

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, October 9, 2024
7:00 PM
CENTRAL OFFICE, 79 WESTFIELD AVE.
CONFERENCE ROOM A

MINUTES

Present: Susan Lannon Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista, Laura Lawrence, Kevin Marcoux (7:17), Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Danny Rovero.
Student Board Member: Evan Kozey.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. ROLL CALL-See above

3. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Evan Kozey shared information about recent and upcoming events in the district.

GECC: A UNFI donation to the Family Resource Center at Goodyear made it possible to distribute 8,000 pounds of food on September 28th.

On October 2, Goodyear celebrated School Custodian Day honoring Mr. Pellerin and Mr. Tucker. Thanks to an early childhood grant, rain gear was distributed to students.

KCS is collecting candy for Trunk or Treat. The Attawaugan & Dayville Fire Departments will be at KCS on Friday, October 11th. Students will explore vehicles and equipment and learn about Fire Prevention.

KMS: Grade 2 students are visiting the Killingly Public Library. Students listen to a read aloud, tour the library, learn how to get a library card, and check out books.

Killingly's Fire Departments visited students to teach them about fire safety. Bus Safety Day will take place on Wednesday, October 16th.

KIS: The boys' and girls' soccer teams are doing very well. Continuing the positivity campaign with the message of positive attitude, kind words, and supporting one another. KIS held its 2nd annual High School Night for 8th graders and there was representation from 7 area high schools.

KHS: Spirit week was last week. Thursday, everyone wore Pink for Think Pink Day and at the football game. The KHS National Honor Society held fundraisers to raise money for cancer research.

Great Things Happen Here assembly took place on Monday. Teacher of the Year Mrs. Farquhar and the Paraeducator of the year Mrs. Pion, both received a Golden Apple from administration. Many students recognized teachers with appreciation certificates.

Friday, October 18th FBLA will be hosting a guest speaker from the Foundation for Economic Education. October 21st and 22nd, Parent/Teacher Conferences which will take place 1pm-3pm and 5pm-7pm.

4. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS-** No visitors.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jasmine Davis, mother of two students, expressed her concerns about bullying and asked the Board to look more closely at the current policy. Maybe have extra paras in the classroom and hallways. There should be more consequences for students who bully other students. More preventative measures should be implemented.

6. **TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Michelle Murphy shared that the new Vision Committee met two weeks ago and they are still accepting applications for those wishing to serve on the committee. There will be a presentation with PURA on Dec. 5. The Town's 2023-24 budget has been closed out. There were some overages on some line items, but overall the budget closed in the positive and money will be returned to the general fund.

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

Susan Lannon shared that on Sept. 26 that she, Dr. Nash and members of Town Council met for conversation at the Chubby Dog Coffee bar. Residents are urged to attend and participate in conversation. The next opportunity for those wanting to attend will be on Oct. 19 from 9-10:00am. Ms. Lannon reminded Board members about the KMS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Open House on Nov. 2 from 10:00am-12:00pm.

A. Discussion regarding Board Shout-Outs

Susan Lannon conveyed that "Shout-Outs" are a great way to recognize and acknowledge staff. Discussion included options of when to have shout-outs, having a sign-up sheet or just keep it open-ended. Laura Lawrence and Kelly Martin prefer that shout-outs stay as is. The Board agreed to continue shout-outs on the agenda and keep it open-ended.

Ms. Lannon did a "shout-out" to Ms. Gluck's 5th homeroom class for their kindness and compassion by creating well-wishes for a family in the community.

B. Curriculum Committee

Meredith Giambattista shared that the committee met on September 30 and were introduced to Love 146 Training. United Services and Youth Service Bureau for the Town of Killingly Director Lori Bergstrom, and her coordinator Rebecca Teczar were introduced to speak about the curriculum.

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Laura Lawrence to amend the agenda to add Discussion and Action to adopt the Love 146 Curriculum.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries.**

Love 146 Training is an interactive child trafficking and exploitation preventative curriculum. It provides students with information so they can make safe choices if they were to encounter exploitative situations.

The Board was very supportive of the curriculum and discussion took place regarding which grades to start introducing the curriculum.

MOTION: by Laura Lawrence, seconded by Misty Murdock adopt the Love 146 curriculum at middle and high school levels.

Unanimous.

Motion Carries.

- C. Facilities Committee- Danny Rovero shared that they hope to have a meeting prior to the next Board meeting on October 23
- D. Fiscal Committee- No update.
- E. Personnel Committee- Misty Murdock shared that they continue to work on administrators negotiations.
- F. Policy Committee- Misty Murdock reminded board members of new language added at the first reading for Policy #5131.81.

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

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Danny Rovero to approve the second reading of Revised Policy#5131.8 Students- Electronic Devices as presented.

Unanimous

Motion Carries.

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

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the second reading of Revised Policy #0521 Mission, Goals Objectives, Non-Discrimination Policy and Notice as presented.

Unanimous

Motion Carries.

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

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the second reading of Revised Policy # 152.6/4252.6, Personnel, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as presented.

- G. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying- Laura Lawrence shared that the committee on October 7. Transportation supervisor Joseph Boulanger was in attendance and shared how bus drivers address bullying or discipline incidents on the bus. Superintendent Nash gave an update on student discipline incidents by building. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13 at 7:00pm.
- H. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District School Mascot – Kevin Marcoux shared that there are no new updates at this time.

Ms. Martin expressed concern about the length of time it takes to receive a banner for the mascot retirement ceremony, and having the ceremony at a football game rather than a basketball game. She added that other companies that she checked with could have a banner created within a few days. Susan Lannon mentioned that Board members did send emails with ideas regarding the retirement of the mascot and those ideas would be communicated with members of the adhoc committee.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. 2024-25FY Financial Report, Including System Object Report & July, Aug., Sept. Check Authorizations
- B. 2023-24FY End of Year Financial Report, Including System Object & June through Sept. Check Authorizations
- C. 2022-23FY Check Authorization
- D. Current & Projected Revenues and Current & Projected Expenditures by Object Code

Tonight's financial reports include summaries and/or check authorizations for three different fiscal years. Manager of Business Affairs, Christine Clark shared further information related to her financial reports and gave the board opportunity to ask questions.

2024-25FY Financial Report

The 2024-25 approved budget is \$47,383,839. Expenditures and encumbrances total \$11,193,426. Most of the certified positions have been filled for the 2024-25 school year. Teachers' salaries account shows a preliminary budget surplus of approximately \$199K. Some positions remain vacant and some are covered with contractors from education agencies and these costs will be included in Professional /Technical Services line-item. There are adjustments for paraeducator wages to align with the new three year agreement. Expenditures and encumbrances for local and agency placement tuition at this time is approximately \$3,537,741, just slightly under budget, but does not yet include transportation costs. Additional placements during the year is unknown which would impact this line item.

Most transportation for field trips have been covered in-house, resulting in lower costs than prior years when outside carries were needed to cover the trips.

2023-24FY End of Year Financial Report Summary. As of Sept 30, 2024 there are 59 outstanding purchase orders totaling \$613,967. Budget transfers for the months of July, August and September are reflected in the report. There were five transfers over \$10,000 that were approved by the Board on September 11.

The Non-Lapsing account has a cap of a 2M balance. As of 6/30/24 the balance is 1.66 million. The allowable transfer is limited to 2% of the total budget of the 2023-24 surplus which is \$346,266. A new law that went into effect last year allow Boards of Education to make deposits without the town's approval. Expenditures from this fund require authorization from the Board of Education and funds are used for any education purpose.

8.D Current Projected Revenues and Revenues

The first quarterly report for 2024-25 expenditures and revenues has been prepared for submission to the Town and will be put on the KPS website. All projections are as of September 30.

9. **REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CHECK AUTHORIZATIONS INCLUDED IN TONIGHT'S FINANCIAL REPORTS (2022-23FY, 2023-24FY, 2024-25).**

MOTION: by Danny Rovero, seconded Kevin Marcoux to approve all check authorizations presented in tonight's financial reports.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries.**

10. **PER POLICY #3160 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION of FOUR TRANSFERS OVER \$10,000 EA.**

- A. Possible Action of Transfer to Support District Attendance Coordinator Position in the amount of \$59,585.35
- B. Possible Action of Transfer to Support KHS Special Education Teacher through Outside Agency in the amount of \$102,375.00
- C. Possible Action of Transfer to Support Contracted Psychologist Services through Outside Agency in the amount of \$110,558.00
- D. Possible Action of Transfer for EASTCONN Professional Development for Administrator Observations in the amount of \$21,600

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Meredith Giambattista to approve all transfers (10 A,B C, & D) as presented.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries.**

11. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

A. Mental Health Update

Meredith Tukey, Director of Mental Health Student Wellness provided an update and showed results taken from a 2023-24 climate survey. Climate survey shows most students feel connected to at least one adult in school, feel safe and treat each other with respect. The district also implements DESSA which is a social-emotional learning tool that helps identify students who may need additional support. Dessa data shows that 86% of students fall in the Typical and Strength range in regard to CASEL competencies.

Administrators, counselors and social workers created priorities with the goal of impacting and improving comprehensive school mental health systems. CSMH offers support and services to promote positive school climate, and well being. CSMH is at no cost to the district and includes fee training, technical assistance. Staff at KCS, KMS, KIS and KHS are completing training in the Aperture System and beginning to assess students. Students will be assessed three time during the school year. Each school will work with a trainer from the Connect IV to address each building's needs that were identified in an assessment. Caseloads for CHR are increasing with over 25 new referrals during September. Regular collaborative meetings take place with counselors, social workers and clinicians.

B. 2023-24 SY Academic Results

Dr. Nash welcomed Matt Sierakowsk, district ELA coordinator and Lydia Miudo, district math coordinator. Science, Math and ELA assessments data were included in tonight's PowerPoint presentation. SBAC comparisons charts showed other schools in the same DRG as Killingly, as well as how many students met SAT Benchmarks.

Standardized district assessments are given three times a year to measure student's progress. The strongest growth in math is in the younger grades. Data shows evidence of growth in math after

2nd year of Illustrative Math Program was implemented. Teachers analyze learning target data for each specific grade-level. Ms. Miudo shared plans on how they will work to increase the number of students at or above proficiency math standards.

Matt Sierakowski showed elements of growth in ELA. Last year there was growth in literacy more at the elementary level, especially in kindergarten. Killingly's trend mirrors the national trend in regards to literacy. Students who suffered the most during the pandemic were the weakest readers, while top level readers were not effected. The newly adopted CKLA k-4 curriculum incorporates science, social studies and continues to make a positive difference since being adopted.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. September 25, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. October 1, 2024 Student Enrollment
- C. Employee of the Month Nominee
- D. KHS Broadcast Journalism Trip to Tampa, Fl for Annual Convention Feb. 27, 2025 through March 5, 2025.

Susan Lannon asked to pull consent item 12A. September 25, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve consent items 12 B, C & D.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries.**

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve consent item 12.A

Yes-7

Abstain -2 (Kyle Napierata & Susan Lannon)

Motion Carries.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL SALE OF PROPERTY

MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Danny Rovero to enter into executive session to discuss potential sale of property with invite to Dr. Nash, Jeff Guiot & Town Manager Mary Calorio.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries.**

Executive session at 8:50pm. Board members and guests came out of executive session and the regular Board meeting resumed at 9:18pm.

14. POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SALE OF PROPERTY- No motion

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Danny Rovero, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to adjourn at 9:19pm

**Unanimous
Motion Carries.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Kecly Doyle

Recording Secretary