

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
7:00 PM
Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main St.
2nd Floor, Community Mtg. Room

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Norm Ferron, Ms. Laura Dombowski, Ms. Susan Lannon, Ms. Kelly Martin, Mr. Jason Muscara, Mr. Kyle Napierata, and Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams.

Absent with Notification: Ms. Jennifer Hegedus

Present Via Zoom: Mr. Christopher Viens (7:06 p.m.)

Others

Present: Assistant Superintendent Susan Nash-Ditzel, and Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Recording Secretary.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Ferron called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Please see above.
3. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**
 - A. 2022-23 Paraprofessional of the Year, Elizabeth Durand
Ms. Kathleen Cote, Director of Pupil Services, introduced Elizabeth Durand. She shared Ms. Durand's attributes, which made her the obvious choice as Paraprofessional of the Year.
 - B. 2022-23 Teacher of the Year, Kirk Walker
Dr. Sue Nash-Ditzel introduced Kirk Walker, and read words from colleagues, parents, and students.
4. **PRESENTATION OF KMS RENOVATION, PHASE II**

Antinozzi Associates presented the Board construction plans for Phase II of the KMS project with a particular focus on programming space. The addition is approximately 18,000 square feet. The current building will have new floors, doors, smart boards, and paint. They did point out the gymnasium floor will not be new. Additionally, the building will have new duct work and air conditioning. The Board asked specific questions regarding parental involvement, and school safety. Additional questions were asked about the glass entrances and doors, both interior and exterior, specifically in regards to school safety. Representatives explained the project does propose security glass, but it is not bullet proof. Inside doors were explained as well.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jasmine Berti, resident and parent, spoke regarding armed security guards and parent pick-up procedure at KMS.

Charlie Hutchins, resident, spoke regarding bringing back whole milk to the cafeteria for meals.

6. REPORT OF STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

GECC – Off to a great start, and a high percentage of parents participated in their open house. Students and staff are excited to use their outdoor classrooms.

KCS – Open House is next week. Staff were excited to see their old friends and welcome new ones into the KCS family.

KMS – Open House was prior to this meeting, and was for all grades.

KMS 4th grade – Off to a great start in their new space. We continue to work on the parent drop-off and pick-up. Students and staff are excited to see their friends at recess and upcoming school assemblies.

KIS – Had an amazing start to the year. They welcomed 10 new teachers and 3 new paraprofessionals. The 5th graders are doing well adjusting to their new school. The soccer and cross country program have a large number of participants which is exciting.

KHS – On September 8th, KHS welcomed the largest freshman class in some time (245) with the other classes joining on September 9th. The football team started the season with a resounding victory over Montville. The Big Red Marching Band also provided an amazing half-time performance. Students are finalizing any schedule changes, and settling in nicely to the new school year.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Opening of Schools – Administrators welcomed 43 new teachers during new teacher orientation. Convocation for the entire district was September 2nd. After the typical speeches, staff broke out into 18 classrooms to participate in a hands-on activity focused on cognitive engagement for students. A first day of school video was shared with the Board. Currently, transportation is short three drivers in the morning and five drivers in the afternoon. Transportation is trying really hard not to cancel runs. They are trying cluster stops, and different pick-up and drop-off times. A huge thank you to the parents for their support during this time. The Board appreciated the video and the transportation problem-solving. Dr. Nash reviewed vacancies for both certified staff and paraprofessionals.

B. Notification of a Non-Sponsored Board & Non-Sponsored Trip, Summer of 2024
Per Board policy, Dr. Nash informed the Board of a Non-Sponsored Trip in 2024.

8. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE ALLIANCE DISTRICT GRANT

The focus of the Alliance Grant is on after school programs. Dr. Nash shared data from KIS of their after-school program. Data will be used to help expand programming to KMS and KCS. A variety of classes will be offered at KIS, KMS, and KCS. The grant will fund a supervisor, teachers, and transportation home after programming. KIS and KHS will have a fall and spring Wellness Day with a variety of activities. This builds upon the successful Wellness Day last spring at KHS. Academic tutoring is also included in the Alliance Grant. The Board had questions regarding approval and how to read the grant.

Motion made by Ms. Rivera-Abrams and seconded by Ms. Dombowski to approve the Alliance Grant as presented.

Motion Carries: 8-0

9. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Ms. George spoke about the two proclamations made by the Town Council for Suicide Awareness Month and Childhood Obesity Month. She explained the Town Council resolution to restore whole milk to schools to the Board and offered to share what the Town Council did. Appointments for commissions were made as well. A road-side mower purchase was approved. The Town Council gave the Town Manager authority to enter into an MOU with a specific Town Hall employee union. The Town Manager asked to use what she would have received as a wage increase, and give it to the employees. On October 11, 2022, there will be a public hearing on four different issues. Two are in regards to the use of ARP Funding, and two regarding easements.

10. BOARD CHAIR AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Discussion Regarding the Formation of an Ad-hoc Committee to Further Explore Mental Health Counseling Options - Mr. Ferron asked if there were any volunteers for this committee regarding finding alternatives to the SBHC. There needs to be a chair. Through discussion, it was determined Ms. Martin would be chair of the ad-hoc committee. Ms. Martin (chair), Ms. Dombkowski, Mr. Ferron and Ms. Lannon expressed interest in serving on this committee.

Motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Ms. Dombowski to form an ad-hoc committee to discuss mental health alternatives.

Motion Carries: 8-0

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. August 17, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- B. First Day of School, September 2022 Student Enrollment
- C. KHS Vo-Ag/FFA Class to Field Trip Request to Big E in Springfield, MA
- D. KHS Marching Band Field Trip Request to Big E in Springfield, MA
- E. KHS Marching Band Field Trip Request to Amherst, MA
- F. KHS Marching Band Field Trip Request to Autumn Fest, Woonsocket, RI
- G. KHS Golf Team Trip Request to Myrtle Beach, SC, April 2023

Mr. Viens pulled item 11.A - August 17, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes. He was not present at the meeting and will abstain from the vote.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams pulled item 11.B – First Day of School, September 2022 Student Enrollment. She requested tuition amounts for the agency and local tuitions for the out-of-district students.

**Motion made by Mr. Muscara and seconded by Ms. Martin to approve items:
C. KHS Vo-Ag/FFA Class to Field Trip Request to Big E in Springfield, MA
D. KHS Marching Band Field Trip Request to Big E in Springfield, MA
E. KHS Marching Band Field Trip Request to Amherst, MA
F. KHS Marching Band Field Trip Request to Autumn Fest, Woonsocket, RI
G. KHS Golf Team Trip Request to Myrtle Beach, SC, April 2023
on the consent agenda as presented.**

Motion Carries: 8-0

Motion made by Mr. Muscara and seconded by Mr. Napierata to approve 11.A, August 17, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes, on the consent agenda.

Motion Carries: 7-0-1

Motion made by Ms. Rivera-Abrams and seconded by Mr. Muscara to approve 11.B, First Day of School, September 2022 Student Enrollment, on the consent agenda.

Motion Carries: 8-0

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS BUS DRIVERS CONTRACT

Motion made by Mr. Muscara and seconded by Ms. Martin to enter into executive session to discuss Local 1303-261 Bus Drivers, Mechanics, and Van Drivers ratified contract.

Motion Carries: 8-0

The Killingly Board of Education entered executive session at 9:08 p.m.

The Killingly Board of Education came out of executive session at 9:19 p.m.

Motion made by Ms. Lannon and seconded by Ms. Dombowksi to approve Local 1303-261 Bus Drivers, Mechanics, and Van Drivers ratified union agreement as presented and discussed.

Motion carries: 8-0

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Lannon and seconded by Ms. Martin to adjourn.

Motion carries: 8-0

The Killingly Board of Education adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Thompson

Recording Secretary