

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

MINUTES

Present: Ms. Laura Dombkowski, Ms. Meredith Giambattista, Ms. Susan Lannon, Ms. Laura Lawrence, Ms. Kelly Martin, Ms. Misty Murdock, Mr. Kyle Napierata and Mr. Danny Rovero. Absent with Notification: Kevin Marcoux. Student Board members were unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

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 7:00pm.
2. **ROLL CALL-** See above
3. **BOARD SHOUT-OUTS-** Ms. Lawrence did a shout-out to all KPS school secretaries, saying they do an outstanding job and keep all the schools running smoothly everyday.
4. **REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS-** No report.
5. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT-**No comments
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STRATEGY REGARDING CLAIMS AND LITIGATION: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HEARING CONCERNING 10-4b COMPLAINT.**
Legal Counsel could not attend tonight’s meeting, therefore this item is tabled.
8. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF GRANT APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES (CHR) FOR EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN KILLINGLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**
CHR Service Director, Caitlyn Ogilvie shared that CHR is requesting a letter of support for the expansion of mental & behavioral health services through the expanded school health site grant. Expanding their hours would enable CHR staff to increase the number of students seen. CHR has been providing behavioral health services at KHS & KIS since Sept. 2023 to students with the most acute needs. Currently 31 students are being seen, with another 8 students & families pending. CHR is seeing an increase in the number of referrals for students experiencing anxiety, depression, and trauma.

The grant would give CHR the opportunity to provide services 5-days per week at both KHS & KIS and part-time support at KMS. Services continue to focus on therapy, no medical or dental services. The grant's time period is June 2024-June 2026 and CHR will continue seeking ongoing funding following the grant expiration.

Mr. Napierata asked if parental consent is currently in place and remain in place with the grant.

Ms. Ogilvie shared that during her 17-years in the field, she has only experienced this once because of the student's unique situation. She and her colleagues find that parents support their children's needs and CHR has compliance officers to ensure staff are compliant with current laws. Referrals with parent authorization consent forms will still be submitted for all students.

MOTION: By Ms. Murdock, seconded by Ms. Giambattista that the Board of Education and Dr. Nash issue a letter of support for CHR's grant application to expand behavioral support services for students.

Yes- 8

Motion Carries

9. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Michelle Murphy shared that the Town's audit is complete and the final report was without issue. Town Council requested again, that a Board of Education liaison attend their meetings. NDDH has a new interim director. The Town hired its 8th constable.

The Annual Public Hearing will be held on June 4th at KHS auditorium. There will be several agenda items to discuss, including several proposals for ARPA expenditures. The agenda will also include the non-lapsing account. Town Council is proposing that the Board's request of \$411,462.33 into the non-lapsing account be reduced to \$161,000. Their rationale is that the Board does not deplete this account and the most spent in one year is \$750,000. There are no changes to the 2M cap. Residents can attend June 4th and voice and vote on these agenda items.

10. BOARD CHAIR AND COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

A. Curriculum Committee

10.A.1 Discussion and Possible Action of New K-4 Reading Curriculum

Matt Sierakowski, ELA Coordinator shared information regarding the State's requirement of implementing Science of Reading Curriculum and Instruction. Schools must choose curriculum from a state-approved list.

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) and Imagine Learning- EL Education were reviewed by the curriculum committee, administrators and reading specialists. The curriculum was piloted by several elementary teachers. All teachers reviewed the materials of each program. Surveys and parent feedback regarding the programs were considered. The consensus favors implementing the CKLA program. The CKLA program is \$137,170. Funding will be covered by Right to Read Grant (\$90,718) and ESSER Funding/Title 1 (\$46,451). There will be no cost to the local budget.

MOTION: by Mr. Napierata, seconded by Ms. Martin to adopt CKLA k-4 reading curriculum as presented.

Yes- 8

Motion Carries

B. Facilities Committee- No report

C. Fiscal Committee- No report

D. Personnel Committee- Next anticipated meeting on April 25

E. Policy Committee- Met on April 1 and the following is a result of that meeting.

10.E.1 Discussion and Action of First Reading of New Policy #5112-Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement

Dr. Nash summarized the policy, stating the new policy incorporates the State’s new required entry-age for kindergarten. Effective July 1, 2024, children must reach age 5 by September 1 to enroll in kindergarten. (no longer by January 1st).

The policy also includes topics related to enrollment, residency, immunizations, withdrawal with no significant changes as to what Killingly already implements. Dr. Nash asked if there were any questions regarding this policy. Board members were satisfied with the summarization.

10.E.2 Discussion and Possible Action of First Reading of Policy #5141.5- Suicide Prevention and Intervention (updated)

In February 2023 Public Acts No-12-167 states that each local board shall adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing with youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts. Crisis team would be implemented, Also the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board recommends that schools make the 988 crisis line be widely available in schools. Ms. Murdock read the policy with the new language. Ms. Martin suggested that the following two sentences remain in the policy ...

“The student’s family will be notified, and an appropriate referral will be made. At no time during this process is the student to be left alone.” The Board supported this.

11. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE MARCH 2024 SYSTEM OBJECT REPORT & CHECK AUTHORIZATIONS

MOTION: by Ms. Martin, seconded Ms. Murdock to approve the 2024 System Object Report & March 2024 Check Authorizations as presented.

Yes- 8

Motion Carries

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING 2025 CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING (CDS) SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, HIGH SCHOOL HEALTHCARE PATHWAY.

This grant will support a Healthcare Career Pathway program for students looking to go into healthcare related fields. The workforce is experiencing a healthcare shortage, especially in Northeastern CT. The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board and ReadyCT will support and partner with the Killingly district on planning and implementing the pathway program. The funds will be used to hire a certified instructor to the pathway program with necessary items to train students in a Certified Nursing Assistant program. This program will provide an opportunity for students to earn their CNA license. The grant application for Killingly totals \$170,931,06.

MOTION: by Mr. Rovero, seconded by Ms. Murdock to approve the 2025 Congressional Directed Spending Senate Appropriations grant as presented

Yes- 8

Motion Carries

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. Attendance Update

Data is showing that the student monthly chronic absenteeism percentage is going down significantly since last year. This is mostly due to Attendance Coordinator, Christina Main making over 100 home visits. The attendance program initiative is being received in a positive manner from parents. Families are requesting home visits.

B. Math Program Update

Lydia Miudo gave an update about the Illustrative Math program which was first introduced in the 2022-23 school year in grades k-8. KMS and KCS winter data shows an increase in the percentage of students progressing and improving. Another assessment will be done in Spring. Teachers feel

confident with the program. Teachers will start learning high-level strategies and instructional practices that will promote student's development of mathematical reasoning.

C. Town Council Budget Presentation Review

Dr. Nash presented the Board's budget to Town Council at last weeks joint meeting and it went well. She reminded Board members that Town Council and the Board of Education will present both budgets at tomorrow night's Public Hearing at KHS. Dr. Nash explained the timeline and process if the Town were to cut the Board's budget. The Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 6th at 7:00 pm at KHS. Residents/audience members participate at this meeting, voicing their concerns. A budget will be brought forward, for both budgets for the all day machine vote on May 14.

14. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. March 27, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. April 1 2024 Student Enrollment
- C. Employee of the Month Nominee
- D. KHS Field Trip Request to Northeastern University, Boston for Model UN Conference

Ms. Dombkowski temporarily left the room.

MOTION: by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Napierata to approve consent agenda as presented.

Yes-7

Motion Carries

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

MOTION: by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Murdock to enter into Excecutive Session to discuss superintendent's evaluation

Yes-7

Motion Carries

Ms. Dombowski returned to the meeting.

The Board entered executive session at 8:24pm.

The Board of Education came out of executive session and the meeting resumed at 9:44pm.

16. POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

MOTION: by Mr. Rovero, seconded by Mr. Napierata to extend the Superintendent's contract for one additional year.

Yes-8

Motion Carries

17. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Ms. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Murdock to adjourn at 9:45pm.

Yes-8

Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary