

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
7:00 PM
Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main St.
2nd Floor, Community Mtg. Room

MINUTES

MEMBERS Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista, Susan Lannon,
PRESENT: Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata,
Danny Rovero. Student Board Reps, Melody Kettle, and Sherry Simoneau.
Laura Lawrence- Participated via phone.

OTHERS Superintendent Susan Nash-Ditzel, Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Guiot,
PRESENT: and Recording Secretary Keely Doyle.

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chair, Kelly Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL-** See above.

3. **WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Kelly Martin welcomed new Board members, Kevin Marcoux, Misty Murdock and Meredith Giambattista. She reminded new Board members they are working together to better the district.

Tonight's meeting is the first official Board meeting for Kevin Marcoux and Meredith Giambattista. Misty's first official meeting as an acting Board member was at the November 15 Board meeting.

4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

A. Election of Board of Education Chairperson

Kelly Martin asked for nominations for BOE Chairperson.

Danny Rovero, nominated Sue Lannon for Board Chair, seconded by Kevin Marcoux.

Laura Lawrence's votes were communicated, via phone and reflected on a ballot for both nominations.

MOTION: by Laura Dombkowski, seconded by Misty Murdock to close nominations
Unanimous

Ms. Lannon reminded Board members that they need to support the Superintendent's vision for the district and put the district and student's best interest first. She added that Board members need to move forward, putting aside their differences. It was asked of Ms. Lannon how she would lead and conduct herself if she were to be elected as Chair. Ms. Martin asked again if there were any other nominations. Board members filled out ballots and the results were collected and read aloud by Superintendent Susan Nash.

5 Yes votes for Susan Lannon
1 No vote
3 Blank votes

Susan Lannon is the new Board Chairperson for the Killingly Board of Education.

B. Election of Board of Education Vice Chairperson

Kevin Marcoux nominated Danny Rovero for Vice Chair, seconded by Meredith Giambattista.

MOTION: by Laura Dombkloski, seconded by Susan Lannon to close nominations.
Unanimous-Motion Carries

Board members wrote their votes on ballots. The results were collected and read aloud by Superintendent Susan Nash.

6 Yes votes for Danny Rovero
3 Blank

Danny Rovero is the new Vice Chair for the Killingly Board of Education.

5. FIVE-MINUTE RECESS

MOTION: by Laura Dombkloski, seconded by Susan Lannon to have a 5-minute recess for re-seating.
Unanimous-Motion Carries

Board Chair Susan Lannon called the meeting to order and the meeting resumed.

6. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS

Kelly Martin shared that "Board Shout-Outs is a fairly new agenda item and will continue to be on future agendas. This is an opportunity to acknowledge members of the Killingly Public School's community who go above and beyond. KIS Principal, Mr. Bryant Sheldon was in attendance and recognized by the Board. Mr. Sheldon was appointed KIS principal this past summer. He is being recognized for creating positive changes at KIS. Mr. Sheldon is changing the atmosphere and is a true inspiration to others. He is committed to making a difference. Students have also taken notice of these changes. His leadership style, and initiatives to the district are to be commended and recognized.

7. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Student Board members, Melody Kettle, Sherry Simoneau gave an update of each school's recent events and news.

Goodyear Early Childhood Center students attended the winter holiday concert at KHS today. For some of the students, this was their first time on a bus.

Central School staff and students are decorating their hallways for the season. KCS students went to KHS and enjoyed the holiday performance. First graders will be performing their own concert for their families.

Killingly Memorial School students participated in a Thanksgiving Manners Luncheon. Parents and staff assisted and served a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Parent/Teacher conferences were very well attended. Hats, mittens and scarves are being collected for community residents.

Killingly Intermediate School celebrated its annual Family Fun Night on December 7, with holiday-themed activities enjoyed by all. The Forgive and Forget Club started its mentoring program with 8th grade students working with 5th grade students as mentors. A presentation to the Board is anticipated in January about this program.

Killingly High School's FFA Holiday Shopping Night was a huge success. The KHS Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, Percussion Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Choir will be performing in the Winter Celebration Concert on December 14, tickets are \$5.00.

MOTION: by Kelly Martin seconded by Kyle Napierata to add to tonight's agenda recognition of a special visitor
Unanimous-Motion Carries

Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams, very recent, but now former Board member was in the audience. The Board and Superintendent Sue Nash thanked Ms. Abrams for her dedication to the Killingly Public Schools community and students. She was presented a gift of appreciation.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT-**

Mr. John Burns 544 L'Homme Street.

Mr. Burns is a former Board member and served as a Board Chair for several years. He asked that the Board keep residents informed of what's going on in the district and that their job will be difficult but they need to work together to improve Killingly schools.

9. **TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Town Council Chair, Jason Anderson shared that the the Town Council held their organization meeting on December 4, 2023. Mr. Anderson was re-elected as Chair. Town Council adopted dates and times for their meetings for the next two years. Town Council recognized three Killingly teachers as Teachers of the Year from St James, Ellis Tech and Killingly Public Schools. The town attorney was secured.

10. BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

A. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

1. Ms. Lannon asked Board members to fill out the forms included in their packets and indicate what committee they would like to serve on and to explain why. The forms can be returned to her over the next week or so, allowing more time for members to think about their choices.

11. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2023

Ms. Christine Clark, Manager of Financial Affairs shared some highlights from the monthly financial report.

Most accounts are at expected levels and there are no significant changes since last month's report.

Using outside transportation or third-party services continue to impact the transportation budget. Special education outplacements have exceeded the appropriations as of Nov. 30 by \$613,722 requiring application for excess cost reimbursement.

Teacher salaries shows a budget surplus of \$365,000 mostly due to unfilled positions or vacancies.

Analysis of local and agency placement tuition will be ongoing as variables change through out the year. Tuition may exceed the budget by \$613,722 but excess costs, grant modifications and reimbursements percentages alters projections.

There are 33 outstanding purchase orders from the 2022-34 FY, totaling \$329,901. Some are for purchases or services not yet received in their entirety and items on backorder.

12. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MONTHLY CHECK AUTHORIZATION

MOTION: by Laura Dombkowski, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the checks for the month of November 2023.

Unanimous-Motion Carries.

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF PERKINS GRANT

Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Guiot shared information about the Perkins Grant FY 2024 and how funds would be used. The Perkins Secondary Grant totals \$49,147.00. Funds would support our College Career Pathway (CCP) and CTE program. Instructional salaries or additional stipends, for coordinators and advisors, training conferences, transportation for student conventions, after-school activities, professional development, lab licenses, RealCare Babies, Laser Cutter.

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Meredith Giambattista to accept the Perkins Secondary Grant application as presented.

Unanimous-Motion Carries.

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE CONTINUANCE I

The continuance of the McKinney-Vento grant ensures the district will continue to support resources for homeless families. The total amount is \$15,000. Some funds will support the backpack distribution initiative and help support the salary for the District Homeless Liaison.

MOTION: by seconded by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Kyle Napierata

to approve the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistant Continuance as presented.

Unanimous-Motion Carries.

15. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF A \$79,000 TRANSFER TO SUPPORT A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER FOR THE ACADEMIC INTENSIVE LEARNING PROGRAM AT KMS.

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to approve a \$79,000 transfer to support a special education teacher for the intensive learning program at KMS.

Unanimous-Motion Carries.

16. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF A \$56,438.59 TRANSFER TO SUPPORT A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT KILLINGLY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the \$56,438.59 transfer to support a special education teacher at Killingly Intermediate School.

Unanimous-Motion Carries.

17. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF FIELD TRIP REQUEST TO SEEKONK, MA ON JANUARY 6, 2024

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Meredith Giambattista to approve the KHS Field Trip request as presented.

Unanimous-Motion Carries.

18. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Sue Nash-Ditzel shared important information regarding the new legislation effective July 1, 2024, moving the January kindergarten entrance date to Sept. 1, meaning children who reach age five on or before the first day of September (instead of January) of any school year is eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Flyers will be sent home about this new law and Superintendent Nash asked to help spread the word. This new law will have a ripple effect, but not just in 24-25 school year, but in subsequent years. Superintendent Nash anticipates 40-50 students will be impacted by the new law. Families may not be able to afford to send their child for another year of preschool and there are also limited pre-school open-slots. Some options are to shift the roles of kindergarten teachers. There is an option included in the new law that a child who is not five years by September 1st that a parent can request in writing to the principal that the child be admitted, but an assessment must be conducted to see if the child is ready. The KPS administrative team have been discussing this and coming up with creative ways to help families and students.

Dr. Nash informed the Board that last week a walk-through took place at KMS with members of the Town's PBC to check progress on the KMS renovation project. Teachers will be moving out of their current classrooms so renovations can begin in those rooms. Teachers will be given time during Christmas break to pack their belongings and supplies and move into the other classrooms. The classrooms they are moving into are not done but they are functional.

Budget presentations to the Board will begin in February.

Superintendent Nash is proposing a \$0-based budgeting approach for supplies. Some positions currently being funded through ARP ESSER may be affected.

19. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. November 15, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. December 1, 2023 Student Enrollment

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Laura Dombkowski to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Yes- 7
Abstain-2 (Kevin Marcoux and Meredith Giambattista.)
Unanimous-Motion Carries

20. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Laura Dombkowski to adjourn.
Unanimous-Motion Carries

The December 23, 2023 Killingly Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary