

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, April 23, 2025
7:00 PM
Central Office, Conference Room A
79 Westfield Ave., Killingly, CT 06239

MINUTES

Present: Laura Dombkowski, Meredith Giambattista, Laura Lawrence, (absence with notification) Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Susan Lannon (via Zoom.)
Student Board representatives: Absent with Notification.

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 7:01pm.
Misty Murdock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL- See above

3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS- None

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

a. April 2025 Employee of the Month

Cindy Miller works in the KHS Guidance Department but supports the entire administrative team at Killingly High School. Cindy is truly the backbone of the school counseling department at KHS. Cindy's dedication, unwavering work ethic, and tireless contributions have made an impact on the entire school community, from the administration and staff to the students and families.

5. EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: TEACHING & LEARNING SHOWCASE

Ms. Heather Lopez, KHS vocational education teacher shared some of the students most recent accomplishments. Five students participated in a district public speaking competition and one student went to the State competition at UCONN. Two students will be competing at the State Agricultural Science Fair. Seven upper classmen submitted applications for the State Proficiency Award for their SAE endeavors. Six of them are State winners.

6. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS- Student Board representatives were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT- Mr. Ed Grandelski, Town Council member asked why consultants came up with designs and proposals where the access road would be furthest away from relevant areas. He visited the site and there are other options. The Board should ask the consultants to look into other options. There hasn't been enough action or progress made regarding the access road.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TRIP REQUEST TO IRELAND & SCOTLAND IN FEB. 2027 FOR KHS ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Dr. Polselli, KHS Technology Education teacher spoke of how successful his students have been at many past international robotic competitions. Killingly students exceed many other schools at the competitions. Because the trip does not take place until February 2027, Dr. Po is in the preliminary planning stages for this trip & competition.

MOTION: by Mr. Marcoux, seconded by Ms. Murdock to approve Dr. Polselli's trip request to Ireland & Scotland in February 2027 for a KHS student robotics competition.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

9. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Town Council Liaison, Michelle Murphy stated that Buddy Conroy will be the interim Town Manager for the next few months until a new Town Manager is hired. She substantiated that Town Council cut the Board of Education budget by 1.8M and shared a reminder, about the May 5 Public Hearing at 7:00 pm at KHS.

10. BOARD CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

- a. Curriculum Committee- no report
- b. Facilities Committee- no report
- c. Fiscal Committee- no report
- d. Personnel Committee- update later in the meeting during Executive session.
- e. Policy Committee

- i. Discussion & Possible Action as Second Reading of New Policy #3171.1 Business & Non-Instructional Operation, Non-Lapsing Education Fund

MOTION: by Mr. Napierata, seconded by Mr. Marcoux to approve the Second Reading of New Policy #3171.1 Business & Non- Instructional Operation, Non-Lapsing Education Fund.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

- ii. Discussion and Possible Action of Second Reading of Revised Bylaw #9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings

Ms. Murdock reminded Board members that the revised Bylaw, if approved, would change the number of Board meetings per month from 2 to 1 starting September 2025.

MOTION: by Mr. Marcoux, seconded by Mr. Napierata to approve the Second Reading of Revised Bylaw #9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meeting.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

- iii. Discussion and Possible Action as Second Reading of New Policy#4113.12, Personnel Certified, Minimum Duty-Free Lunch Periods for Teachers

MOTION: by Mr. Marcoux, seconded by Ms. Murdock to approve the Second Reading of New Policy#4113.12, Personnel Certified, Minimum Duty-Free Lunch Periods for Teachers
Unanimous
Motion Carries

- iv. Discussion and Possible Action as Second Reading of New Policy#5113.2 Students Truancy

MOTION: by Mr. Marcoux, seconded by Ms. Murdock to approve the Second Reading of New Policy#5113.2 Students Truancy
Unanimous
Motion Carries

- f. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying-no repeat
- g. AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot- no report
- h. Updates from Liaisons for: Town Council, CAFE, Cable Advisory, EASTCONN, Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, PBC- no report

11. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2025

- a. 3rd Quarter for 2024-25FY Projected Revenues and Expenditures

Christine Clark communicated that the quarterly projections and revenues will be provided to the Town and put on the KPS website. The monthly financial report is for the month of March 2025, the 3rd quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year. As the district is approaching the end of the fiscal year, the report focuses more on what will not be spent. Savings in other accounts are expected to fully cover a deficit balance of \$696,000. An overall salary savings of approximately \$442,000 including benefits. anticipated \$640,000 surplus is expected. The report included line-item budget impact calculations with and without anticipated Excess Cost Reimbursement (ECR)for local and agency outplacements. Additional state funding or ECR could potentially be 78.8% but that is not confirmed yet. The total cost for SRO & ASOs is approximately \$392,000 with an anticipated \$96,000 balance. Reimbursement will be recorded by the Town at the end of the year. All purchase orders have been closed from last year. Unpaid student meal charges, approximately \$49,000 continues to increase and will need to be paid by the end of the year.

12. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MONTHLY CHECK AUTHORIZATION

MOTION: by Ms. Murdock, seconded by Mr. Marcoux to approve check authorization for the month of March 2025.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

13. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION FOR HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION (HFC) FOR. SCHOOL YEAR 2025-26

MOTION: by Mr. Marcoux, seconded by Ms. Martin that... Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f the Killingly Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

MOTION: by Ms. Murdock, seconded by Mr. Marcoux that...
The Killingly Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place.
**Unanimous
Motion Carries**

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

a. 2025-26 Budget Update

Attributable to the 1.8M reduction from Town Council, Dr. Nash presented adjustments of what will have the lowest impact on the District. The proposed BOE budget after adjustments is \$47,938,817. Dr. Nash is creating revenues by opening up enrollment to surrounding towns to offset the education budget. Sterling Board of Education recently approved to designate KHS as a school choice. New revenue will also be generated from the adult education program and that revenue will be subtracted from the operating budget, with an anticipated savings of \$98,000.

Dr. Nash showed what the impact would be if there was a reduction of 24 positions.

Reduction decisions are based on current vacancies and length of vacancies, graduation requirements, accountability report impact, number of students in a class, and adjustments that would have the lowest student impact but the highest savings.

Potential reductions are:

- 10 certified staff (4 people) (teachers & administrators)
- 14 non-certified (3 people) (secretaries, custodians, paraeducators, & nurses)
- Other reductions include supplies, equipment, leases, etc. Athletics \$77K, O&M-\$50K, I.T -\$70K, GECC-\$4K, KCS-\$10K, KMS-\$18K, KIS-\$18K, KHS-\$15K

Dr. Nash explained that State reports do not always reflect a true student-to-teacher classroom ratio. Typically ALL certified staff are included in some state reports but many certified staff do not have their own assigned classrooms. i.e. social workers, counselors, special education and remedial teachers, speech & lang. pathologists. Classroom sizes as of March 1, for grades k-8 range from 18-23. Exception is grade 1 which is 14.

Dr. Nash asked if the Board had any other suggestions in reducing the budget. There were no suggestions. Dr. Nash shared that late last night she and other superintendents received notification that some districts, including Killingly, due to a pending bill, may no longer be identified as Alliance Districts, therefore losing funding. In Killingly, \$328,000 from the Alliance grant supports interventionist, tutors, after school clubs, standardized testing platform for ELA and Math. The state will allocate funds to 15 “priority” districts. The \$328,000 would now be added to the ECS grant in the Town’s budget.

15. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. April 9, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
b. Trip Request to PA for Cheerleading Training Camp in August 2025 for KHS Cheerleaders

MOTION: by Mr. Marcoux , seconded by Ms. Murdock to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SICK BANK REQUEST & SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

MOTION: by Kelly Martin, seconded by Kevin Marcoux to enter into Executive Session to discuss an employee bank request and the Superintendent Evaluation with invite to Dr. Nash, Mr. Guiot, Sue Lannon & Kim Burnham.
Unanimous
Motion Carries.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:09PM
The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:41PM and resumed their regular meeting.

17. POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A SICK BANK REQUEST

MOTION: by Mr. Marcoux, seconded by Ms. Murdock to approve a sick bank request, up to 30 days for certified staff member as discussed in executive session.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

18. POSSIBLE ACTION TO EXTEND THE SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR.

MOTION: by Mr. Marcoux, seconded by Mr. Napierata to add 1 more year to Dr. Nash's current contract.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

19. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Mr. Marcoux, seconded by Ms. Murdock to adjourn.
Unanimous
Motion Carries

The April 23, 2025 Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:41PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary