need to included decision packages. The Board and the superintendent will review and dive deeper into the budget over the next several weeks.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to adjourn.  
**Yes - 7, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

The January 27, 2020 Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
*Keely Doyle*  
Recording Secretary