

**Regular Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main St.**  
**2nd Floor, Community Mtg. Room**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista, Susan Lannon, Laura Lawrence, Kevin Marcoux, (7:04) Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Danny Rovero,  
Student Board Members were not able to attend tonight.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Susan Nash-Ditzel, Assistant Superintendent, Jeffrey Guiot  
Recording Secretary Keely Doyle, Director of Human Resources, Kim Burnham & Attorney Patrick Noonan.

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

- A. KMS Koala Choir Performing the National Anthem  
KMS music teacher and choir director, Brittany Varone and students of the Koala Choir sang the National Anthem. The choir performed two concerts this year. The students will be performing at an upcoming Sea Unicorns baseball game.
  
- B. May 2024, Employee of the Month, Jennifer Wetherbee  
Board Chair, Susan Lannon read aloud Jennifer’s proclamation for being chose as Employee of the Month. Jennifer is a paraprofessional at KIS and was hired in 2015. Jen takes initiative to support her students in many ways. She is sought out by peers for advice and feedback to help support students and improve outomes. Killingly Public School’s Pupil Services department is gratefeul for her dedication working with students with special needs.

The Board took a 1-minute recess to excuse parents and KMS students.  
The Board meeting resumed.

**4. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS**

Laura Dombkowski gave a shout-out to Jim Lackner. Jim took on a new role as the district-wide athletic director. He has been doing a wonderful job and is very involved in all of sporting programs and events in all the schools.

**5. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS-** The student’s report will be included in the Superintendent’s Friday update.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** Ulla Tiik Barclay, 26 Dark Lantern Hill Rd. Expressed her concerns about Ms. Murdock being both plaintiff and defendant on the 10-4b complaint. A letter does not remove the prejudices and the right thing should be done.

Jessica Lepire, 152 Country Club Rd. Jessica is an administrative secretary at the Killingly Intermediate School. Recently, Jessica lost her husband unexpectedly. Jessica thanked everyone in the district, especially her KIS family who showed unwavering support and kindness during a very difficult time.

Board member, Laura Lawrence left the meeting at approximately 7:18pm.

Tara Barnes, 50 Kelly Rd., Dayville. Ms. Barnes has two children at the high school. She is shocked at the lack of disciplinary control at KHS. She is very disturbed of what goes on at the high school. What is being done about this? Students who witness these assaults and do nothing should also be disciplined. Something has to be done.

Fiorella Souza, 49 Brookside Drive, Dayville. Ms. Souza has 2 children, one at KIS and one child at KHS. Ms. Souza worries for her children because of the bullying going on at schools and physical attacks. How can I protect my children while they are at school? She said that there is a lack of information and response to concerned and worried parents.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF STRATEGY REGARDING PENDING CLAIMS AND LITIGATION-STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HEARING CONCERNING 10-4b COMPLAINT**

**MOTION:** by Kelly Martin, seconded by Kyle Napierata to move executive session agenda item #7 & agenda item # 8 to the end of the meeting.

**Roll Call Vote**

**Yes, 6-** Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista, Kevin Maroux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata

**No, 2-** Danny Rovero, Susan Lannon

**Motion Carries**

**8. POSSIBLE ACTION OF STRATEGY REGARDING PENDING CLAIMS AND LITIGATION-STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HEARING CONCERNING 10-4b COMPLAINT.** (moved to end of meeting)

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

- A. Curriculum Committee
- B. Facilities Committee- Kevin Marcoux gave a summary of what took place at the facilities meeting on May 15 the high school. With the assistance of Mike Vassar, committee members viewed possible new locations for an emergency access road, they looked at the tennis courts, and discussed short-term & long-term options to repair the cracks in the tennis courts. Also, repairs to the track are needed.
- C. Fiscal Committee- No report
- D. Personnel Committee- Misty Murdock continue negotiations for paras.
- E. Policy Committee-No report
- F. Liaison Updates: Town Council, CAFE, Cable Advisory, EASTCONN, Economic Development, Parks and Recreations, and Permanent Building Commission.

Kevin Marcoux will reach out to Parks and Rec as the liaison to get future updates.

Laura Dombkowski made known that the AdHoc committee did hold a meeting earlier in the week to address district-wide bullying.

Susan Lannon stated that Laura Lawrence is the chairperson of the AdHoc committee addressing district-wide bullying, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 10 at Westfield Ave.

#### **10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LETTER TO TOWN COUNCIL**

Dr. Nash asked the Board if they wanted to make any edits to the letter that will be sent to the Town Council, on behalf of the Board of Education. The letter is requesting the Town Council to reconsider the Boards' request of adding \$411,463 from the 2022-23 surplus to bring the non-lapsing account balance back up to \$2,000,000.

No edits were suggested. Kelly Martin said that the Town Council did bring this up at their meeting last and are already considering and Kyle Napierata said the letter is a great idea and good reminder for Town Council.

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to authorize Dr. Nash and Susan Lannon to submit the letter to Town Council regarding the non-lapsing account.

**Yes- 8**

**Motion Carries**

#### **11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING IDEA GRANT-PART B**

Mr. Guiot stated that the grant funds are to be used for excess cost for providing special education related services. The amount for Killingly is \$749,988.00. that grant funds are allocated yearly but the district has two years to spend down the funds.

**MOTION:** by Danny Rovero, seconded by Kevin Maroux to approve IDEA GRANT-PART B

**Yes- 8**

**Motion Carries**

#### **12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

##### **A. 2024-25 Budget Update**

Dr. Nash shared, that because the Board budget failed at the May 14 referendum, that Town Council deliberated last night to make reductions in the Board's budget. At last night's meeting, Town Council reduced the Board of education budget by \$125,000.

Dr. Nash received a call from the Town Manager today, notifying Dr. Nash that there was a mathematical error at the Town Council's meeting and a reduction of \$125,000 is incorrect. Town Council will have a special meeting tomorrow night to rectify this error. Dr. Nash said the number could be higher or lower but she will wait in making any adjustments to the Board's budget until this error is resolved and a true number is determined by the Town Council. Dr. Nash will update the Board on Friday.

Dr. Nash reminded the Board that there will be a reconvened Town Meeting and any adjustments to budgets will be shared at that meeting. This meeting will be for budget presentations only, with no recommendations made from the public. It will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at at 7:00pm.

Dr. Nash attended CABE's Legislative Wrap-Up session last week and she shared information about two of the budgetary Public Acts that will impact Connecticut schools.

One public act will allow Boards of Education to determine the amount of surplus funds to contribute into a non-lapsing account. Currently, Town Council can regulate how much can be deposited. There would be no other changes to the non-lapsing account, including the 2M cap.

Killingly may see a decrease in tuition paid for Killingly students attending magnet schools. There will also be a decrease in the tuition received (revenue) for students attending KPS. There will be state grant funding to supplement or compensate the difference of what the district currently collects for tuition.

On behalf of the Board, Susan Lannon congratulated Dr. Nash on her recent appointment as URSA/NASA vice chairperson.

### **13. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. May 8, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. KHS Field Trip Request to Roger Williams Park, Providence, RI

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

### **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REVIEW & DISCUSS THE RATIFIED NURSES EMPLOYEE'S UNION CONTRACT MOTION:**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to go into Executive session to discuss the ratified Nurses Employees Union Contract with invite to Dr. Nash, Mr. Guiot and Kim Burnham.  
**Yes-8**  
**Motion Carries**

The Board entered executive session at 7:48pm.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:01pm. The Board resumed their meeting.

### **15. POSSIBLE ACTION OF THE RATIFIED NURSES EMPLOYEES UNION CONTRACT**

**MOTION:** by Kelly Martin, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to approve the Ratified Nurses Union Contract, as presented, effective July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027  
**Yes-8**  
**Motion Carries**

Agenda item #7

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF STRATEGY REGARDING PENDING CLAIMS AND LITIGATION-STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HEARING CONCERNING 10-4b COMPLAINT**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Marcoux to enter executive session to discuss STRATEGY REGARDING PENDING CLAIMS AND LITIGATION-STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HEARING CONCERNING 10-4b COMPLAINT

with invite to Dr. Nash, Mr. Guiot and Attorney Patrick Noonan.

**Yes-8**

**Motion Carries**

Kyle Napierata expressed his concern about the controversy over the document/letter from Misty Murdock and the Board not receiving legal counsel regarding this.

The Board entered the executive session at 8:03 pm. The Board came out of executive session. The Board resumed their meeting at 8:43pm

Agenda item # 8

**POSSIBLE ACTION OF STRATEGY REGARDING PENDING CLAIMS AND LITIGATION-STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HEARING CONCERNING 10-4b COMPLAINT.**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Meredith Giambattista that the Killingly Board of Education authorize the Board Chair to enter into an agreement to resolve the 10-4b proceeding, consistent with the Board's discussion in executive session.

**Roll Call Vote**

**Yes, 5-** Meredith Giambattista, Kevin Marcoux, Misty Murdock, Danny Rovero, Susan Lannon.

**No, 3-** Laura Dombknowski, Kelly Martin, Kyle Napierata.

**Motion Carries**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to adjourn.

**Yes-8**

**Motion Carries**

The May 22, 2024 Board of Education Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Keely Doyle*

Recording Secretary