

**Regular Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2025**  
**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(absent with notification), Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata(absent with notification, Danny Rovero (absent with notification), Susan Lannon, Student Board Member Emmerson Joly
- Guests:** **Superintendent Susan Nash, Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Guiot, and Acting Recording Secretary Amy Perreault**

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

Susan Lannon, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and Misty Murdock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL-** See above

**3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS-**

Misty Murdock gave a shout out to the Killingly High School Wrestling team for their win at states and to the KHS wrestling coaching staff for their acceptance of all kids on the team regardless of their talent or grade level and being a positive influence on the team and having good team moral. Susan Lannon gave a shout out to Robert Warrender for his hard work, patience and kindness.

**4. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS-**

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

**Goodyear:** February is Bird Investigation Month for us. Classrooms have been busy making binoculars, creating nests, studying birds who live in Killingly, painting and sorting feathers, as well as bird watching in the Goodyear Nature Preserve.

**KCS:** Next week, KCS is celebrating Read Across America. Our theme this year is "Building a Nation of Lifelong Readers: Read a Book-Share a Book". Students will be engaging in numerous activities, such as Buddy Reading with various classrooms. On Thursday, we are fortunate to have a Puppeteer visit KCS who will support their storytelling through puppetry. Our week-long reading event will conclude with a KCS building parade where projects and books will be showcased. On March 14th, KCS and KMS will be hosting a Family Fun Night. The event is for KCS and KMS families. Family Fun Night will be held at KMS from 5:00-6:30.

**KMS:** KMS will celebrate Read Across America the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>. The theme is to create and celebrate diverse readers. Our hope is to motivate a lifelong love of reading for our students, all year long. KMS is inviting the members of the BOE to sign up to read on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. An invite, along with a sign-up sheet was emailed to each board member. We hope you can join us on that day. After school enrichment clubs will begin Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. 200 students are participating in the following clubs: Robotics, crafts, clay, space, wacky science, team games, chorus, and crochet club. The program runs Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday through May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Free snacks are served each day.

KMS Math Interventionists, Keri Costa and JoAnn Goldsmith continue to provide professional development training for all classroom teachers at KMS. On February 24, 2025, they worked with individual teams throughout the day. The teachers learned new math methods to support learning in their classrooms.

**KIS:** Killingly Intermediate School is continuing their collaboration with EastConn in coaching our teachers on how to implement co-teaching into our classrooms to best assist our special education students. EastConn meets with our teachers every month in a 3-day cycle. The cycle includes a day of planning, a day of observing, and a day of reflection and feedback. We are truly appreciative of EastConn's support as we develop our strategies of good instruction to match the needs of all students in the classroom. KIS will be finishing its Habits of Work focus campaign next month. KIS started this campaign to bring a highlight to our 5 habits of work that we believe are essential to student overall success. We have focused in the past on self-motivation, personal behavior, perseverance, and social awareness. The month of March will focus on collaboration. It is our hope that this focus will help students continue to build these personal habits of work to be successful now and in the future.

**KHS:** The KHS Robotics Team traveled to Bridgeport this week to participate and had 5 Killingly Robotics teams compete at the CT State Robotics Championship. The freshman team earned the Judges Award. The Judges Award recognizes attributes Judges felt were deserving of special recognition. Three Killingly teams now prepare for the US National Robotics Championship in April. KHS held their annual 8th grade Career Pathway and Academic Showcase yesterday. We invited 8th grade students and their families to join us for a presentation on the career pathways, courses and opportunities KHS offers. Students and families then toured the school visiting each department and classroom. Students and families met with faculty to learn about their programs and academics. We handed out KHS shirts to all 8th grade students. It was great to meet everyone in preparation for next year. Thank you to the LINK Crew students

for assisting families with finding classrooms. KHS FFA held a legislator breakfast and meeting yesterday. Students had breakfast with our local legislators, provided them with a tour of the Agricultural classrooms and conducted a panel discussion with FFA students, Future Business Leaders of America students and students from our social studies class. Thank you to Mrs. Cardinal for coordinating this meeting and thank you to our FFA students who hosted the event. KHS School Counseling is visiting sending schools this week and throughout the month of March to begin the course selection process for 8th grade students. The Video Technology class will be leaving for California tomorrow to compete in the Student National Television Network conference and competition. We wish them all the best in this national competition. Congratulations to Ella Dunn and Kylie Day from the Video Technology class for their news coverage of the Unified Sports program which aired on Fox61 on Friday, February 21st as the Student News Story of the day! Congratulations to the following athletic teams: KHS Wrestling Team for winning the ECC Championship and the CIAC Class S State Championship! KHS Boys Basketball Team for winning their first ECC Division Championship! And the KHS Gymnastic Team were runners-up in the Class S State Championship!

**5. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS-February 2025 Employee of the Month, Lori Roberts**

Board Chair, Ms. Susan Lannon read the notice of recognition for Ms. Lori Roberts, February 2025 Employee of the Month. Lori is a RBT at KMS and was nominated by Steve DiFormato and KMS Principal Ms. Tina Chahanovich.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Jasmine Davis spoke about Bullying Awareness. Her daughters attend KMS and have gone through some incidents. Principal, Tina Chahanovich and Assistant Principal, Timothy Jonasch handled the situation amazingly. Ms. Davis feels that because of how many incidents there are, there should be a bullying awareness presentation. Ms. Davis also had questions and concerns about how to make donations to Killingly Public Schools.

**7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FFA FIELD TRIP REQUEST TO WASHINGTON, D.C**

Bethany Knowlton, FFA Teacher, presented to the Board information about the Field Trip to Washington, D.C. FFA students would attend leadership workshops held by National FFA Officers.

**MOTION:** By Misty Murdock, seconded by Kelly Martin to accept FFA Field Trip to Washinton, DC as presented.

**YES-5, Unanimous  
Motion Carries**

**8. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT-**

Councilmember, Michelle Murphy, shared that the Town Council has not met since the last Board of Education Meeting. Councilmember Murphy had a question about unpaid lunch charges.

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

A. Curriculum Committee- No Report

B. Facilities Committee-

Met with the Architect and Engineer to review potential designs for the access road at the high school. Mr. Guiot is hoping to have a full design of the access road to share with the Board soon.

C. Fiscal Committee-No Report

D. Personnel Committee-

Continuing 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-

Reviewed the historical committee's request for not putting out the imagery with the historical significance when the package goes out for surveying. The AdHoc Committee agreed to not add imagery to the package. The committee also decided the survey package will go out to stakeholders. Stakeholders are families, high school students and staff, middle school students and staff, and coaches.

## **10. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025-**

Manager of Business Affairs, Christine Clark, shared some key points of the December 2024 and January 2025 financial report. 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. Ms. Clark shared they are monitoring the cafeteria unpaid meal charges. There were 8 outstanding Purchase Orders for the 23-24 school year and there is continuing progress on resolving those open issues.

## **11. QUARTERLY PROJECTED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, DEC. 2024-**

Manager of Business Affairs, Christine Clark, shared some key points of the December 2024 and January 2025 projected revenues and expenditures. Revenue projection differs from the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter by only 1. There is no update for projected expenditures.

**12. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MONTHLY CHECK AUTHORIZATIONS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY –**

A. December 2024 – FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25

B. January 2025 – FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25

**Motion:** By Misty Murdock, seconded by Laura Dombkowksi to approve monthly check authorizations for December 2024 and January 2025  
**YES-5, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING 2025-26 TUITION RATES**

Manager of Business Affairs, Christine Clark, shared tuition rates for Brooklyn residents attending Killingly High School. The cost of that tuition is \$17,585. Ms. Clark shared that Special Education and Transportation are not included in those rates and are billed separately.

**Motion:** by Meredith Giambattista, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the 2025-2026 Tuition Rates.  
**YES-5, Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**14. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE**

A. Budget Update-

Dr. Nash shared a presentation on the 2025-2026 budget. She shared that budget workshops just finished up and on March 12, 2025, the budget will be put forth for Board Approval and on April 1, 2025, the Board of Education will present the budget to the Town Council. Dr. Nash’s presentation included facts, trends, and historical data. Dr. Nash presented graphs showing the Superintendent’s budget, BOE Budget and adopted budget over the years, this also included a comparison of Killingly’s budget to other districts budgets over the past 2 years. Dr. Nash explained percent in terms of dollars, explaining that lower percentages means more money lost. Dr. Nash also highlighted Return on Investments, board approved budget items that have made Killingly Public Schools better and safer, such as Armed Security Officers in all schools, a Pyramid Coach-lowering the number of office referrals, a new math curriculum that earned KMS to become a school of distinction, and increases in teacher salaries.

**15. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. 2-12-2025 BoE Meeting Minutes

B. KHS Child Development Class Field Trip, Springfield MA

Kelly Martin asked to pull consent item 15.A. 2-12-2025 BoE Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** by Misty Murdock, seconded by Laure Dombkowski to approve consent item 15.A 2-12-2025 BoE Meeting Minutes.

**Yes-4**

**Abstain-1** Kelly Martin

**Motion Carries**

**Motion:** by Misty Murdock, seconded by Laura Dombkowski to approve consent item 15.B KHS Child Development Class Field Trip, Springfield MA

**YES-5, Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** by Misty Murdock seconded by Laura Dombkowski to adjourn at 7:53pm.

**YES- 5, Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

Respectfully submitted by  
***Amy Perreault***  
Acting Recording Secretary