

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, June 26, 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, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Danny Rovero,
Absent with Notification:Kevin Marcoux.

Guests: Superintendent Susan Nash, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Guiot and Recording Secretary Keely Doyle.

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. ROLL CALL- See above

3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS Misty Murdock gave a shout to all KPS's teachers and especially to KHS math teacher Mark Neuman. Mr. Neuman has been a great teacher to her son who attends KHS. The students talk very highly about him and he is well-liked by many of the students. His energy and dedication does not go unnoticed.

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS-June Employee of the Month, Doreen Linnell. Doreen has worked for the KPS transportation for 26 years and has probaby driven over a half million miles. Doreen goes above and beyond every day and is dedicated to helping the department and transportation department supervisor Joseph Boulanger. She is an integral member of the transportation team.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT-No public comment.

6. BOARD CHAIR AND COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

- A. Curriculum Committee-no update
- B. Facilities Committee-no update
- C. Fiscal Committee- Items will be presented & discussed later in the meeting.
- D. Personnel Committee-no update
- E. Policy Committee-no update

F. Liaison Updates-no update

G. Updates from AdHoc Committees (Mascot & Bullying)-no update

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. Discussion and Possible Action of New Teacher & Administrator Evaluation Forms

Superintendent Nash shared that there was a mandate from the state that required all Connecticut school districts to revise their teacher and administrative evaluation plans. The State offered a model or template but Dr. Nash preference was to develop a plan with members of the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee or PDEC. The PDEC committee is made up of administrators and teachers. Superintendent Nash reviewed the new plan with Board members, pointing out that the new plan is much more streamlined compared to the older teacher evaluation plan.

The new teacher plan is much more innovative with Single Point Competency/Cognitive Engagment for Active Learning and effective practices for teachers and students.

For Leader Evaluation, administrators will focus on "Problem of Practice." The administrators will meet with Dr. Nash to review data such as attendance, discipline, test scores to discover where their problem of practice lies. Goals are set at the beginning of the year followed up by mid-year check-in, self-reflection, mid year conference and end of year reflection & feedback. Dr. Nash shared that she hopes at the end of next year she hopes to invite Board members into each school to see mini action projects. The district goals incorporated into the plans are in alignment with Killingly's Profile of a Graduate.

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kyle Napierata to approve Killingly Public Schools new Teacher and Administrator evaluation plan as presented.

Yes-8, Motion Carries

B. Discussion and Possible Action regarding increase in student meal prices.

Christine Clark, Manager of Financial Affairs and Tim Mugan, Whitsons Food Service Manager shared the rationale behind the request to have an increase in the cost of student meals, including breakfast. The last increase took place in 2019 and an increase has been put off for several years. The objective of the paid Lunch Equity is to ensure "paid" status meals served in our cafeteria are not subsidized with Federal funds intendend for "free" and "reduced" status meals. The federal government requires, annually, that districts calculate the weighted average price of meals. The weighted average price requirement for Killingly equates to \$3.43 for 2024-25 based on our 2023-24 weighted average price of \$3.11. Currently, KHS & KIS student meals are \$3.25 for lunch and \$2.25 for breakfast. At the elementary level, current lunch price is \$2.75 and breakfast is \$1.75. Recommendations are to raise meal cost either by \$.50 or \$.25.

A waiver was submitted for the 2024-25 school year in the event, an increase is pushed off for another year. An increase includes breakfast and would be implemented for the 2024-25 school year.

MOTION: by Danny Rovero, seconded by Kyle Napierata to increase student meals by \$.25 for the 2024-25 school year.

Yes-8, Motion Carries

C. Discussion and Possible Action to select & approve proposed 2024-25 budget reductions.

The Board's initial adopted budget was \$48,212,561 (3.01%increase.)

Town Council reductions was \$703,722,22 (1.50%)

Further Town Council Reduction was \$125,000 (1.24%)

Dr. Nash gave a re-cap of all reductions that impacted the Board of Education's initial budget. The Board's budget of \$47,508,839 failed at the first referendum on May 14.

To meet the Town Councils reductions, the proposed adjustments are to hire new staff at lower steps, reductions in I.T equipment and Protech and KIS library and eliminating one of two teachers of the deaf. Also factoring in to reduce the budget was Bill# 5523 regarding magnet schools tuition changes, passed in May and this allows a savings to the district of \$111,061. Another reduction is the increase of excess cost reimbursement to 71%. If needed the non-lapsing account can be used for special education services. The Board of Education budget of \$47,383,839 was approved at the June 11th referendum. This is 1.24% increase from the 2023-24 budget.

MOTION: by Kelly Martin, seconded by Kyle Napierata to approve the superintendent's reductions as presented.

Yes-8, Motion Carries

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REQUESTS TO USE NON-LAPSING PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 2024 (Pending Recommendations from Facilities Committee)

A. Discussion & Possible Action to Use Non-lapsing funds for KHS Tennis Court Repairs

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Jeff Guiot shared information regarding the need to repair the tennis courts at the high school. Cracks on the playing surface are significant and dangerous. If the cracks are repaired, we would gain an additional five years of use. It would cost over a million dollars if new courts were installed. The proposed amount factors in a 10% contingency.

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve using the non-lapsing account in an amount, up to \$180,829.57 for repairs to the KHS tennis courts.

Yes-8, Motion Carries

B. Discussion & Possible Action to Use Non-lapsing Funds for KHS Access Road Design Plans

Mr. Guiot shared that a design for renovations to the emergency access road will help the Board to make an informed decision when it comes time for the actual renovation. The road currently does not meet current code. A full design will produce accurate blue prints and can provide precise costs proposals in the future as the project moves forward. The proposed amount factors in a 10% contingency.

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve using the non-lapsing account in an amount, up to \$79,336.40 for the design work for the KHS emergency access road.

Yes-8, Motion Carries

9. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION OF CONTINUATION OF FRC GRANT FUNDING

MOTION: by Danny Rovero, seconded by Laura Lawrence to approve the continuation of School Readiness and School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant, Smart Start, Smart Start for Recovery, and Family Resource funding for the 2024-25 FY as presented.
Yes-8, Motion Carries

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. June 12, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. June 17, 2024 Last Day of School Student Enrollment
- C. FFA Officers Leadership Team Trip Request to Sturbridge, MA on Aug, 1, 2024

MOTION: by Meredith Giambattista, seconded Misty Murdock to approve the consent agenda.
Yes-8, Motion Carries

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

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Meredith Giambattista to go into executive session with invite to Dr. Nash, Mr. Guiot and Attorney Peter Noonan to discuss strategy regarding pending claims and litigation: State Board of Education Hearing concerning 10-4b complaint.
Yes-8, Motion Carries

The Board entered executive session at 8:21pm.
The Board resumed the meeting at 8:59pm.

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

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock, to move 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.
Yes-8, Motion Carries

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LIMITED AMENDMENT OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES, INC. (CHR)

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Meredith Giambattista to move that the Killingly Board of Education authorize the Board Chair to enter into an agreement with CHR, Inc. for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, consistent with the Board's discussion in executive session.
Yes, 8 Motion Carries

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Laura Lawrence, seconded by Kyle Napierata to adjourn at 9:00pm.
Yes, 8 Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary