

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, September 25, 2024
7:00 PM
CENTRAL OFFICE, 79 WESTFIELD AVE, KILLINGLY, CT 06239
Conference Room A

MINUTES

Present: Susan Lannon (absent with notification), Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista, Laura Lawrence, Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata (absent with notification), Danny Rovero.
Student Board Member: Emerson Joly.

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

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

Vice Chairperson Danny Rovero called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**-See above

3. **REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Student Board member Emerson Joly gave a report to the Board. Some highlights from that report are the following.

GECC: PreK, K students will be participating in the Lions Club Vision Screening on September 27th & 30th. The Family Resource Center at Goodyear is excited to begin a new partnership with Killingly UNFI. Last Thursday 8,000 pounds of food were delivered for distribution this Saturday.

KMS: On September 23rd and 24th, the Lion's Club performed vision screenings on all students. ELA coordinator, Matt Sierakowski conducted an afterschool professional development on best practices for teaching the CKL reading program.

KIS: Last week was "It Starts with Hello" week at KIS. Eighth grade students wrote welcome letters to grade 5 students that hung on the 5th grade lockers and hallway.
Fall events include the annual fall spirit week, fall pep rally, and a dance for 7th & 8th grader students.

KHS: Wellness Day is on Friday.

The KHS annual College Fair for Juniors and Seniors will take place on October 2nd.

The Homecoming Game is on Thursday, October 3rd. Homecoming Dance on Sat., October 5th.

Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors will be participating in the PSAT on October 9th.

Trunk or Treat will be held on October 18 at KHS.

4. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

September 2024 Employee of the Month, Rose Methot was not in attendance but the nomination submitted by Christine Clark, Manager of Business Affairs was read aloud by Superintendent Sue Nash.

Rose Methot, Accounts Payable and Financial Assistant is recognized as Employee of the Month for taking on the extra responsibilities of carrying out payroll for the district, making sure that every employee gets paid. The payroll position has been vacant for several months and requires a considerable amount of time and work. Rose gets the job done and still manages to complete her duties in her main role.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** No public comments

6. **BOARD CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES**

A. **Discussion regarding Board Shout-Outs**

Mr. Danny Rovero communicated that Board members can sign-up for “shout-outs” and that they would occur at the 2nd Board meeting of each month. Laura Lawrence & Kelly Martin expressed that they would like it to remain as is, occurring at the first and second meeting each month and shout-outs take only a couple minutes. Laura Lawrence asked to move this discussion to another Board meeting when all members are present.

B. **Curriculum Committee:** Meredith Giambattista shared that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday September 30.

C. **Facilities Committee:** No updates at this time.

D. **Fiscal Committee:** No updates at this time.

E. **Personnel Committee:** Misty Murdock shared that Administrator’s Union negotiations are currently taking place.

F. **Policy Committee:** Misty Murdock shared that the policy committee met on September 18th and reviewed several policies. Three were brought forward as First Readings for tonight’s meeting.

F.1 Discussion and Possible Approval of First Reading of Revised Policy #5131.81 Students- Electronic Devices

Misty read CABE’s updated policy #5131.81 aloud. This policy addresses growing concern of cell phone use by students while at school. The existing KPS policy was adopted in 2004. A sentence structure will be corrected on the first page, in the High School section. Misty asked to add “without permission” on the second page in section “e”. Those changes will be reflected at the second reading.

F.2 Discussion and Possible Approval of First Reading of Revised Policy #0521 Mission, Goals Objectives, Non-Discrimination Policy and Notice

This is a mandated policy. Killingly’s existing policy is from 2019. CABE’s updated version required updating nondiscrimination policies and notices to align with the Title IX “New Rule” also reflecting protected classes in CT state statutes.

MOTION: by Kelly Martin, second by Laura Lawrence to approve revised Policy #0521 Mission, Goals Objectives, Non-Discrimination Policy and Notice as First Reading.

Yes-7 Unanimous, Motion Carries

F.3 Discussion and Possible Approval of First Reading of Revised Policy #4152.6/4252.6, Personnel, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The policy is mandated and an update is needed to reflect a reduction in the number of work hours for a non-certified school employee to qualify for unpaid family and medical need benefits. Reduced from 1,250 hours to 950 hours.

MOTION: by Kelly Martin, seconded by Laura Lawrence to approve revised Policy #4152.6/4252.6, Personnel, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA as First Reading.
Yes-7 Unanimous, Motion Carries

G. Liaison Updates – No updates.

H. AdHoc Committee to Discuss Mascot

Kevin Marcoux, AdHoc chairperson shared that the committee met on Sept. 23 and he shared some highlights from that meeting.

Superintendent Susan Nash would like to schedule a meeting with the Town’s historian to learn more about the town’s history and possibly identify potential mascot ideas. Various stakeholder groups will be invited to the meeting with the intent of bringing together diverse representation. Dr. Nash will send out invitations for the meeting. Jim Lackner, district-wide athletic director who also attended the meeting, suggested having a ceremony during halftime at a basketball game to officially retire the existing mascot this winter.

I. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying.

Laura Lawrence shared that the next meeting will be held on October 7.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

a. Cognitive Engagement

Superintendent gave a presentation focusing on Cognitive Engagement strategies. The emphasis is to engage the whole child. Positive responses from 3rd grade students when they were asked if what they are learning is interesting. Teachers use suggested toolkits to find strategies to increase the level of engagement in tasks. Cognitive engagement is evident when a student demonstrates deep-thinking or recall of information, understanding problem-solving and procedures, strategic thinking using evidence, and showing extended thinking enabling them to conduct design or experiments. Engaging students more in active learning allows students more opportunities to respond (OTR). They learn to evaluate, justify, explain and draw a conclusion when presented a task. Teachers measure a student’s Depth of Learning or DOK. There are 4 levels of DOK and the goal is increase the number of students at level 4.

b. Attendance PoP

Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Guiot gave a presentation that included student chronic absenteeism data from 2021 through end of the school year 2024. Teachers are focusing on Attendance Problems of Practice (PoP), and are choosing goals and measuring those goals throughout the year. Monthly chronic absences trends went down 7% in one school year. Absenteesim rates are slightly higher during winter months. A comprehensive Tier 1 , 2 and 3 approach is being implemented in all schools to ensure a consistent process throughout the district. Protocols have been put into place when a student is absent and when they show signs of chronic absences. Period-by-period attendance is taken. The goal is to increase parent awareness around our policies and increase school to family communication. Even though it’s early in the school year, data shows a decrease the amount of tardies and absences. The presentation included a slide reminding parents how to report a student’s absence.

c. Discussion & Possible Approval of Alliance and Priority School District Grants.

Assistant Superintendent Jeff Guiot conveyed the intention of this grant. Most of the funds will support personnel services, tutors and interventionist to increase student achievement. The total allocation is \$328,769.

MOTION: made by Kevin Marcoux, second by Misty Murdock to approve the FY 2025 Alliance and Priority School District grants.
Yes- 7 Unanimous, Motion Carries.

d. Discussion and Possible Approval of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grant.

Assistant Superintendent Jeff Guiot shared that this is a new competitive grant. Grant funds will support salary for our McKinney and Vento liaison and student transportation. The maximum total of this grant is up to \$50,000.

MOTION: made by Kevin Marcoux, second by Misty Murdock to approve the FY 2025 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance competitive grant.
Yes- 7 Unanimous, Motion Carries.

e. Discussion and Possible Action for BOE to adopt joint letter regarding safety and online threats to schools in the State of Connecticut.

Superintendent Sue Nash partnered with school resource officer, Joe McCusker and drafted a letter to families regarding the seriousness of any student who makes an on-line threat targeting schools and the consequences for such acts. Dr. Nash would like this to be a joint letter signed on behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Joe McCusker and Dr. Nash. The intent is to include the letter in the Principal's Friday packets. Dr. Nash asked if any Board members would like to add anything to the letter. Board members were satisfied with the letter as presented.

MOTION: made by Kevin Marcoux, second by Misty Murdock to approve the letter as a joint statement on behalf of the Board.
Yes- 7 Unanimous, Motion Carries.

9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Sept. 11 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION: made by Kevin Marcoux, second by Misty Murdock to approve the 9-11-24 Board meeting minutes as presented.
Yes- 7 Unanimous, Motion Carries.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: made by Kevin Marcoux, second by Meredith Giambattista to adjourn at 8:12pm.
Yes- 7 Unanimous, Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Board of Education Recording Secretary