

**Regular Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main St.**  
**2nd Floor Community Mtg. Room**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Ms. Laura Dombkowski, Ms. Susan Lannon, Ms. Laura Lawrence, Ms. Misty Murdock, Ms. Meredith Giambattista, Mr. Kevin Marcoux, Ms. Kelly Martin, Mr. Danny Rovero. Student Board members, Mr. Phillip Purcell, and Melody Kettle. Absent with Notification, Mr. Kyle Napierata.

**Others Present:** Superintendent Susan Nash-Ditzel, Asst. Superintendent Mr. Jeffrey Guiot and Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary.

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

Board Chair, Susan Lannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL-** Please see above.

**3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS**

Susan Lannon gave shout to Emily Ross, who has many different roles including Killingly Public Schools, FRC Site Coordinator, Killingly Childcare Program Coordinator, School Readiness Liaison McKinney-Vento Liaison. Emily works very hard even outside of her normal work hours. Emily is always willing to help out in the district and provides many resources for families in need.

**4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

**A. Recipients of the 2024 CAPSS Student Leadership Awards(6)**

Dr. Nash revealed that 6 Killingly students were recognized last night at the annual Student Leadership Awards Recognition ceremony. Nine other Superintendents from surrounding districts were in attendance to recognize their students too. It was very well attended. The students are selected based on their academic success, school leadership and service to others. This year's students were:

Everly Mayo & Jaxson Perreault from KMS, both in grade 4.

Katie Hill & Michael Gottlieb from KIS, both in grade 8.

Phillip Purcell . gr. 11 & Grace Sumner, grade 12 at KHS.

**B. March 2024 Employee of the Month, Jennifer Wilson**

Members of the Board recognized and congratulated, Ms. Jennifer Wilson as March 2024 Employee of the Month. Jennifer works with 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders at KIS as a paraprofessional. Jen approaches every day with grace, perseverance, and professionalism. Jen forms strong bonds with all her students and holds them to high expectations. Jen is a trusted adult who listens to her students' concerns to support them and ensure that they are available to learn.

**5. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Goodyear: On March 22nd, Goodyear staff spent the morning learning about nature-based learning. Teachers toured a nature pre-school in Storrs.

KCS had a large attendance of families who attended parent/teacher conferences on March 25 & 26<sup>th</sup>. Spring Clubs begin April 2nd.

KMS held parent teacher conferences last week. Grade 3 is visiting the Loos Center for the Arts in Woodstock on March 28 to watch a performance by the Azul String Quartet. Professional Development on Friday was presented by the math interventionists and reading specialists.

KIS Forgive and Forget students raised enough money to support the construction of another fresh water well for a village in the African country of Uganda. The annual spring musical is “Beauty and the Beast Junior,” and will be presented on April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>.

KHS KTV program competed in a national competition. There were over 200 schools and 3000 students who competed. The KHS Music Department were very successful at the Festival of Music competition in Virginia. KHS had a guest speaker sponsored by our Future Business Leaders of America.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT-** No comments.

**7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

Community Engagment Committee members Michael Lefevre, Sally Sherman, Kris Cicchetti, Chad Neal, Christina Main, Bryant Sheldon shared what the committee does and shared the initiatives of the committee. The committee was established in 2023. It’s a partnership with the community, students, parents and businesses in the community. The committee showcases achievements in the Killingly Public Schools and serves not just Killingly, but 11 other communities. The committee collaborates with members of local businesses and organizations and gives presentations showing what the committee can offer by partnering with them. Presentations have been made on WINY radio, at Killingly Business Association meetings, and with the Killingly Alumni Association and Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse. These are opportunities to spread the news about programs and resources offered in the District. Board members are invited to attend the N.E Chamber of Commerce’s “Connecting Local Workforce to Our Future Generation” event on April 11 from 8-10:0am at Killingly High School. Each school will be showcased. Students will be networking with businesses. On Monday, August 19 at 4:00 the Committee is planning ‘Great Things Happen Here, Community Extravaganza’ at Killingly High School. There is a link on the Killingly Public Schools website with many resources and much more information.

**8. BOARD CHAIR AND COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES**

- A. Curriculum Committee- The committee met tonight and a recommendation to the full board to approve new curriculum will be requested for the Board next meeting.
- B. Facilities Committee- No update
- C. Fiscal Committee- Tuesday , April 2<sup>nd</sup> the Board will present their budget at 7:00 pm to Town Council.
- D. Personnel Committee- No updates
- E. Policy Committee-There is a Policy Committee meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 at Central Office.

**9. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE ANNUAL HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION**

**MOTION:** by Kelly Martin, seconded by Kevin Marcoux that...

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Killingly Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups."

**Yes- 8, Motion Carries**

**MOTION:** by, Meredith Giambattista seconded by Kevin Marcoux that...

The Killingly Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

**Yes- 8, Motion Carries**

**10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF PROPOSED 2024-25 TUITION RATES**

The Board reviewed past tuition rates and discussed the new proposed rates. The highschool's tuition is based on a formula of operation cost, and capital cost.

The 2024-25 proposed tuition for KHS is  $\$14,876 + \$2,004 = \$16,880$ .

Killingly Intermediate School for 2024-25 =  $\$12,262.75$

Killingly Memorial School & Killingly Central School proposed tuition for 2024-25 is  $\$12,484.48$

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Danny Rovero to approve the 2024-25 tuition rates as presented.

**Yes- 8, Motion Carries**

**11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING IDEA PART B GRANT-TSA & ESP SUPPORT**

The grant was offered by the State to support all students considered to be in transition from school, targeted for students from 14-22 year old, who have IEPs. Some students may qualify for transition services under the IEP until they turn 22 years old. A portion of the grant will enhance the student transition program and support additional training and summer work days for paraprofessionals. The grant total is  $\$15,000$ .

**MOTION:** by Danny Rovero, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the IDEA Part B Grant.

**Yes- 8, Motion Carries**

**12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

**12.A Summary of Social, Emotional and Behavioral Programming, Supports and Services for Killingly**

Dr. Susan Nash-Ditzel presented a comprehensive summary of Social, Emotional and Behavioral Programming, Supports and Services for K-12. Dr. Nash-Ditzel elaborated what the Behavioral Health Pilot (BHP) embodies. KPS created a partnership with the Child Health and Development Institute to support the implementation of behavioral and mental health supports and services for students and staff, district-wide. The presentation included a more wide-ranging look at the many different components of mental health initiatives and tiered supports. 285 staff have been trained in areas of: mobile crisis, trauma and its impact on behavior and learning, positive school climate and multi-tiered systems of support.

Teachers assess students skills in specific competencies. Students whose assessment results are in “need of instruction” are assessed again with a more detailed assessment. Those students may need targeted education with more supports.

The report also included information regarding KPS implementation of the Columbia Suicide Rating Scale to determine the suicide risk of students. Each building has a crisis team to respond to a crisis within the school community. BHP is no cost and includes free training and technical assistance, and evaluation.

The bi-annual SERAC survey was provided in the fall to students in grades 7-12. The survey is provided by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. A section of the survey focuses on mental health and suicide. Comparison results to the 2021 survey showed a decline in questions related to suicide. There is important work being done and we are starting to see good results.

CHR Update: CHR is Killingly Public School’s school-based health center. CHR offers specialized treatment for anxiety, depression, school issues, family issues, functional family therapy, and other issues students may be experiencing. CHR counselors are extending services for after school hours and will be increasing the amount of days spent at KHS & KIS. Currently there is a short waiting list for students.

To date there have been close to 100 visits made by Christina Main, Attendance Coordinator. Her efforts have made a huge difference with chronic attendance.

Dr. Nash shared more information about the new required kindergarten entry age. KCS will offer the *Early Experience* for one year, for students born between September 2 and December 31. It will be a full school day, with transportation, and lunch. The State will allow parents to ask for a waiver for students born between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 but those students will need to be assessed to see if they are developmentally ready for regular kindergarten.

**13. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. March 13, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the consent agenda as presented.  
**Yes-8, Motion Carries**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux seconded by Meredith Giambattista to adjourn at 8:42pm.  
**Yes-8, Motion Carries**

Respectfully submitted by,

*Keely Doyle*

Recording Secretary