

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, November 13, 2024
7:00 PM
Central Office 79 Westfield Ave., Killingly, CT 06239
Conference Room A

MINUTES

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

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 7:02pm and Kyle Napierata led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL- See above

3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS- Susan Lannon gave a shout out to the Killingly High School Football Team for their sportsmanship and supporting another athletic team.

4. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Melody Kettle gave the Board an update of recent and upcoming events in the district. Some highlights of her report are below.

KHS: The last regular football game is on Nov. 15th at KHS. KHS will play Woodstock Academy on Thanksgiving Day at Nichols College at 10AM.

The KHS Student Council is currently conducting a food drive for the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry. The annual Powder Puff Football Game is on Tuesday, Nov. 26 between junior girls and senior girls at 6PM. The French class will be holding a Harvest Dance on Friday, November 22nd. Some clubs are holding fundraisers to support trips and events.

KIS: Soccer team won their QVJC championship and the Boys' Soccer team came in 2nd for the championship. Parent/Teacher conferences were last week and they were very well attended. Family Fun Night is scheduled for Thursday, December 5th.

KMS: Math and Literacy night was a huge success. The KMS Ribbon cutting/Open House was well attended giving an opportunity to members of the community to tour the building and new classrooms.

KCS: KCS would like to recognize Mrs. Lopez's and Mrs. Crawford-Vasquez's for implementing

engaging learning centers, offering foundational math concepts and offering learning opportunities to work at various crafts learning about different cultures.

GECC: Most staff obtained/renewed their CPR/First Aid certification on Professional Development day. This is a requirement for accreditation. All teachers sent home a survey to help them prepare for GECC's Nov. 14th conferences. Parents were asked to share strengths, any areas of concern, and topics they would like to discuss.

MOTION: by Kelly Martin, seconded by Misty Murdock to add an agenda item, *4.A Presentation by FFA Students about the FFA Convention in Indianapolis.*

**Yes- 7, Unanimous
Motion Carries**

4.A Presentation by FFA Students about the FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

FFA teacher Ms. Bethany Knowlton and students Abigail Anforth, Hailey Collins and Russell Sharpe gave the Board a brief overview of their experiences at the FFA convention in Indianapolis. The convention was 5 days and over 70,000 people/students from all over the country attended. Students participated in a public speaking contests, agricultural issue competition and leadership workshops. Ms. Knowlton and the students thanked the Board for their many years of continued support.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT- No public comments.

6. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Town Council member Michelle Murphy shared that Dr. Nash attended the Town Council's meeting last night and explained new law about non-lapsing accounts.

On Nov. 18 at 5:00 pm there will be a tree lighting ceremony at Davis Park. Windham Energy will give a presentation at KHS in the auditorium on Nov. 18 at 7:00pm. PURA will give presentation on Feb. 24 at 6:00pm and share information about electric bills. Early voting cost the Town almost \$29,000.

7. BOARD CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

7.A Curriculum Committee

7.B Facilities Committee

7.C Fiscal Committee

7.D Personnel Committee

Misty Murdock shared that the Personnel Committee met tonight, prior to the Board meeting. They discussed the new minimum wage effective January 1, hiring practices, middle school athletic director position and a high school Spanish teacher position. Misty asked that an agenda item be added to tonight's agenda as a result from the Personnel Committee meeting.

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Laura Dombkowski to add agenda item *7.D.1 Discussion and possible action regarding a Spanish teacher position at the high school.*

**Yes- 7, Unanimous
Motion Carries**

7.D.1 Discussion and possible action regarding a Spanish teacher position at the high school.

Dr. Nash gave detail as to why a full-time Spanish Teacher position is needed at the high school. Two years ago, a vacant Spanish teacher position was eliminated. Over the past two years other options were implemented for students wanting to take Spanish including on-line instruction and classes at QMC. Those options were not very successful. Currently, freshmen Spanish I classes are full. Dr. Nash would like to re-allocate funds to bring the high school back to 3 full-time Spanish teachers and offer Spanish IV for those students applying to more competitive universities or colleges. There is a strong need to make the current .45FTE Spanish teacher position full-time.

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock to increase the .45FTE Spanish teacher to a full time position.

Yes- 7, Unanimous

Motion Carries.

7.E Policy Committee- Misty Murdock summarized changes for each policy.

7.E.1 Discussion and Possible Action of SECOND Reading of Policy #4000.1/5145.44 Personnel & Students- Sexual Harassment/Title IX

MOTION: by Meredith Giambattista seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the Second Reading of Policy #4000.1/5145.44 Personnel & Students- Sexual Harassment/Title IX

Yes- 7

Motion Carries.

7.E.2 Discussion and Possible Action of SECOND Reading of Revised KPS Policy #5131- Student Conduct & Discipline

MOTION: by Kelly Martin, seconded by Laura Dombkowski to approve the second reading KPS Policy #5131-Student Conduct & Discipline

Yes-7

Motion Carries.

7.E.3 Discussion and Possible Action of SECOND Reading of Policy #3542.43 Business Non-Instructional Operation Food Service-Meal Charging

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the second reading of Policy #3542.43 Business Non-Instruction Operation Food Service-Meal Charging

Yes-7

Motion Carries.

7.F AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot

The mascot retirement ceremony will take place on Tuesday, November 26 from 5:00-7:00pm at KHS in the gym. The first meeting with Town Historian, Margaret Weaver took place on November 7. The committee is comprised of students, alumni, teachers, coaches and some Board members.

Mrs. Weaver spoke about the 1700s and 1800s in Killingly and events and contributions pivotal to Killingly. Many ideas were generated. The goal for the committee is to come up with

several new mascot names and share those suggestions with the community and students, so they can contribute too. There will be another meeting tomorrow night.

7.G AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying- Laura Lawrence said that there are no updates at this time, but the next meeting is in January.

8. MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT including System Object Report
Manager of Business Affairs, Christine Clark shared some key points of the October financial report. As of the end of October, expenditures and encumbrances are \$16,983,014 or 35.84% of the \$47,383.839 budget.
Christine spoke about various salary accounts. The substitute salary account may exceed the budgeted appropriation. An analysis of the teachers' salaries accounts shows a preliminary surplus, due to some vacancies that remain. Costs related to outsourced transportation, out-of-district, local and agency placement tuition will be factors in the budget and will be monitored. It appears at this time, that the budget will be tighter than last year.
As of October 31, there were 31 outstanding purchase orders from last year. There were four transfers over \$10,000 that were approved by the Board in October.

9. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MONTHLY CHECK AUTHORIZATION (FY2023-24 & FY2024-25)

MOTION: by Laura Dombkowski, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve monthly check authorizations as presented.
Yes- 7
Motion Carries.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF A TRANSFER OVER \$10,000 FOR RECLASSIFICATION OF THE PYRAMID COACH POSITION.

Dr. Nash shared that the funds are already in the current budget and both transfers are due to reclassification.

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kelly Martin to approve the transfer for the reclassification of the Pyramid Coach position.
Yes- 7
Motion Carries.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF A TRANSFER OVER \$10,000 FOR RECLASSIFICATION OF A SEL SPECIALIST

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Laura to approve a transfer of \$ 21,323.90 for the reclassification of SEL Specialist.
Yes-7
Motion Carries.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

12.A Chad Neal oversees the Career and Technical Education program. The high school program is a State model program for many other districts. Students find a path to follow to bring them to the career that interest them. The program provides students with many opportunities as possible to explore careers of interest. The career center offers field trips, job shadows and

career planning. There are many students who participate in job shadows off-site. Many businesses support the program including Electric Boat, Day Kimball Hospital, Aerospace Alley. Mr. Neal has partnered with the Killingly Business Association and Eastconn on behalf of the Career Center.

12.B Discussion and Possible Action of Perkins Grant FY2025

Mr. Guiot shared that the allocation of this grant is \$44,316 and will mostly support supplies and salaries supporting the Career Center.

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Laura Lawrence to approve Perkins Secondary Grant FY 2025
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries.

12.C Update Regarding Non-Lapsing Account

Dr. Nash met with the Town Council and explained the recent changes in legislation impacting non-lapsing accounts and those changes would supersede the current MOU with the Town. The district will continue to use existing funds, but a 2M cap would no longer be valid.

It still applies that only up to 2% of our budget could be placed into a non-lapsing account but it can be used for any educational expense.

Dr. Nash conveyed that the Board could open a second fund but it's up to the Board to decide if they want a second fund or leave it, as is. The second fund would be managed the same way, but the Board of Education would not need to go through Town Council to deposit funds, but the Town would still manage the account. If a second fund were created, a policy would need to be put in place regarding the non-lapsing account.

No action was taken by the Board.

12.D Update on Effective School Solutions (ESS) Program on 2nd Floor at Westfield Ave.

Dr Nash shared a three-year plan summary for creating an outplacement program upstairs at Westfield, or an In-District Therapeutic Academy that could be ready to open in September 2025. The concept is in the very early stages of being developed. Eastconn will be leaving the Westfield building at the end of this school year. The district has an opportunity to utilize the space in a significant way. Dr. Nash is working with Effective School Solutions (ESS). ESS is a company that provide therapeutic programming and they are able to assist with licensing, marketing, providing material lists, applying for grants, recommendations for classroom designs, handbooks, etc.

The program would help support children with autism, behavioral challenges and support students in the transitional program, which is now located at the high school. Rooms upstairs in the back hallway will need painting but there is plenty of space. The program would have its own entrance also, in the back. Dr. Nash will be talking with other districts to introduce the program. Districts would be invited to tour the space. Dr. Nash would like to bring back students that are now outsourced into this program. There would be significant costs to starting up the program including hiring special education teachers and paraprofessionals, but costs for outplacements are significant also. Charging tuition to districts would balance the initial start-up costs. A cost analysis would be suggested but the program would generate revenue. There will be more updates to the Board regarding the proposed program as meetings continue with ESS.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

- 13.A October 23, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- 13.B November 1, 2024 Student Enrollment
- 13.C KHS Photography Class Field Trip Requests (2) to Roger Williams National Memorial, Providence RI in November and April
- 13.D KHS Robotics Class Field Trip Request to Worcester Polytechnic Institute Dec. 5, 6, & 7
- 13.E KHS Music Dept. Field Trip Request to NYC

Laura Dombkowski asked to pull consent item 13.A October 23, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve 13.B through 13.E
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries.

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kelly Martin to approve consent item 13.A October 23, 2024 Board meeting minutes.
Yes- 4
Abstain-3 Laura Dombkowski, Laura Lawrence & Meredith Giambattista.
Motion Carries.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS RATIFICATION OF KAA CONTRACT

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock to enter executive session to discuss ratification of the KAA contract, with invite to to Dr. Nash, Mr. Guiot, & Kim Burnham.
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Board went into executive session at 8:23pm.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:37pm and resumed the meeting.

15. POSSIBLE ACTION OF JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2028 KAA RATIFIED CONTRACT

MOTION: by Laura Dombkowski, seconded by Laura Lawrence to ratify the KAA contract as discussed in executive session.
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Laura Dombkowski, seconded by Laura Lawrence to adjourn at 8:37pm.
Yes-7, Unanimous
Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted by,
Keely Doyle
Recording Secretary