

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
7:00 PM
Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main St.
2nd Floor, Community Mtg. Room

REVISED DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista, Susan Lannon, Laura Lawrence, Kevin Marcoux, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Danny Rovero and Student Board Member, Anya Oliverson.
Absent-Kelly Martin.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chairperson Susan Lannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Misty Murdock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL- See above

3. PUBLIC COMMENT- No comments.

4. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS

Board member, Laura Dombkowski gave a “shout-out” to recognize Camille Geddes. Camille was hired in December 2003 as Food Service Manager for KHS. Camille is a dedicated employee and hard worker and always has a positive outlook.

5. KILLINGLY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL'S "*FORGIVE & FORGET*" INITIATIVE PRESENTATION

Patti Smith, social worker and Eric Bryant, counselor from KIS shared information about the Forgive and Forget Program at KIS. The program’s mission is about helping others, fostering a culture of compassion and kindness at KIS. The program began as a peer run support group 2012 as a result of a student’s interest in anti-bullying. In 2022 the program was honored by the State of Connecticut Challenge to Excellence award. Grade 8 students, Students Natick Pandya, Sophia Moran, Katie Hill and Loretta Lannon spoke about what students have accomplished recently. Students held a coat drive and collected 171 coats for the Killingly Community store. Students also helped get the word out about the dangers of vaping. Students participate in *Kindness Activity* and read books to students in 5th grade. The program also offers mentoring and matches 8th grade students with 5th grade

students, allowing 5th graders to feel a connection with other students. Students in the program raised \$5,000 to fund a well in Uganda and will have another fundraiser to help another village in Uganda.

6. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 8th Gr. ON-LINE FUNDRAISER

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the 8th grade on-line popcorn fundraiser as presented.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

7. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Student Board member, Anya Oliverson shared some highlights of school events and news in the district.

KCS students and staff will be celebrating by having a magician host an assembly in February. The show is aligned with science standards. Some classrooms will begin implementing two pilot reading programs on January 17th.

KMS grade 3 moved into their permanent spaces in the new addition, while grade 2 moved into temporary swing spaces that have been remodeled. Music, art, science, and library also have moved into their new space. The KHS Robotics team visited the KMS afterschool robotics club.

KIS faculty raised almost \$1600 in gift cards which were donated to KIS families in need.

KHS exams will begin on January 22nd and end on January 26th. AP students were recognized at Great Things Happen Here monthly assembly. Molly Crabtree and Julia Young KTV covering Wreaths Across America was broadcast on CT Fox 61 news. Music students auditioned and earned a spot on the Connecticut Eastern Region Choir, Band or Orchestra.

The 2nd annual KHS Robotics Competition is on January 20th at KHS all day, 7am-5pm.

8. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT- Michelle Murphy (new liaison)

The Town Council recognized and thanked firefighters and first responders for doing an amazing job at a devastating fire this past fall. Town Council continues to fill vacant commissions. The Town received a \$210,000 grant to fund various town improvements. The Bear Hill Road bridge will be closed for 3 months.

9. BOARD CHAIR AND COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

- A. Curriculum Committee
- B. Facilities Committee
- C. Fiscal Committee
- D. Personnel Committee
- E. Policy Committee
- F. Liaison Confirmations for Town Council, CABE, EASTCONN, Parks & Rec. & PBC

Susan Lannon announced that committees have been formed and committee members should hold their first meeting prior to the February 28 Board meeting. All committees are to work with Dr. Nash for suggesting dates and times of meetings and creating agendas.

Ms. Lannon asked that committees vote for a chair at their first meeting. Economic Development was added to the Liaison list. Misty Murdock will be the Economic Development liaison. Kyle Napierata

will be liaison for PBC. Danny Rovero is liaison for Town Council. Kevin Marcoux will be the Parks & Rec liaison. CABE liaison is Meredith Giambattista. The Fiscal Committee will meet as a whole board starting in February to begin the process for building a 2024-25 budget. Negotiations will be starting soon. Ms. Burnham will be reaching out to personnel committee members to schedule a meeting.

At this time, Ms. Lannon requested that there be two items added to tonight's agenda. The first item was: *Discussion and Possible action expanding the scope of Shipman and Goodwin representation.* This will be added to tonight's agenda if a 2/3 in favor vote is met.

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to amend the agenda and add Discussion and Possible action expanding the scope of Shipman and Goodwin representation.

3- No

5- Yes

Motion Carries

The second item requested by Ms. Lannon was: *Discussion (in executive session) and possible action regarding litigation matters surrounding the 10-4b complaint.*

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Meredith Giambattista to add discussion (in executive session) and possible action regarding litigation matters surrounding the 10-4b complaint.

Unanimous

Motion Carries

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING \$32,249.62 TRANSFER TO SUPPORT A .55 FTE SOCIAL WORKER AT GECC

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux seconded by Laura Lawrence to approve the \$32,249.62 transfer as presented.

Unanimous

Motion Carries

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF ARPA-RIGHT TO READ GRANT

Funds are part of the American Rescue Plan Act. Connecticut was awarded 20M. School districts can use funds to support new literacy curriculum at the elementary level. Killingly's grant total is \$101,000. There will be 2 new pilot programs implementing curriculum approved by the State. Funds will help support professional development, teacher pilot instructional materials, and language art trade books at KMS and KCS. The pilot ends in March and at that time members of the curriculum committee will review data and make a recommendation to the Board.

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Laura Lawrence to approve the ARPA, Right-To-Read Grant as presented.

Unanimous

Motion Carries

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Nash shared information about a new incentive to help lessen the number of students who are regularly tardy. *Just Be On Time* is an incentive where students can enter raffles to win prizes if they

attend school and are not late. In January last year, 170 students arrived late or were tardy at KHS. This January the number dropped to 73. The numbers have also gone down at KIS and KMS from last year.

KMS renovations are going well and the new rooms look colorful and bright. Students were very excited to see their new classrooms. Completion of the KMS renovation is anticipated next year.

Dr. Nash shared data and gave a presentation regarding a *Climate Survey*. The survey has been given in both the spring and fall for the past three years. The survey was open to students, families and staff. Areas of focus on the survey were; Respect; Connectedness; Awareness of Behavior and Rules and Feeling Safe. The data will be brought to the community engagement committee.

Budget workshops with the Board will begin in February. Building administrators and department leaders will be invited to meetings.

Dr. Nash showed a video showing the positive impact that the Board's decision had from last year to approve a full-time Family Consumer Science teacher at KHS. The FCS class benefits many students.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. December 13, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. January 2024 Student Enrollment
- C. Employee of the Month Nominee

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

- 14.** Ms. Lannon entertained a motion to expand the contract with Shipman and Goodwin to all areas, less the defense of the 10-4b complaint, effective immediately. With this expansion the understanding is Board leadership, the Superintendent and /or designees may contact the firm for legal advice, representation and other legal matters.

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to expand the contract with Shipman and Goodwin to all areas, less the defense of the 10-4b complaint, effective immediately. With this expansion the understanding is Board leadership, the Superintendent and/or designees may contact the firm for legal advice, representation and other legal matters.

Roll Call Vote

No-3 L. Dombkowski, L. Lawrence, K. Napierata

Yes-5 M. Giambattista, K. Marcoux, Misty Murdock, D. Rovero & S. Lannon.

Motion Carries

- 15. Discussion (in executive session) and possible action regarding litigation around the 10-4b complaint.**

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Kyle Napierata, to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation around the 10-4b complaint, with invitation to Dr. Nash.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

MOTION: to amend the motion to include Mr. Guiot to executive session.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

The Board entered executive session at 8:12 p.m

The Board came out of executive session at 9:29 p.m.

Ms. Lannon entertained a motion to retain Shipman & Goodwin to request a continuance of the January 17, 2024 10-4b complaint hearing and attempt negotiation and resolution to the 10-4b complaint on behalf of the Killingly Schools Board of Education.

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to retain Shipman & Goodwin to request a continuance of the January 17, 2024 10-4b complaint hearing and attempt negotiation and resolution to the 10-4b complaint on behalf of the Killingly Schools Board of Education.

Roll Call Vote

No-3 L. Dombkowski, L. Lawrence, K. Napierata

Yes-5 M.Giambattista, K. Marcoux, Misty Murdock, D. Rovero & S. Lannon.

Motion Carries

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded Laura Lawrence to adjourn at 9:31 p.m.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary