

**Regular Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Central Office, Conference Room A**  
**79 Westfield Ave., Killingly, CT 06239**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Susan Lannon, Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista, Laura Lawrence  
Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, and Kyle Napierata.  
Student Board member, Phillip Purcell.

**Guests:** Superintendent Susan Nash, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Guiot and Recording  
Secretary Keely Doyle.

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

Board Chairperson Ms. Susan Lannon called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.  
Laura Lawrence led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL-** See above

**3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS:** Susan Lannon gave a shout out to KMS staff keeping students engaged.

**4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

**a. Student Recipients of the 2025 Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendent (CAPSS) Student Leadership Award.**

Six students were recipients of this year's CAPSS Student Leadership Award. This is a very prestigious award given to students who demonstrate academic success, school leadership and service to others. KIS, KMS and KHS selected two students each. Students were presented a Certificate of Excellence in a ceremony on March 25 at Killingly High School. The six KPS student recipients were: Rory Newcomb and Makayla Shay Flores (grade 4); Daniel Lobe and Paityn Simonds (grade 8); and Penelope Fernandes and Noah Reinhart, (grade 12.)

**b. Student Engagement Steering Committee Presentation**

The student engagement steering committee was created four years ago out of the district-wide attendance committee. The committee meets about six times a year. A panel of students representing KIS and KHS gave a presentation on data from a student climate survey. Students shared their opinions of why they thought some students weren't coming to school.

KIS's climate survey data showed that there is an increase in the number of students stating they feel connected to at least one adult at KIS. Students are encouraged to talk to teachers about bullying. Awareness around bullying has increased. There are more adult monitors in the hallway. There are new teachers that students are connecting with. KIS has a security officer that helps makes students feel safer. Students receive rewards tickets through the Prize Patrol program, this promotes positive student behavior.

KHS's Climate Survey data showed an increase of the number of students stating they feel connected to at least one adult at KHS. One of the reasons why is that there more time is being spent between older students and their teachers. There is more availability for students during the day to spend time

with teachers. The survey also asked students if they thought students treated each other with respect. This number has increased. There have been fewer fights, and a calmer atmosphere. Students were asked if they feel safe both physically and emotionally in their school. Data shows an increase that students are feeling safer. Students who are out of the classroom are monitored more closely. Teachers are making more personal connections with students and more engaging lessons. In March 2025 chronic absenteeism data was the lowest it has been in 4 years with a 16% district-wide.

## **5. EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: TEACHING & LEARNING SHOWCASE**

Ms. Lisa Higgins is a special education teacher for the transition program at KHS and she gave an update about the transition program. Ms. Michelle Pion also works in the transition program with Ms. Higgins. The program is for students with disabilities, ages 18-22. Students complete their 4-year high school requirements but continue to grow, learning how to be successful in the community. Students learn more independent living skills, and participate in vocational experiences. Both teachers network with many local businesses. The businesses support the program and make donations and offer valuable work experiences.

Nicola Able, KHS English teacher and KEA president shared news about her student's experiences in taking the AP Literature and Composition class. This year 37 students took the AP literature exam that takes over 3-hours to complete. Ms. Able prepares students for this exam by having students write many essays and she administers many practice exams.

## **6. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

**GECC:** GECC celebrated Autism Awareness last week by focusing on different aspects such as special interests, mindfulness, wearing blue, and using only natural light. The highlight was a "Parents Night Out or In" where staff provided childcare so parents could have a well-deserved night to themselves.

**KMS:** On Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, KMS welcomed families for a night of creativity, play, and exploration. Professional Development Day, KMS teachers participated in sessions focused on enhancing both math and ELA curriculum. Paraprofessionals engaged in a valuable training centered on Trauma-Informed Practices and strategies for building resilience.

**KIS** congratulated both Paityn Simonds and Daniel Lobe on being recognized as this year's recipients of the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents Certificate of Excellence awards. Both students have demonstrated excellence in service, academics, and leadership while at Killingly Intermediate School. They are role models to their peers and are extremely worthy of this recognition.

**KHS:** The KHS Robotics Team did very well at the National Robotics Competition. In addition to being Tournament Champion finalists, and 3rd place, all 3 of the KHS teams collaborated with a fourth team from Beijing, China to be crowned the Mega Alliance Champions.

The KHS Drama department will be presenting the play "Annie" this year. There was a change of date from the last BOE meeting. Opening night on May 15th with two shows on Saturday May 17th.

The junior prom is on Friday, April 25th. KHS and KIS are collaborating in raising funds to help build another well in Uganda.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jasmine Davis- Is not in support of Mr. Zornado filling the Board's vacant seat.

Robin Lofquest- Is in support of Mr. Zornado filling the Board vacancy.

Norm Ferron-Read a letter on behalf of Town Council member, Ulla Barclay sharing that she is not in support of Mr. Zornado filling the Board vacancy.

Mr. Ferron is not in support of Mr. Zornado filling the Board vacancy.

Nancy Grandelski-Ms. Grandelski read a letter on behalf of Mr. Ed Grandelski, Town Council member. Mr. Grandelski is in support of Mr. Zornado filling the Board vacancy. Ms Grandelski is also in support of Mr. Zornado filling the Board vacancy.

John LaBelle-Is in support of Mr. Zornado filling the Board vacancy.

**8. INTERVIEW OF DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION OF APPLICANT TO FILL BOARD VACANCY**

The Board interviewed Mr. Zornado and asked several questions. Mr. Zornado conveyed why he wanted to serve on the Killingly Board of Education.

**MOTION:** by Kelly Martin, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to add to tonight's agenda action regarding the Killingly Democratic Town Committees recommendation of applicant to fill the Board vacancy.  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to appoint Mr. Zornado to the vacant Killingly Board of Education position.  
**Roll Call Vote**  
Yes-4 Susan Lannon, Meredith Giambattista Kevin Marcoux, Misty Murdock  
No- 4, Laura Dombkowski, Laura Lawrence, Kelly Martin, Kyle Napierata.  
**Motion Fails**

**9. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT-** No report

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

On behalf of Town Council, Ms. Lannon extended an invitation to Board members to participate in a Zoom meeting next Thursday with consultants who were hired to manage the hiring process for a new town manager. Ms. Lannon also reminded everyone about the hearing tomorrow night at KHS at 7:00PM.

a. **Curriculum Committee**

- i. Discussion & Possible Action of New Textbook: My Perspective & English Language Arts, Gr.10  
The Curriculum Committee met earlier tonight and they spoke favorably of the new text that was presented.

**MOTION:** by Misty Murdock, seconded by Laura Lawrence to approve new New Textbook, My Perspective & English Language Arts, Gr.10  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

- ii. Discussion & Possible Action of New Course at KHS: Class Piano/Keyboard Harmony

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Laura Lawrence to approve new KHS Class Piano/Keyboard Harmony  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

- b. **Facilities Committee-** The committee met on March 31 and reviewed designs for the KHS access road. Mr. Guiot shared that he is waiting to hear from the architect and engineer regarding options of having gravel as opposed to pavement and no sidewalks. The committee will meet again with intent of making recommendation to the full Board with a final design and cost proposal.
- c. **Fiscal Committee-** No reports
- d. **Personnel Committee-** Misty Murdock shared that the next meeting will be on April 23 at 6:00PM
- e. **Policy Committee**
  - e.1 Discussion & Possible Action as First Reading of New Policy #3171.1 Business & Non-Instructional Operation, Non-Lapsing Education Fund

Killingly does not have a policy that specifically addresses new statutes that went into effect last year. Edits had been made to the original CABA policy.

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Kyle Napierata approve First reading Policy #3171.1 Business & Non-Instructional Operation, Non-Lapsing Education Fund  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**e.2 Discussion and Possible Action of Revised Bylaw #9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings.**

This bylaw was discussed by policy committee members on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members of the Board are proposing one Board meeting a month, as opposed to two. The monthly meeting would take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The Board will still have the option to hold a special meeting if needed. If the revised bylaw is approved, the change would begin in September 2025 and an amended letter will be sent to the Town Clerk reflecting this change.

**MOTION:** by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to accept revised Bylaw #9321 as presented, as a First Reading.  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**e.3 Discussion and Possible Action as First Reading of New Policy#4113.12, Personnel Certified, Minimum Duty-Free Lunch Periods for Teachers**

Killingly already implements this practice but Killingly lacks a written policy as indicated in CABA's policy audit.

**MOTION:** Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Misty Murdock to approve as CABA's suggested Policy#4113.12, Personnel Certified, Minimum Duty- Free Lunch Periods for Teachers as a First Reading.  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

**e.4 Discussion and Possible Action as First Reading of New Policy#5113.2 Students-Truancy**

Dr. Nash shared that the policy committee made some edits and additional changes were made at C.O. Killingly has a policy that addresses absenteeism but this one specifically address truancy. The last paragraph was struck out because there is no truancy clinic established serving Killingly.

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Kyle Napierata to approve new policy#5113.2 Students-Truancy as a First Reading as presented.  
**Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries**

- f. **AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying-** No report
- g. **AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot-** No report
- h. **Updates from Liaisons for: Town Council, CABA, Cable Advisory, EASTCONN, Economic Development,**

**Parks & Recreation-** Kevin Marcoux shared some KP& R updates.

Town Council approved funding to replace the heating system at Westfield Avenue. Beagary Trust gave a 3-year donation to go towards renovations at the high school for theater. July 4<sup>th</sup>, Red, White & Blue celebration has received \$17,500, with a goal of \$20,000. Several capital improvement projects are in the works; KP&R facility rental fees will increase once they move to the Westfield Avenue location.

**PBC-** No report

## **11. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

- a. Budget Update –Dr. Nash reminded Board members of tomorrow’s Public Hearing at 7:00PM at KHS and other dates for the budget process. The hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Town Council will deliberate next week and Dr. Nash will be notified by the end of next week if adjustments will be necessary.

## **12. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. March 26, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- b. April 1, 2025 Student Enrollment
- c. Employee of the Month Nominee

Kevin Marcoux asked to pull consent item 12.a March 26, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** by Misty Murdock, seconded by Kyle Napierata to approve consent item 12.a March 26, 2025 Board minutes.

**Yes-5**

**Abstain-** Kevin Marcoux, Laura Lawrence, Meredith Giambattista

**Motion Carries**

**MOTION:** by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Misty Mursock to approve consent items 12.b and 12.c.

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

## **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS**

**MOTION:** by Kyle Napierata, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to enter into Executive Session at 9:03PM to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation Process.

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:26PM and resumed their regular meeting.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** by Kevin Marcoux, seconded by Kyle Napierata to adjourn at 9:26PM.

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

Respectfully submitted by,

*Keely Doyle*

Recording Secretary