

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, March 26, 2025
7:00 PM
Central Office, Conference Room A
79 Westfield Ave., Killingly, CT 06239

MINUTES

Present: Laura Dombkowski, Susan Lannon, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata.
Student Board Member, Melody Hutchinson.
Absent with Notification: Kevin Marcoux, Laura Lawrence, Meredith Giambattista.

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 7:00pm. Melody Hutchinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL- See above

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kelly Martin to move agenda item #9, Public Comment after Recognition of Visitors .
Unanimous
Motion Carries

MOTION: by Kelly Martin, seconded by Kyle Napierata to add to the agenda an Executive Session to Interview KIS & KHS Principal finalists after agenda items 5 & 6
Unanimous
Motion Carries

3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS- No shout-outs.

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

a. March 2025, Employee of Month - J. Lepire

Ms. Lepire started at KIS as the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principals. A few months later Ms. Lepire was hired for the position of Principal's Administrative Assistant. Her oversight and knowledge of the budget and budget process has been invaluable. Her connections to the community and love of community are noteworthy. She is dedicated and a team player.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Christopher Torres signed up for Public Comment but was not present when his name was called.

6. EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: TEACHING & LEARNING SHOWCASE

Ms. Susan Lannon announced that this will be a new standing agenda item.

1st grade KCS teacher, Carrie Blackmar and 8th grade KIS Science teacher, Jill Zangerl shared news about a recent collaboration between the two schools which was very successful. Students in 1st grade went to the KIS planetarium to learn about stars, planets and constellations. Astronomy is included in a unit of the 1st grade CKLA curriculum. 8th grade students led the 1st grade students on a tour of the building. Teachers and students loved this experience and asked if they could schedule more learning time in the planetarium.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INTERVIEW KIS AND KHS FINALISTS.

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kelly Martin to enter into Executive Session to interview potential KIS & KHS principal finalists with invite to Superintendent Nash, Mr. Guiot, Kim Burnham, Melody Hutchinson and finalists.
(finalists will be invited to the room individually, for interview, after the Board is briefed)
Unanimous
Motion Carries

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:10PM.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:00PM and resumed their regular meeting.

8. POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF KHS PRINCIPAL, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

MOTION: by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kelly Martin to authorize the Superintendent to enter into contract with Carrie Apanovitch as Principal of KHS, effective July 1, 2025.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

9. POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF KIS PRINCIPAL, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Mursdock to authorize the Superintendent to enter into contract with Matt Sierakowski as Principal of KIS effective, July 1, 2025.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

10. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

GECC:

Goodyear continues to welcome guest readers for the month of March. Parent/teacher conferences were held on March 14th, with 97% of parents attending. Enrollment for the 25-26 school year has begun.

KCS:

There will be no school for KCS students on March 28. KCS staff will be participating in trauma-informed training, learning strategies to support students.

Kindergarten enrollment has commenced for the 2025/2026 school year. Students must turn 5 on or before September 1st for entry. Kindergarten orientation will be on April 9th at 5:00pm. Childcare & dinner will be provided.

KIS:

KIS Spring sports try-outs are off and running, especially for our track and field team. Over 100 students tried out in conjunction with Spring after-school clubs, with 200 students looking to participate in after-school activities.

KIS would like to donate one more well in Uganda. KIS has provided 3 communities with fresh water due to the generosity of the Killingly community. There are plaques on each of these wells thanking Killingly Intermediate School and the Killingly community.

KHS will be hosting the State Technology Student Association Conference and competition on Saturday, March 29th. Mr. Hutson and KHS TSA students will welcome and host over 250 students at this conference.

Penelope Fernandez & Noah Reinhart were recognized by Dr. Nash at the Connecticut Association of Superintendent's Public Schools (CAPSS) Student Leadership Ceremony on Tuesday, March 25. The CT SAT School Day is on April 3rd.

The KHS Drama department will be performing "Annie" this year. The play will run May 1st through May 3rd. Information will be sent out about tickets and showtimes in April.

11. BOARD CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

- a. Curriculum Committee- Meeting scheduled for April 9th at 6:00PM
- b. Facilities Committee- Mr. Guiot shared that hopefully Facilities will be meeting next week to discuss updates to the KHS access road.
- c. Fiscal Committee- No updates.
- d. Personnel Committee- No updates.
- e. Policy Committee-Misty Murdock shared that a meeting is scheduled for April 2nd at 4:45PM
- f. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying- No updates.
- g. AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot- No updates.

12. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager of Financial Affairs, Ms. Christine Clark shared some highlights from the February 2025 financial report. As of 2/28/25 expenditures and encumbrances total \$31,122, 241 or 65.68% of the budget. Projections show possible salary savings of \$350,000 and benefits savings of \$384,000, mostly due to vacated positions. Savings will help offset a deficit of approximately \$652,000 in the special education outplacement tuition accounts.

Excess cost reimbursement could be 78.8% but until confirmed, the district will assume a 70% reimbursement rate. Ms. Clark's report included calculations based on excess cost reimbursement, total projected local & agency placement costs.

Total estimated cost for SROs & ASOs is \$400,587. Reimbursement from the town is anticipated. The district will continue to monitor unpaid meal charges which is about \$39,000 at this time. Ms. Clark will look into all possible funding sources to cover this debt.

There are three outstanding purchase orders totaling \$82,686 from the 2023-24FY.

Spirol donated \$15,000 to support the KHS robotic student competition.

Ms. Kelly Martin asked Superintendent Nash for the upcoming dates for town budget meetings. Dr. Nash Superintendent shared those dates with the Board.

13. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MONTHLY CHECK AUTHORIZATION

MOTION: by Kelly Martin, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve the monthly check authorization as presented.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

a. Discipline Report

Superintendent Sue Nash gave the Board a report regarding bullying and discipline at KHS & KIS. Comparison data was reflected in the presentation for years 2023-24 & 2024-25.

Student incidents were broken down into 12 categories. These included physical aggression, (with injury and no injury) cell phone, class cuts, insubordination, disruptive behavior, Physical aggression (rough housing, instigation, weapons, assault, fighting)

Student incidents significantly declined in most categories. Incidents with cell phone use at the high school showed a slightly higher number of incidents due to a new cell phone use policy that was approved and implemented this year.

Roughhousing and assault incidents showed a slight increase at KIS.

Bullying reports in both schools showed a slight increase. The increase is most likely due to making the process of reporting bullying easier. In the later part of last school year, banners were purchased and placed throughout the schools. The banners have a QR code that students can scan with a cell phone taking them directly to an electronic bullying report form. This was the intent of getting the banners.... to help students report bullying easier and quicker.

Students are required to sign out electronically when they leave their classroom to use the bathroom. Teachers and admins have access to view and monitor the amount of time that a student is out of the classroom through the "Dashboard" platform. Bathrooms are also monitored by SROs and some bathrooms are locked during specific times of the day. The hiring of SROs is making a difference in lowering student incidents in the bathrooms. During classtime there appears that the hallways have less student traffic, which is a good indication that we are headed in the right direction.

15. CONSENT AGENDA

a. March 12, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Laura Dombkowski to approve the March 12, 2025 Board of Education Minutes.

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Murdock to adjourn at 8:32PM

**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary