

Regular Meeting

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

7:00 PM

Town Hall, 172 Main Street

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Doug Farrow, Mr. Jason Muscara, Mr. Kyle Napierata, and Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams

Via Zoom: Mr. Greg Biggs, Ms. Janice Joly, Ms Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Mr. Chris Viens Student Board members: Grace Gilman and Rhiannon Martin.

Others Present: Superintendent, Bob Angeli, Asst. Superintendent Mr. Paul Brenton, Doyle, Recording Secretary,

1. CALL TO ORDER-The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL-see above

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT- No comments.

5. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

5.1. February 2021 Employee of the Month

Noel Coraccio was recognized as February 2021 Employee of the Month. Noel started working at Killingly Memorial School as the head nurse during the 2017-2018 school year but was hired in 2015 as a summer school nurse. This year Noel has worn two hats, the COVID-19 liaison for the district, and RN Supervisor of Nurses. Noel has shown excellent judgment in efforts to be safe during unprecedented times and with ever changing information related to COVID-19.

5.2. FFA Students

Killingly Agricultural Education students, and Killingly FFA Chapter members, Rhiannon Martin and Dedrick Baublitz shared news about Killingly FFA Chapter events and activities. FFA is a national organization that promotes leadership skills, personal growth, academic achievement and career success. FFA week is celebrated nationally by all FFA chapter members during the last week of February. Students participate in state and national level competitions. Some competitions include

public speaking, CDE judging teams and agriscience fair competitions. Some activities were either cancelled or made virtual this year but the students increased their presence on social media and created a promotional FFA video. The video can be viewed on the FFA link on the vocational agricultural web page.

6. REPORT BY KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Room 6 at GECC is continuing their Early Scientific Inquiry unit by learning force of motion.

KCS students have been learning the importance of being kind to others.

KMS is celebrating “Read Across America” and holding virtual read-alouds. KMS will have a virtual “RULER” presentation/workshop for families on March 11 and parent teacher conferences will take place virtually on March 23.

KIS will have a virtual Bookfair on February 17 through March 12. Students in art class created artwork for black history month.

The KHS FBLA club is having a poster contest. Progress reports come out February 25. Indoor track practice starts February 24. The class of 2023 is hosting a Krispy Kreme fundraiser and all orders have to be submitted by February 26. Four students are the first ever KHS students to receive first place at the Student Television Network competition.

7. KILLINGLY MEMORIAL SCHOOL PRESENTATION

KMS principal, Tina Chahanovich gave the Board an update on many things happening at KMS. The staff and students have adapted well to hybrid and distance learning. Currently KMS is in hybrid learning. Students stay in their cohorts, including at lunch, while in recess and in special subject areas. On Wednesdays, while in remote, students can meet with their teacher, a unified arts teacher and any interventionist.

There are monthly PTCA meetings, virtual open houses, parent conferences and Q&A session for families as they navigate through hybrid and distance learning. There are many technology programs offered to support student learning. Students use Google classroom to access learning when they are at home. Ms. Chahanovich shared data on the number of students in each grade and totals in each cohort. Approximately 29 students are homeschooled.

Student attendance and communication between staff and parents is high priority and weekly attendance meetings occur among administration, attendance secretary, social worker, counselor and nurses. Students not engaging in remote learning are identified and traced and intervention practices are then implemented. Interventions may include phone calls to home, emails, video conferencing, parent meetings, outside agencies, home visits. Books and packets and various resources are made available for parents to come in and pick up. There are two additional tier three programs to support students with intense, diverse learning needs and social emotional learning needs.

8. BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR UPDATE- No update.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

9.1. Supervisor's Union MOA

A new MOA, for the nurse supervisor will be initiated to address the need for her to work many additional hours, including working on the weekends to take on COVID-19 tasks and responsibilities.

The superintendent shared information on developing information regarding vaccinations for teachers and all CT residents, age 55 and over beginning March 1. NDDH will most likely facilitate regional closed clinic. The superintendent will continue to partner with NDDH, and is awaiting additional notification.

Recently the superintendent has been discussing with administrative leaders the possibility of returning students full-time. Most likely, parents will still have an option to have their children participate via remote learning.

10. ACTION ITEMS

10.1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Napierata shared that members of the Facility subcommittee reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan this past Monday and he gave a recap of the noteworthy items discussed at that meeting. Mr. Angeli shared more information about specific projects proposed for each building. The CIP is due to the Town by March 8th and basically, is a tool to communicate and identify repairs needed to maintain the integrity of six buildings in the district. Repairs, and updates address deteriorating conditions, improve safety, meet ADA compliancy, and improve operational efficiency. At this time, the CIP reflects 27 projects with implementation through the 2025-26 school year. It is yet to be determined if some projects at the Westfield Ave. location will be funded by the Town. This depends on the Town's possible relocation of the Community Center to the Westfield Ave. KCS might be considered as a renovate-as-new project, similar to the KMS project. The only new project added is a hydraulic elevator at the Westfield Ave. location. The CIP plan is a changeable document and revisions including priorities occur from year to year. Estimates do not include the potential of state reimbursement. Some projects in the past have been supported through grants. Ms. Rivera-Abrams expressed her concerns to approve such projects, especially not knowing the source of funding and not knowing exact costs. Ms. Rivera-Abrams would like to see this item tabled until firm numbers are determined.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Viens to approve the Capital Improvement Plan as presented and recommended by the Facilities subcommittee.

Roll Call Vote

Yes – 8, Doug Farrow, Greg Biggs, Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Janice Joly, Jason Muscara, Kyle Napierata, Chris Viens.

No – 1, Ms. Rivera-Abrams

Motion Carries

10.2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding 2021-22 Tuition Rates

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs to approve the 2021-22 Tuition Rates as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yes – 9, Doug Farrow, Greg Biggs, Norm Ferron, Hoween Flexer, Janice Joly, Jason Muscara, Kyle Napierata, Ms. Rivera-Abrams
Chris Viens.

Motion Carries

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Flexer to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.
Unanimous

Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary