

**Regular Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

**Central Office 79 Westfield Ave., Killingly CT 06239**

**Conference Room A**

**MINUTES**

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

**Guests:** Superintendent Susan Nash, Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Guiot, and Acting Recording Secretary Susan Theroux

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

Meredith Giambattista, Acting Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm and Kelly Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL-** See above

**3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS** – Meredith Giambattista gave a shout out to Emily Ross and the volunteers that organized and worked the coat drive held at Killingly Memorial School.

**4. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**GECC:** Goodyear celebrated Grandparents Day on November 26<sup>th</sup> by welcoming grandparents and family members. Guests were invited to join the children during Purposeful Play. This is a personal favorite event of GECC Director Sally Sherman.

**KCS:** On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the kindergarten classes went to the Killingly Community Center to see How The Grinch Stole Christmas. Students will be attending the KHS Winter Concert on December 12<sup>th</sup>. First graders have been practicing for their winter performance to be held at 10 am and again at 2 pm on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> will be PJ Day. Students are encouraged to donate a dollar or more to wear their PJs. All proceeds will go to the Connecticut Children's Foundation for childhood cancer research, clinical trials, and care at Connecticut Children's Hospital.

**KMS:** Afterschool Enrichment Clubs are underway with 175 students participating in a variety of clubs. The KMS Math Interventionists provided a second professional development for classroom teachers where they focused on mathematical reasoning which centered around the importance of number relationships.

**KIS:** There are many exciting events taking place including the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus and Band Concert, the faculty and staff holiday get-together, KIS Family Fun Night, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus and Band Concert.

Basketball and cheerleading started with a tremendous amount of interest. This month's Habit of Work focus is on being an Active Learner. Teachers are working with students on developing the skills of using feedback to enhance learning.

**KHS:** Congratulations to Coach Chad Neal for being recognized as the ECC Coach of the Year and Hayden Allard as the ECC Player of the Year! Quarter 2 progress reports are out. We are excited to welcome students from all our schools this week for the holiday concert. The public is invited to the KHS Winter Celebration Concert on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the auditorium. The KHS Football Team will be playing in the State Championship Game on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm at Rentschler Field. The Great Things Happen Here assembly will take place when students return from the holiday break.

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

## 6. **TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Town Council member Michelle Murphy shared that the council met yesterday and honored the Teachers of the Year from Killingly Public Schools, St. James Parochial School, and Ellis Technical High School. Wreaths Across America is taking place on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm. There was a consideration and action on a resolution adopting the collective bargaining agreement between the Killingly Board of Education and the Killingly Administrator's Association for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2028 and it passed. There were also several other resolutions that passed at the meeting. The elevator at the Town Hall is still not operating and is going to cost \$48,000 to repair. The Killingly Police Department was awarded the State of CT Tier I Accreditation Award. Senator Blumenthal is coming Friday to assist in getting earmarked funding to complete upgrades to the sewer plant.

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

### A. Curriculum Committee

The committee met earlier this evening and discussed the potential for the ELA CKLA curriculum at the middle school. More information will be gathered before it is brought to the Board. The committee also discussed implementing AP Statistics and AP Pre-Calculus at the high school.

### B. Facilities Committee- No report

### C. Fiscal Committee- No report

### D. Personnel Committee

The committee will meet tomorrow to begin negotiations with transportation.

### E. Policy Committee- No report

### F. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying- No report

### G. AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, an event was held at Killingly High School to retire the Redmen/Redgal mascot. It was a good evening with many people purchasing their old football jerseys or purchasing them for family members who used to be on the team. Students had gone through old yearbooks dating back to 1926 and created a video collage which played at the event. There was also a Powder Puff Football Game out on the turf field. We wrapped up the third multigenerational meeting with the Town Historian. Many good ideas were generated from these meetings, and we have narrowed the options down to about five. We are waiting for the football season to conclude before we move forward. Jamie Carver, Dept. Chair of the Art Dept. at Killingly High School has some honors art students that can help with the design of imagery. The committee has also looked at AI assisting with design. A package will be put together with possible imagery and the historical significance of those names and it will go out for a vote to the Killingly High School community.

## 8. FINANCIAL REPORT for the MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

Manager of Business Affairs, Christine Clark, shared some key points of the November financial report. November is a repeat of what was shared in October with some updated numbers. Salary projections, out of district placement costs, and excess cost reimbursement estimations were shared and how they impact the budget. All the numbers given are subject to change. There were 16 outstanding Purchase Orders for the 23-24 school year and there is continuing progress on resolving those open issues.

## 9. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MONTHLY CHECK AUTHORIZATION

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve monthly check authorization as presented.

**Yes- 6, Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

## 10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF TRANSFER OVER \$10,000 FOR KHS STUDENT INTERVENTION SUPPORT

Dr. Nash shared that in the teacher's salary line of the budget, there are funds for a reading interventionist position at Killingly High School. This was a new position approved by the Board during the last budget cycle. There have been no properly certified applicants for this position, so the position remains unfilled. We would like to transfer the funds to the tutoring line to be used for a current math tutor at the high school who sees about 50 students a day and has been successfully tutoring them for SAT prep.

**Motion:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the transfer of over \$10,000 for KHS Student Intervention Support.

**Yes- 6, Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

## 11. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

### A. Discussion Regarding the Process of a Middle School Principal Search

The search for a new Middle School Principal will begin in January. We hope to get the most talented candidates by starting the search early in the year. Dr. Nash referred to Policy 4112 which generally states that the Board of Education has the right to decide how we proceed with the process of a principal search. There are different ways to proceed with the search. The Personnel Committee discussed the option of having a committee as we normally do, consisting of board members, staff, parents, and even students. That committee then recommends two or three finalists to come before the Board for a final interview in executive session and the Board makes the final decision. The other option would be for the Board to sit on the committee and go through the process and then the finalists would go to the Superintendent for final interviews and the Superintendent decides. There are typically two rounds of interviews, the initial interviews and then a performance task.

There was discussion on the different ways to proceed and some members voiced that they like having some Board members volunteer to serve on the search committee and then have the finalists interview with the Board in executive session.

### B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Middle School Athletic Director Position.

There has been discussion around support at the middle school for an Athletic Director. There is a

stipend in the teachers' contract for a position at the middle school of Athletic Director. This line was zeroed when the district-wide Athletic Director position was made full time. There are restraints in the full-time position which don't allow for the athletic director to be at all games at both the high school and the middle school. We would like to refund the middle school athletic director to the Level 3 Stipend that is had always been of \$5,441.00. The question was asked if this would be filled internally or could there be external candidates. Since the stipend is part of the teachers' contract, the position would be filled from within.

**Motion:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve refunding the Level 3 Stipend of \$5,441.00 for the Killingly Intermediate School Athletic Director.

**Yes- 6, Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

C. Discussion and Possible Action of Board Meeting Dates Sept. 2025 through Dec. 2025

**Motion:** by Kelly Martin, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve Board Meeting Dates for Sept. 2025 – Dec. 2025.

**Yes- 6, Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

D. Budget Update/Overview

Dr. Nash presented a Budget Kickoff: The presentation showed where we are in the budget cycle, reviewed last year's budget process and how we navigated through decisions on where to make the cuts. There was an overview of a 10-year span of increases/decreases in the budget, things to consider, and drivers that meet the Board of Education goals.

**12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH ALLIANCE GRANT**

Mr. Guiot explained how this grant would enhance our current mental health supports. We would be applying for the maximum award of \$100,000.00 and included would be the purchase of Second Step SEL Curriculum. The Board would like to review the SEL curriculum before it is purchased but there was concern that there would not be flexibility in the grant to make a change. Mr. Guiot assured the Board that new curriculum would not be purchased or implemented without review by the Curriculum Committee, and that revisions are allowed in the grant if needed.

**Motion:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the application for the School-Based Health Alliance Grant.

**Yes- 6, Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

**13. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. November 13, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. December 2, 2024 Student Enrollment
- C. Field Trip Request: KIS Ski Club to Mount Wachusett

Kevin Marcoux asked to pull consent item 13.A November 13, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve 13.B through 13.C  
**Yes- 6, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**Motion:** by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kyle Napierata to approve consent item 13.A  
November 13, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.  
**Yes- 5**  
**Abstain- 1 Kevin Marcoux**  
**Motion Carries**

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock to adjourn at 7:56 pm.  
**Yes- 6, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

Respectfully submitted by,  
*Susan Theroux*  
Acting Recording Secretary