

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, April 24, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main St.**  
**Community Mtg. Room, 2nd Floor**

**AGENDA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **BOARD SHOUT-OUTS**
4. **REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**
5. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**
  - A. April 2024 Employee of the Month-J. Esposito
  - B. Students of KTV and Mr. Durand
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** *Members of the public are encouraged to share their thoughts with the Board of Education and are invited to do so during this segment of the meeting. 30 minutes will be allotted for public comment per meeting, limited to no more than 3 minutes , maximum per person. People wishing to speak must sign-up prior to the start of the meeting. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments. However, in consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.*
7. **BOARD CHAIR AND COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES**
  - A. Curriculum Committee
  - B. Facilities Committee
  - C. Fiscal Committee
  - D. Personnel Committee
  - E. Policy Committee
    1. Second Reading of Policy #5112, Student-Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement
    2. Second Reading of Policy# 5145.5- Students, Suicide Prevention & Intervention
8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**
  - A. Budget Update
9. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. April 10, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
  - B. KHS Field Trip Request to Honesdale, PA for Cheerleading Camp. Aug. 11-Aug. 14
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

*It is with great pleasure that Killingly Public Schools recognize*

*April 2024*

# *Employee of the Month*

## *Jim Esposito*

While Jim Esposito certainly has an imposing stature, undoubtedly capable of handling almost any situation, it is in the small, less obvious ways that he has worked his way into the hearts of our students. Jim is a shining example of how the energy you put out into the world will be returned to you. He moves through the school and among the students with a demeanor that would best be defined as calm, assured, settled and confident. Children, while they may not know how to put it into words, respond to this energy with their own warmth and sense of confidence. Students want to gather around him and be in proximity to Jim, feeling moved and uplifted by the sense of safety and assurance that being in Jim's orbit makes you feel.

Jim is a quiet man, but one of the kindest, most sensitive, and thoughtful people you will meet. He gravitates to the most vulnerable of our students and casts the light of his warmth over them with nothing more than a kind word or his presence. On paper, it is his job to support a safe environment. For Jim, this goes far beyond checking doors and being prepared to respond to an emergency. Jim is a person who clearly cares deeply about kids and is overtly passionate about being a protector of those who need him most. He builds relationships with students. He connects with them. He laughs with them. He makes them feel seen, heard, and valued.

Students go into the security office and ask him for snacks, which he readily provides. Students seek him out in the cafeteria to talk or to be in the presence of goodness. He has a soul of a giver.

Jim is a coach for our Unified Students. Jim is the kind of person who finds where he is needed most, where there is a vulnerability that requires his strength, the strength of heart, soul, and character.

Jim brings the goodness of his soul into Killingly High School. While they may not be able to describe it, our students feel its warmth radiated among them. Jim has found a calling among the children of Killingly and we are very grateful he did.

Gratefully,

Karen Lagace, Principal  
Michael Lefevre, Assistant Principal  
Stephan Paul, Assistant Principal

*On behalf of the Board of Education, we commend you for your dedication to Killingly Public Schools.*

*Susan Lannon*  
Board of Education Chairperson

*Dr. Susan Nash-Ditzel*  
Superintendent of Schools

*CABE's NEW Policy, Mandated***Students****Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-186, the Board of Education shall provide education for all persons, residing in the District, five years of age and over, who reach age five on or before the first day of **September, effective July 1, 2024** of any school year, and under twenty-one (age twenty-two for special education students) who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school, except as provided in Connecticut General Statutes 10-233c and 10-233d.

Additionally, according to Connecticut General Statute 10-76d (b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education. If a special education student is being considered for an exception, the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) will make a recommendation to the administrator in charge of special education.

In order to determine a child's eligibility for ELL programs, parents/guardians of all new students enrolling for the first time and all re-enrolling students who have not previously attended a Connecticut public school must complete a Home Language Survey (HLS) at the time of enrollment. A student may also take a screening exam. The student must be enrolled first before the administration of the assessment. Neither the survey nor the exam are conditions of enrollment.

**Note:** *When a student is enrolling in a new school district or new state charter school, written notification of such enrollment shall be provided to the previous school district or charter school not later than two business days after the student enrolls.*

Children who apply for initial admission to the District's schools by transfer from nonpublic schools or from schools outside the District will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the school Principal. After such observations and evaluations have been completed, the Principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

Parents and those who have the control of children five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age, are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the District in which such child resides, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. Students under age eighteen are subject to mandatory attendance laws unless they are at least seventeen and their parent/guardian, or other person having control of the child, consents to such child's removal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form.

## **Students**

### **Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement (continued)**

Such a withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of the student's school. The form must note the District has provided the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities/options available in the school system and in the community. The withdrawal form must also attest that the child will be enrolled in an adult education program upon the child's withdrawal from school.

### **Enrollment**

The enrollment process shall be focused on obtaining only the information deemed necessary to establish residency and age. The District shall not request other information as a condition of enrollment or state in its policies or on its websites or otherwise, that other information is required to enroll children. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless child and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. Additional data collection may occur, but it must be completed in such a manner that does not interfere with the enrollment of a child in school.

Each child entering the District schools for the first time must present a birth certificate or offer legal evidence of birth data, as well as proof of a recent physical examination and required immunizations. Other documents that may be accepted as proof of a child's age include, but are not limited to, a photocopy of a birth certificate, earlier school records, state-issued identification document, driver's license or passport, parent's affidavit or unsworn statement as to a child's age, physician's certificate verifying a child's age, or immunization records.

If the parents or guardians of any children are unable to pay for such immunizations and/or physicals, the expense of such immunizations and/or physicals shall on the recommendation of the Board, be paid by the Town. Proof of domicile may also be requested by the Building Principal.

The parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of age by December 31<sup>st</sup> of any school year. The parent or person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age by December 31<sup>st</sup> of any school year.

Any child entering or returning to the District from placement in a juvenile detention school, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement, shall have the educational records of such child provided to the Superintendent of Schools by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Judicial Department. Such information will be shared with the Principal of the school to which the student is assigned. The Principal can disclose them to the staff who teach or care for the child.

The District will immediately enroll any student who transfers from Unified District No. 1 or Unified District No 2. A student transferring from the Unified School Districts who had previously attended school in the local District shall be enrolled in the school such student previously attended, provided such school has the appropriate grade level for the student.

## **Students**

### **Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement (continued)**

#### **Residency**

The District, when determining residency, shall not request documentation of citizenship or immigration status of a child or the child's parents/guardians. The Board believes such documentation is not relevant to establishing residency.

In the establishment of residency, the Board will accept such documentation as, but not limited to, a lease agreement, mortgage document, property tax record, rent receipt, home owners insurance, current utility bill, current proof of government benefits, CT driver's license, automobile registration or insurance. An Affidavit of Residence, properly executed, shall also be acceptable.

For purposes of establishing the residency of a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in C.G.S. 27-103, and who is seeking enrollment in a district school, in which such child is not yet a resident, the Board shall accept the military orders directing such member to Connecticut or any other documents from the armed forces indicating the transfer of such member to Connecticut as proof of residency in the District.

The above requirements are not to serve as barriers to immediate enrollment of students, designated as homeless or foster children as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the ESSA. The District shall work with the local child welfare agency, the school last attended, or other relevant agencies to obtain necessary enrollment documentation. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless student and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.

The parent/guardian of any child who is denied admission to the District's schools, or an unaccompanied minor, a student eighteen years of age or older, a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth who is denied schooling on the basis of residency, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of the laws concerning attendance at school may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Education.

The parent or person shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The District shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

A child who has attained the age of seventeen and who has voluntarily terminated enrollment with parental consent in the District's schools and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination unless such child seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) school days after such termination in which case the Board shall provide school accommodations to such child not later than three school days after such child seeks readmission.

## Students

### Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement

#### Residency (continued)

A child who has attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if he/she cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

#### *In summary:*

- ❖ A parent with a child 5 and **under 18** is obligated to have that child attend school.
  - Unless the child graduated High School
  - Unless the parent demonstrates the child is receiving equivalent instruction elsewhere.
- ❖ Students **under 18** are subject to mandatory attendance laws
  - Unless they are at least 17 and the parent consents to the child's removal from school having demonstrated the child is receiving equivalent instruction elsewhere.
- ❖ The parent must personally appear at the school district office, and sign a withdrawal form. **(18 year old)**
  - The form must include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor, or school administrator
  - The attestation must indicate that the parent or student received information regarding educational programs or options available in the school or community.
- ❖ The parent must personally appear at the school district office, and sign a withdrawal form. **(17 year old)**
  - The form must include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor, or school administrator
  - The attestation must indicate that the parent or student received information regarding educational programs or options available in the school or community.
  - The parent or guardian must attest that the 17 year old withdrawing student has enrolled in an adult education program
- ❖ The parent with a five year old has the option of not sending a child until 6.
- ❖ The parent with a six year old has the option of not sending a child until 7.

(cf. 5118.1 - Homeless Students)

(cf. 5118.3 - Children in Foster Care)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

## **Students**

### **Ages of Attendance**

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
4-176e to 4-180a Agency hearings  
4-181a Contested cases. Reconsideration. Modifications.  
10-15 Towns to maintain schools  
10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds  
10-76a - 10-76g re special education  
10-184 Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) as amended by PA-98-243, PA 00-157, PA 09-6 (September Special Session) and PA 18-15  
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. (as amended by P.A. 19-179)  
P.A. 19-179 An Act concerning Homeless Students; Access to education Appeals to State Board. Establishment of hearing board  
10-233a - 10-233f Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils  
10-233c Suspension of pupils  
10-233d Expulsion of pupils  
State Board of Education Regulations  
10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)  
P.A. 19-179 An Act Concerning Homeless Students' Access to Education "Guidance for Connecticut School Districts: Enrollment Process and Practice," State Department of Education, December 2019.  
P.A. 21-86 An Act Concerning the Enrollment of Children of Members of the Armed Forces in Public Schools and the Establishment of a Purple Star School Program  
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (PL 107-110 Sec. 1032) 42 U.S.C. §11431-11435, as amended by the ESSA, P.L. 114-95  
Federal Register: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children & Youths Program, Vol. 81 No. 52, 3/17/2016

Policy adopted:  
rev 7/23  
rev 2/24

## **Narrative to Support Policy #5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention**

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Recently updated February 2023 to provide language to make the 988 crisis line widely available in schools, this update includes specific risk factors related to youth suicide developed by the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board.

It's also important to note that while CAGE has listed policy 5141.5 as a "mandated" policy, it wasn't required by the general assembly for boards of education to include such policy in their policy manuals. However, Sections 79-80 of Public Act No. 23-167 states, "Each local and regional board of education shall adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing with youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts."

CAGE will continue listing policy 5145.5 and the associated regulations under its "Mandated Policies." The updated policy specifically reflects the language in the Public Act.

While policy 5141.5 language has been updated to comply with Public Act No. 23-167, Sections 79-80, CAGE's model regulations remain relevant and support the policy changes.



## **Students**

### **Suicide Prevention and Intervention**

The Killingly Board of Education recognizes that suicide is ~~among the three leading causes of death among young people and, consequently, is a concern to this school system and the community it serves. It is the policy of the Board of Education to actively respond in any situation where a student verbally or behaviorally indicates an intent to attempt suicide or to do physical harm to himself/herself.~~ a complex issue and that, while the school may recognize a potentially suicidal youth, it cannot make a clinical assessment of risk and provide in-depth counseling. Instead, the Board directs school staff to refer students who may be at risk of attempting suicide to an appropriate service for professional assessment, counseling and treatment services outside of the school.

The Board of Education recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and will establish **student assessment** program(s) to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youth, referral services and training for teachers, other school professionals and students to provide assistance in these programs.

~~It is also recognized by the Board that suicide is a complex issue, and that, while school staff members may recognize potentially suicidal youth, they cannot make clinical assessment of risk and provide in depth counseling, but must refer the youth to an appropriate agency for such assessment and counseling.~~

Risk factors for youth suicide will be based on the statewide strategic suicide prevention plan developed by the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board, which includes, but is not limited to youth who are:

1. bereaved by suicide,
2. disabled or have chronic health conditions, such as mental health or substance use disorders,
3. involved in the juvenile justice system,
4. experiencing homelessness or placed in an out-of-home setting, such as foster care, or
5. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning.

To that end, the Board directs the Superintendent to implement an assessment recommended by the Connecticut State Department of Education for determining suicide risk. The assessment shall be used to determine the suicide risk of students who:

- a. exhibit mental health distress,
- b. have been identified as at risk of suicide, or
- c. are considered to be at an increased risk of suicide based on particular risk factors.

Any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat, ~~attempt or ideation~~ must take the proper steps to immediately report this information to the building Principal or his/her designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the Crisis Intervention Team, the student's family and appropriate resource services outside and within the school system.

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.

In addition, information regarding the 988 crisis line should be made widely available in schools and district offices. Text should note to call 988 if you are in emotional distress and/or you are having suicidal ideations. It should also include that by calling 988, you will be provided with support and connected to resources if needed.

Information concerning a student's suicide attempt, threat, or risk will be shared with others to the degree necessary to protect that student and others.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

**Policy adopted: August 11, 2004**  
**Revised/adopted :**

**KILLINGLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Killingly, CT 06239**



**Killingly Public Schools**

*Great Things Happen Here!*

BOE Meeting

April 24, 2024

# Town Council Reduction

## BOE Adopted Budget

\$48,212,561.22  
3.01%  
0.78% (MR)

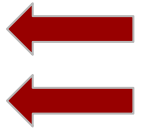
## Town Council Reduction

- \$703,722.22

47,508,839.00  
1.50%  
0.39% (MR)

# Recommended Reductions

- Hiring at lower steps and/or benefits not taken.
- Reduction/Adjustments in positions
- Elimination of positions
- Other Funding sources
- Increase in estimated percent of Excess Cost Reimbursement
- Use of non-lapsing fund for potential special education tuition overages



# Possible Budget Adjustments

## Hired at Lower Steps:

- KHS Science
- KIS Guidance (2)
- KIS World Cultures
- KHS Art

Total savings: (\$55,339.48)

## Reductions:

- IT Equipment and Protec
- KIS Library Aide

Total savings:(\$43,072.99)

## Elimination:

- PPS Teacher of the Deaf

Total savings:(\$113,055.28)

## Other Funding Sources:

- GECC Portion of Salary for FRC /family liaison
- Summer school/ESY
- GECC Paraprofessionals (3)
- Additional use of 23-24 surplus funds,

Total savings: (\$97,061.67)

# Agency Placed Students Contingency and Excess Cost Calculation

Agency Placed Student Tuition	(\$190,000.00)
Excess Cost Reimbursement Estimate (Increase 60% to 70%)	(\$205,192.80)
<b>Total Savings:</b>	<b>(\$395,192.80)</b>

# Grand Total to Meet Town Council's Reductions

\$703,722



# Agency Placed Students Contingency and Excess Cost Calculation

Agency Placed Student Tuition	(\$190,000.00)
Excess Cost Reimbursement Estimate (Increase 60% to 70%)	(\$205,192.80)
<b>Total Savings:</b>	<b>(\$395,192.80)</b>

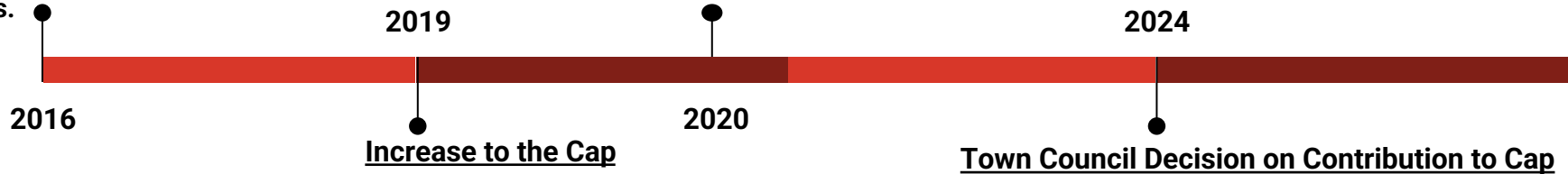
# History of Non-Lapsing Account

## Inception of the Non-Lapsing Account

On June 14, 2016, the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to create a Non-Lapsing fund. At that time the cap of the Non-Lapsing was \$1,000,000. Contributions could not exceed 1% of the budget and this was in accordance with Section 10-248a (2010) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

## Increase to the Contribution and the Cap

On May 12, 2020, in accordance with a revision of Section 10-248a, the Town Council approved an increase to the annual allowable contribution to the Non-Lapsing to 2%. Additionally the Town Council approved the cap be raised to \$2,000,000.



On May 14, 2019, the Town Council approved an increase to the cap of the Non-Lapsing Account to \$1,750,000.

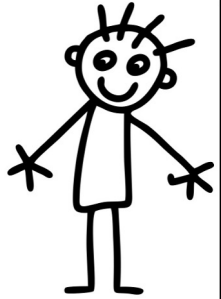
On April 9, 2024, the Town Council did not approve the BOE request to contribute \$411,463 to bring the Non-Lapsing account up to the \$2,000,000 cap. Rather they approved to send to a Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting (June 4th) to add \$161,463 to the Non-Lapsing. This would refill the balance to \$1,750,000.

# Explanation of Excess Cost Grant Reimbursement

The Excess Cost grant is provided by the State to school districts to assist them in paying for special education expenses for students with extraordinary needs. School districts are eligible for partial reimbursement from the State for students who require services that cumulatively exceed the school district's per pupil expenditure amount (also known as the "basic contribution").

The basic contribution is all costs up to 4.5 times the district's previous year's average expenditure per student. The percent received fluctuates from 60-75% each year. Districts do not know what percent they will be reimbursed until April or May of each year. This year, we were reimbursed 71%.

# Example of Excess Cost Grant Reimbursement



Student A

Out of District Special Education Tuition- \$100,000

KPS "Basic Contribution" or Per Pupil Expenditure of  $\$18,794 \times 4.5 =$   
\$84,573

BOE responsible for \$84,573 of Student A's Tuition

$\$100,000 - \$84,573 =$   
\$15,427

\$15,427 is Eligible for Excess Cost Reimbursement

71% of \$15,427=  
\$10,953.17

# Agency Placed Students Contingency and Excess Cost Calculation

Agency Placed Students	\$190,000.00
Excess Cost Reimbursement Estimate (Increase 60% to 70%)	\$205,192.80

**Total Savings: \$395,192.80**

# Grand Total to Meet Town Council's Reductions

\$703,722.22

We are proud of the experiences our students receive in Killingly Public Schools. Those experiences are made possible by our dedicated staff- ALL staff play a role in this experience.

We will not impact our students' superior experiences ....

**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 8<sup>th</sup> constable.

The Annual Public Hearing will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>).

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

**KILLINGLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

REV. 7/08

Trip Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bldg Use Sequence (e.g. 010-1-001)

SCHOOL: KHS GRADE/CLASS/CLUB: Cheerleading DATE: 4/15/24

TEACHER/FIELD TRIP LEADER: Tanya Webster

DATE OF TRIP: 8/11-8/14 NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 10-15

NUMBER OF CHAPERONES: 1

DEPARTURE TIME: 6am RETURN TIME: 7pm

On a school day: 8:30 AM or later unless approved in writing by the Transportation Supervisor 2 PM or earlier unless approved in writing by the Transportation Supervisor

DESTINATION/DIRECTIONS (be specific): Cheer camp is at Lake Bryn Mawr, Honesdale, PA. Parents will be carpooling to drop the team off and pick them up.

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Transportation availability confirmed with Transportation Supervisor.

Objectives of Trip (relation to curriculum, etc.): Prepare for the upcoming season by getting skilled instruction from the top cheer company in the country.

Transportation Desired:

Names of Chaperones:

\_\_\_ School Bus Tanya Webster

\_\_\_ Mini Bus

X Other (specify)

\_\_\_ Van

Special Equipment Required:

Substitutes Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)

\_\_\_ Car Seats \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)

Aide(s) Required \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)

\_\_\_ Handicap Equipped  
Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Nurse Required \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number)

NOTE: Requests to be submitted with all entries complete at least two weeks prior to the trip. Approval will be given only for trips where careful and early planning insures that worthwhile educational outcomes will result. PLEASE NOTE: Head teacher (school) is responsible for any parking fees.

Tanya Webster  
Teacher

[Signature]  
Principal/Program Administrator

Superintendent's Office

N/A  
Transportation Supervisor

Hello,

Attached is information about the cheer camp we would like to attend again. Going to camp sets us up to be successful throughout the season. It is a great opportunity for team bonding, which is a necessity to build trust between teammates who will be throwing and catching each other. NCA is the top ranked cheerleading company in the country, and their camps provide a wealth of knowledge for athletes and coaches. They teach new skills, and the athletes compete a routine at camp which ends up becoming our halftime routine at football games. Multiple schools from CT go to this camp, which makes it a great opportunity to connect with other programs.

I am with the team the entire time, as well as a certified NCA staff member who is assigned to our team. The girls all sleep in a cabin together and I stay in a separate coach's room. If any boys attend they stay in an all boy cabin. Parents carpool to get all of the athletes there and back, so there is no need for a bus.

Each athlete pays their own cost, and is given multiple fundraising opportunities to help pay the amount.

If there are any other questions about the event please let me know.

Thank you,  
Tanya