

**Regular Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main St.**  
**2nd Floor, Community Mtg. Room**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista, Laura Lawrence, Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Danny Rovero, Susan Lannon  
Student Board Members: Phillip Purcell, & Melody Kettle.

**OTHERS** Superintendent Susan Nash, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Guiot,  
**PRESENT:** Recording Secretary, Keely Doyle.

**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**

Mr. Kevin Marcoux gave a shout-out to Chad Neal, KHS Scholl-to-Career teacher, KHS head football coach. Kevin shared that Chad is long-time friend and colleague. Chad is a father figure and role model to many students and he has had a positive influence on many students during his 20 years with Killingly Public Schools.

**4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Beth Knowlton, KHS vocational agricultural teacher & student members of the Agricultural Issues Forum Team gave a mock debate presentation on solar farms in CT. Students chose atopic for the a recent FFA state-wide debate competition and won. Students present the pros and cons of solar energy without drawing a conclusion and leave it up to audience members, to draw their own conclusions. Students who performed the mock debate at tonight's meeting are, Zeke Benoit, Russell Sharpe, Abigail Anforth, Isaiah Benoit, Hailey Collins, Sydney Mullen and Rose Barnes.

**5. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Goodyear Early Childhood Center will be celebrating the end of the school year with a whole school event early Thursday night, while individual classrooms are holding special events for families during the school day.

KMS: Congratulations to 4<sup>th</sup> grader, Aria who qualified for the State Invention Convention. 340 students were selected to advance to the state level out of 12,000. At the State Invention Convention, Aria received an invitation to the US National Innovator Challenge. If she qualifies, she will advance to the National Competition in Michigan.

On June 12, grade 4 students held their end of year assembly. They performed songs by the Beatles and received their promotion certificates.

Mrs. Varone and the Koala Choir performed the National Anthem last Thursday evening at a Sea Unicorns baseball game at Dodd Stadium.

KIS: On June 11, grade 8 students went to Holiday Hill in Mansfield and participated in all sorts of outdoor activities. June 12 is 7<sup>th</sup> gr. field day. KIS will be having field day for grades 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> on Thursday along with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Recognition Ceremonies and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance.

KHS: Molly Crabtree & Julia Young from KHS KTV won Best Community News Story from Fox 61 for their coverage of Wreaths Across America.

Final exams will be completed on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Graduation is on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. at 6pm rain or shine. A call will be made on Thursday to parents and seniors with updates regarding whether the graduation will be held inside or outside ceremony.

KHS is providing opportunities during the summer for students to participate in credit recovery.

Summer school begins on July 8- August 1.

#### 6. **PUBLIC COMMENT-**

Michael Goulston spoke about his understanding of the budget process, and the difficulty that voters had supporting the BoE budget at the first referendum. He expressed his disappointment that the Town does not not receive funding from the local tribe but feels students should be allowed to make the final decision regarding a mascot.

Norm Ferron read a statement of the Native American Guardian Association in support of not changing the mascot name.

#### 7. **TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Michelle Murphy shared that with the approved budget, the mill rate will stand at 20.32. A Vision Committee will be established and they are looking for volunteers. The committee will seek out what members of the community want and need.

Dredging at the Owen Bell pond will start in July, lasting 6 to 8 weeks. The Board of Education's non-lapsing account has reverted back to a 2M cap.

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

A. **Curriculum Committee-** no updates to report.

B. **Facilities Committee-**no updates to report.

C. **Fiscal Committee-**no updates to report.

D. **Personnel Committee-**paraprofessional ratified agreement will be discussed at the meeting.

E. **Policy Committee-**no updates to report

F. **Liaison Updates:** Town Council, CABE, Cable Advisory, EASTCONN, Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, & PBC.

Kyle Napierata, liaison for PBS and Town Council said that PBC did a walk-through at KMS last week and renovations have moved to classrooms in the last wing and they're doing a great job.

Town Council announced several proclamations and declarations at their last meeting. There was a presentation by the finance director about new software that would allow more transparency in regards to budgeting.

### **H.1 AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying**

Laura Lawrence shared that the adhoc committee to discuss district-wide bullying held a meeting on Monday, June 10. KIS and KHS principals were in attendance. Some parents also attended and it was good to have open dialogue.

The next meeting will be on July 22 and the committee will meet with the elementary principals.

### **H. AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot**

1. Discussion & Possible Action of recommendation to retire the current mascot and direct the Superintendent to develop a process for the selection of a new high school mascot and potential grades 5-12 mascot.

Kevin Marcoux shared that the adhoc committee to discuss school mascot met on June 3. Mr. Marcoux read some older letters from local tribes and statements from the KHS athletic department, supporting changing the mascot name and imagery. Board members exchanged opinions and viewpoints and open discussion continued. Dialogue included topics such as, costs of new uniforms & merchandise, the KHS gym floor, what students want, gr. 5-12 mascot, offering a student survey, not receiving \$94,000 a year for multiple years, the intent of the mascot being honorable.

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Meredith Giambattista to retire the current mascot and direct the Superintendent to develop a process for the selection of a new High School mascot and potential grades 5-12 mascot.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

No-4 Laura Dombkowski, Laura Lawrence, Kelly Martin, Kyle Napierata.

**Motion Carries.**

2. Discussion and Possible Action of recommendation that on the Office of Policy & Management Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund Certification form, that Option two be checked off indicating that the school or associated intramural or interscholastic athletic team does not use any of the following in its mascot, nickname, logo, or team name: a name, symbol or image that depicts, refers to, or is associated with a Native American individual custom, tradition or state or federally recognized tribes.

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to have the Superintendent check #2 on the Mashentucket Pequot & Mohegan Certification form.

**Roll Call Vote**

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

No-4 Laura Dombkowski, Laura Lawrence, Kelly Martin, Kyle Napierata.

**Motion Carries.**

9. **REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF MAY 2024 SYSTEM OBJECT REPORT & MAY CHECK AUTHORIZATION**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Danny Rovero to approve May 2024 System Object Report and May 2024 Check Authorizations.  
**Unanimous, Motion Carries.**

10. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHITSONS FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT RENEWAL AMENDMENT JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025**

**MOTION:** by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve Whitsons Food Service Contract Renewal Amendment, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.  
**Unanimous, Motion Carries.**

11. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

A. 2024-25 Budget

Superintendent Nash would like to draft a letter, with Town Manager, Mary Calorio to thank the community for coming out to vote and supporting the budget on June 11.

Superintendent Nash would like to include in the letter, details of specific budget lines that were reduced compared to last year's budget. Superintendent Nash shared that she would like the Board to decide what the final budget deductions (of her proposed deductions) should be at the next Board meeting.

12. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. May 22, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. June 3, 2024 Student Enrollment
- C. Employee of the Month Nomination
- D. KHS FFA Trip Request to Indianapolis, IN Oct. 22, 2024 - Oct. 26, 2024 for National FFA Convention
- E. KHS TSA Trip Request to Orlando, FL June 26- June 30, 2024 for National TSA Conference

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Meredith Giambattista to approve the consent agenda as presented.  
**Unanimous, Motion Carries.**

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REVIEW & DISCUSS LOCAL 3689, COUNCIL PARAPROFESSIONAL RATIFIED AGREEMENT**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux seconded by Kyle Napierata to enter into executive session to review and discuss Local 3689 Council Paraprofessional ratified agreement with invite to Dr. Nash, Mr. Guiot and Ms. Burnham, Director of Human Resources.  
**Unanimous, Motion Carries.**

The Board entered executive session at 8:29pm

The Board came out of executive session and resumed the meeting at 8:41pm.

**14. POSSIBLE ACTION OF LOCAL 3689, COUNCIL #4 PARAPROFESSIONALS RATIFIED AGREEMENT JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2027**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Danny Rovero to approve the paraprofessional ratified agreement as presented.  
**Unanimous, Motion Carries.**

Susan Lannon called a 5-minute recess. The Board resumed their meeting 8:48pm.

**15. 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 Kelly Martin to enter into executive session to discuss strategy regarding pending claims & litigation-State Board of Education Hearing concerning 10-4b complaint with invite to Dr. Nash, Mr. Guiot and Attorney Patrick Noonan.  
**Unanimous, Motion Carries.**

The Board entered executive session at 8:49pm.

The Board came out of executive session and resumed the meeting at 9:55pm.

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

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

**Roll Call Vote**

Yes-9 Meredith Giambattista, Kevin Marcoux, Misty Murdock, Danny Rovero & Susan Lannon, Laura Dombkowski, Laur Lawrence, Kelly Martin, Kyle Napierata

**Motion Carries.**

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** by Laura Lawrence, seconded by Danny Rovero to adjourn.  
**Unanimous, Motion Carries.**

The June 12, 2024 Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:56pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Keely Doyle*  
Recording Secretary