

**Regular Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Central Office, Conference Room A**  
**79 Westfield Ave., Killingly, CT 06239**

**MINUTES**

- Present:** Susan Lannon, (via Zoom), Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista  
Laura Lawrence (absent with notification), Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin,  
Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata. Student Board member, Evan Kozey.
- Guests:** Superintendent Susan Nash, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Guiot and Recording  
Secretary Keely Doyle.

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

Board Vice Chairperson Meredith Giambattista called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. Kyle Napierata led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL-** See above

**3. IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. DANNY ROVERO**

On behalf of the Board of Education, Board Chairperson Susan Lannon said a few words about former Board of Education member, Mr. Danny Rovero who recently passed. Ms. Lannon spoke of Mr. Rovero's kindness, his dedication and the positive impact he had on the District.

**4. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS**

Ms. Meredith Giambattista gave a shout-out to students in the Vo-Ag Department for creating the plant arrangements that were given to Board members tonight, in recognition of Board Appreciation Month. Ms. Susan Lannon gave a shout-out to all Board members also, in recognition of Board Appreciation Month. She thanked all Board members for their dedication, commitment and passion in serving on the Board of Education.

**5. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBER**

Evan Kozey shared the following district news from the schools.

**GECC:** Celebrating Read Across America all month. BOE members are welcome to come read!  
Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held March 13, 2025.

**KCS:** No report.

**KMS:** KMS celebrated Read Across America. Staff participated in door decorating contests featuring their favorite books and enjoyed a fun-filled spirit week, including Dress for Success Day. They also welcomed guest readers, including community members, the Superintendent, and Board of Education representatives.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> Iddi Saakka, a West African dance and music performance artist and teacher who specializes in Ghanaian dance, gave a presentation. Students learned and participated in different Ghanaian dances and music. This program was funded through grant money from Arts for Learning Connecticut whose mission is to "inspire young people and expand their learning through the arts." Parent teacher conferences are taking place March 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> as well as the Scholastic Book Fair.

**KIS:** Spring sports are open to students in all grades.

Overall attendance continues to improve this year. As of March, the average daily attendance stands at 93%. This year we began using social consequences with students who have excessive absences and or tardies to school. Working all together has been key to helping with our attendance.

**KHS:** Many parents and students attended Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

An Assembly was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Social workers as well as art, music, and robotics students were recognized for their accomplishments.

The Technology Student Association (TSA) State Conference will be held on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> at KHS starting at 9am. There will be 16 schools from across Connecticut with 200 students participating. There will be 40 guest judges assisting with 35 competitions. Mr. Jim Hutson, the TSA State Advisor KHS technology teacher manages this entire event.

The KHS Symphonic Band will be participants in the NBA High School Band Symposium which will be held at the US Coast Guard Academy this Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Open to all New England schools with only four school bands accepted annually. KHS Symphonic Band was chosen as one of four high school bands to be invited to perform. The US Coast Guard Band is one of the five best bands in the world. Parents, faculty and staff, community are encouraged to attend this free event. US Coast Guard Band performance is at 11:30am and the KHS Symphonic Band performance at 2:40pm.

Ella Pereira on the HS Gymnastics team who is the New England all-around champion and beam champion in gymnastics. She is the best of the best in New England!

## **6. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

### **a. Friends of Learning in Killingly (FOLK)**

On behalf of FOLK, (Friends of Learning in Killingly) Mr. Bob Beauregard vicechair of FOLK expressed his condolences for the passing of Danny Rovero.

Unfortunalety, Chairperson Janice Ahola Sidaway was not able to tonight's meeting due to her husband's passing.

Some founding members from the Class of 1966 were in the audience, as well as classmates from the Class of 1969. FOLK was founded 26 years ago by the Class of 1966. As of January 2025, FOLK has awarded approximately \$92,000 in mini grants, supporting more than 232 projects in Killingly Public Schools.

This year, 21 applications were received and reviewed by the reviewing committee. 17 mini grants were awarded. Mini grants will help fund such things as; outdoor play supplies, vex go kits, cameras for nature trails, speech & language program supplies, theater program supplies, robotics peer mentoring, Flex seating, garden plants, a special wheel for the ceramics club, books for the young adult reading program, Forgive and Forget leadership program, International games unit, TSA student competitions. Mini grants awarded this year totaled \$9,275.00.

## **7. FFA WEEK PRESENTATION**

FFA students Noah Reinhart and Hailey Collins shared news about the Killingly FFA Chapter in recognition of FFA Week Celebration. FFA week took place the week of February 15, 2025. Gifts of appreciation were handed out to all Board members. The Killingly FFA Chapter has approximately 160 members. Students are very active in the community. Students have appeared on WINY, attended Town Council meetings, and they even held a legislative breakfast with three local legislators. Students are involved in many competitions in the local Chapter, in the District, at State, and National levels. During the Corn Maze event, they collected food to donate to the local food pantry. A fundraiser will be held to help support a local farm that works with veterans. Greenhand recipients is the first of four degrees and is achieved by students who develop supervised agricultural experiences, a required component of agricultural education programs that provides students with hands-on, work-based learning opportunities in agriculture-related fields. Five upperclassmen received the degree.

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

**9. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Town Council member, Ms. Michelle Murphy offered her condolences on behalf of the Town Council in regards to the passing of Mr. Rovero.

1.6M was approved to go towards a new heating system at Westfield Ave.

On April 8 a hearing to vote on ordinances regarding commissions will be held.

Town Council executive search committee has been formed as they begin a search in hiring a new Town Manager. During the early process, the committee will meet in executive sessions.

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

a. Curriculum Committee- No update.

b. Facilities Committee - No update.

c. Fiscal Committee- No update.

d. Personnel Committee-Misty Murdock shared that there was a meeting prior to tonight's Board meeting and a sick bank request will be discussed during executive session. Finishing negotiations with transportation.

e. Policy Committee- Tentative meeting on March 19 at 4:30pm.

f. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying- No update.

g. AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot-No update.

As the liaison for the Economic Development Commission, Misty Murdock shared that the Economic Development Commission looks forward to working with our district and display student activities on Main St. and there are a couple of new business on Main Street.

**11. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

In recognition of Board Appreciation Month, Dr. Nash thanked the Board members for everything they do and she thanked the Vo-Ag students for the plant arrangements.

**a. Discussion and Possible Action to Create Two Special Education Teacher Positions for the Killingly Therapeutic Academy**

Dr. Nash shared that this was discussed at tonight's Personnel Committee meeting and now is being forwarded to the Board at their recommendation. Student's tuition will cover the cost of these positions. This will not have an impact on the budget but the positions only need to be included in the budget.

**MOTION:** by Kelly Martin, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to create two Special Education Teacher positions for the Killingly Therapeutic Academy  
**Unanimous (7)**  
**Motion Carried**

**b. Discussion & Possible Action to Create an Adult Education Director Position**

Dr. Nash shared that Killingly is in a position to offer a quality, Adult Education Program. Cost of the program will be \$114,837. State grant funding is \$63,505. Local contribution is \$51,332. Adult Education Program is open to those 17 years of age and older and Killingly can partner with other Towns. There is no limit in the number of students. The adult education program will utilize 2-3 classrooms upstairs in the front hallway at Westfield Ave. Killingly pays for supplies and most curriculum is on-line, and at no-cost. Meredith Tukey will serve as the Director. Other positions needed would be a GED registrar, ABE teacher, ESL teacher, Citizenship teacher and Counselor/career Navigator. Teacher positions would be funded by grants. Some of our teachers may carry the required endorsements, but teachers can always pursue the appropriate endorsement. A portion of a teacher's time will go towards working in the program and a portion of their salary would be earmarked for this. No additional salaries are needed that would impact the local budget. Most classes will take place in the evening but some may be offered during the day. If needed, our IT department can provide electronic devices. The positions will have no impact on the budget. The program will need State approval and meet all State requirements.

**MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to create an Adult Education Director Position.  
Unanimous (7)  
Motion Carries.**

**c. Discussion & Possible Action Regarding a Posting for Adult Education Staff**

**MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Kyle Napierata to approve posting For Adult Education Staff.  
Unanimous (7)  
Motion Carries**

**12. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Mr. Jeff Guiot shared information about the current, revised Capital Improvement which annually requires Board approval. If and when approved the plan will be submitted to Town Council. The Capital Improvement includes all buildings and reflects prioritized renovation projects. Priorities are determined by safety & health, operational efficiency, compliance and projects that are essential.

**MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Kyle Napierata to approve the Capital Improvement Plan as presented.  
Unanimous (7)  
Motion Approved**

**13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION OF THE 2025-26 RECOMMENDED OPERATING BUDGET**

Dr. Nash gave a presentation of the 2025-26 proposed operational budget. In the early stages of developing a budget, Dr. Nash made many initial reductions before she met with the Board at meetings of the whole to discuss each building's and department's proposed budgets. No decision packages were brought forward. The preliminary departmental/building budgets came in at \$51,313,012. Central Office cuts totaled \$1,574,195.

Dr. Nash showed estimated revenue and tuition and Estimated Cost Sharing (ECS) calculations but ECS can potentially change. Dr. Nash reminded the Board of wage increases over the past ten years. With the exception in 2024, the budget increase was below contractual increases.

The proposed operational budget for 2025-26 is \$49,738,816.61. This is a 4.97% over the 2024-25 budget. The biggest drivers are contractual salaries, which makes up 46.6% of the increase, Professional Technical Services, which makes up 54.35% of the increase and Supplies which makes up 13.94% of the increase. Pre-spending from the 2023-24 budget for supplies account and equipment account for the 2024-25 fiscal year makes it appear that there is a significant increase in the the proposed 2025-26 supplies and equipment line accounts.

Both Kyle Napierata and Kelly Martin shared that they would like to see the proposed budget lower. They are concerned that many taxpayers are having a difficult time making ends meet and the economy is not good. They would like to negotiate the budget and lower it to at least a 4.% increase which would be better than a 4.97% increase. Other Board members supported the budget, as is.

**MOTION: by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Susan Lannon to approve the 2025- 26 budget in the amount of \$49,738,817**  
**Roll Call Vote**  
**No- 2 Kelly Martin, Kyle Napierata**  
**Yes- 5**  
**Motion Carries**

#### **14. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. February 26, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- b. March 3, 2025 Student Enrollment
- c. Employee of the Month Nominee
- d. KCS Field Trip Request to Roger Williams Zoo, Providence RI

Kevin Marcoux requested that consent item 14. a be pulled.

**MOTION: By Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve consent items b, c, and d.**  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kelly Martin to except consent item 14.a**  
**Yes-5**  
**Abstain-2 Kyle Napierata & Kevin Maroux**  
**Motion Carries**

#### **15. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYEE SICK BANK REQUEST**

**MOTION: By Kevin, seconded by Misty Murdock to enter into Executive session at 8:24pm to discuss employee sick bank request.**  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**MOTION: by Susan Lannon, seconded by Misty Murdock to amend the motion to include invite to Dr. Nash, Mr. Guiot, & Kim Burnham.**  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to amend the motion to include invite into Executive session to Susan Lannon, (via Zoom) Dr. Nash, Mr. Guiot and Kim Burnham.  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

The Board entered Executive session at 8:26pm. The Board came out of Executive session.  
The Board resumed their regular meeting at 8:33pm.

**16. POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING EMPLOYEE SICK BANK REQUEST**

**MOTION:** By Kyle Napierata, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to approve sick bank for employee for up to 30 days.  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** By Kyle Napierata, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to adjourn at 8:33pm  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Keely Doyle  
Recording Secretary