

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

MINUTES

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chairperson Susan Lannon called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL- See above

3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS- Misty Murdock gave a shout out to all the hardworking bus drivers and bus aides. Everyday they greet the children with a smile. Their days start very early and sometimes they have long days due to late afternoon driving to and from sporting events, field trips. They drive in all kinds of weather but always get the students to their destinations safely.

4. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Student Board members were unable to attend tonight’s meeting, but their report will be sent electronically to Board members.

5. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- April 2024 Employee of the Month-Joe Esposito is Killingly Public Schools’ April Employee of the Month. Joe is an SRO but also works as a coach with the Unified Sports program. Joe builds relationships with many students, connecting with them and making them feel safe. Many students look up to him as a role model and gravitate towards his kindness.
- Students of KTV and Mr. Durand
Mr. Dan Durand, video technology teacher at Killingly High School and 4 students of the KTV program were in attendance. Recently, some students attended the Student Television Network Convention in Long Beach, California. Julia Young and Molly Crabtree won 3rd place and Sydney Crabtree and Laura Farquhar won 1st place in *Tell the Story News* editing competition. Students were provided raw footage and without knowing what the story was going to be about, were given just a 3 hours to write and edit a script associated with the raw footage. Over 200 schools participated and about 3,000 students were in attendance at the convention.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT-**

Mr. Norm Ferron, 102 Squaw Rock Road read a letter from Ulla Tiik-Barclay, 26 Dark Lantern Rd. Her letter stated that a Board member is both plaintiff and defendant in the 10-4b complaint and this is a conflict of interest.

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

Ms. Susan Lannon announced that Mr. Rovero is unable to attend Town Council meetings, therefore Mr. Kyle Napierata will serve as Board of Education’s liaison to Town Council.

- Curriculum Committee-No report
- Facilities Committee- No report
- Fiscal Committee-No report
- Personnel Committee- Misty Murdock reported that nurse’s negotiations continue.
- Policy Committee

The Board reviewed both policies as first readings at the April 10, 2024 Board meeting. Two sentences were requested by the Board to add in policy #5145.5 for tonight’s second reading.

1. Second Reading of Policy #5112, Student-Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement

MOTION: by Meredith Giambattista, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the Second Reading as presented, of Policy #5112, Student-Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement.

Yes- 6

Motion Carries

2. Second Reading of Policy# 5145.5- Students, Suicide Prevention & Intervention

Misty Murdock read the policy aloud.

MOTION: by Meredith Giambattista, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the Second Reading as presented, of Policy #5145.5 Students, Suicide Prevention & Intervention

Yes- 6

Motion Carries

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

- Budget Update

Superintendent Susan Nash-Ditzel showed her recommendations to reduce the budget by \$703,722.22 at the Town Council’s request. The BOE budget was \$48,212,561,22 (3.01% increase.) As a result of the Town’s reduction, the Board budget would be \$47,508,839.00 (1.50%increase.)

The Superintendents recommendations to reduce the 2024-25 budget are:

1. Hiring new staff at lower step/or benefits not taken. Savings=**\$55,339.48**
Hired at Lower Steps-KHS Science tchr., 2 KIS Guidance tchrs., KIS World Cultures tchr. & KHS Art tchr.
2. Reductions/adjustment in positions. Savings=**\$43,072.99**
I.T Equipment and Protech, KIS Library Aide
3. Elimination of postion. Savings= **\$113,055.28**
Teacher of the Deaf
4. Other funding sources. Savings= **\$97,061.67**
GECC portion of salary for FRC family liaison, Summer school/ESY, 3 GECC Paras, additional use of 23-24 surplus funds.

5. Increase in estimated % of Excess Cost Reimbursement. Savings= **\$395,192.80**
6. Using the non-lapsing account to fund potential special education tuition overages.

Excess Cost reimbursement is provided by the State to assist in paying for special education expenses. School districts are eligible for partial reimbursement for students requiring services that cumulatively exceed the district's per pupil expenditure amount. The percent received fluctuates from 60-75% each year. This year Killingly was reimbursed 71%.

If there are insufficient funds in the special education line account, funds in the non-lapsing account may be used.

Some history of the non-lapsing account was provided. In 2016 the cap was \$1,000,000. There were two more approved increases in 2019 and 2020. The current cap is \$2,000,000. On April 9 the Town Council did not approve the Board's request to contribute \$411,463 into the non-lapsing account to bring the cap to \$2,000,000. Town Council recommended adding \$161,463 to the non-lapsing account bringing the balance to \$1,750,000.

For residents who may be watching tonight's meeting and for Board members, Susan Lannon reminded everyone that it is important that Killingly residents attend the May 6th annual town meeting at KHS at 7:00pm and express their opinions regarding both the Town's and BOE's budget.

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

Kevin Marcoux asked to pull the April 10, 2024 Board meeting minutes.

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Kyle Napierata to approve the KHS Field Trip Request to Honesdale, PA as presented.

Yes- 6

Motion Carries

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kyle Napeirata to approve 4-10-24 Board meeting minutes

Yes- 5

Abstain- Kevin Marcoux

Motion Carries

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to adjourn at 7:54 pm.

Yes- 6

Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary