

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, June 11, 2025**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Central Office, Conference Room A, 79 Westfield Ave., Killingly, CT 06239**

**MINUTES**

**Present: Laura Dombkowski (joined meeting via Zoom, at 7:56), Laura Lawrence (via Zoom), Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Susan Lannon (via Zoom), Meredith Giambattista. Student Board Members: Melody Hutchinson, Edward Purcell.**

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

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

**Meredith Giambattista called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Kyle Napierata led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS**

Kyle Napierata- shout out to Head Coach Ben Desaulnier. He does a remarkable job; hired super young as a JV coach. Became the youngest coach in the state. Lessons that he has shared with the students are invaluable and reach beyond the ball field.

**4. EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: TEACHING & LEARNING SHOWCASE**

**5. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

A. Introduction of new Student Board Member Representative, Edward Purcell, for the 25-26 school year

**B. Student Report**

Goodyear is wrapping up the school year with classroom family gatherings and the annual school wide End of Year Celebration Thursday night. Last week, children entering kindergarten enjoyed a step-up day to KCS-meeting their kindergarten teachers and touring the school.

Kindergarteners at KCS are excited to be going on a field trip this week to the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic. Students will be educated about the diverse ecosystems. Kindergarten classrooms are hosting their Kindergarten Family Picnic on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.

KCS filled the school's ticket jar for being KIND and SAFE; giving each student the opportunity of having a treat from RaRa's ice cream truck.

4th grade students had the opportunity to visit the Windham Textile Museum to learn about Connecticut's industrial heritage and the textile industry's impact on local communities. Last Tuesday evening, parents were invited to KMS to view the student portfolios; they were treated to poetry readings by our fourth graders.

This week is our 8<sup>th</sup> grade annual field trip to Holiday Hill in Mansfield. Thursday, our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are ready for their field day. On Friday, our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in their field day events. All BOE members are invited to stop by. 8<sup>th</sup> grade recognition ceremonies are happening on Monday at 9:30 and 12:00. Feel free to stop by and wish our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students well. Mr. Sheldon would like to publicly thank the BOE and the families for welcoming him into the Killingly Public Schools family and for supporting him in his role as the KIS principal. Mr. Sheldon wishes everyone a wonderful summer!

The students all had an amazing time at the KHS Senior Awards and Scholarship Night on Thursday, June 5th. We are so grateful for all the community members, business members and organizations who provided scholarships to support the class of 2025. Final exams are in full swing this week. Underclassmen are participating in exams and any make ups for assignments and assessments. Killingly Sports Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 school year. Summer School information is on the Killingly High School webpage. Students can participate in credit recovery in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health, and PE during Summer School from July 7th - July 31st Monday-Thursday 9AM-12PM.

#### **6. PRESENTATION BY STUDENTS FROM KIS THEATER: SHREK JR. BEHIND THE SCENES**

Presentation made by: 7th graders Andie Fortune, Abby Biggs, Melody Julien, Ivy Drowne, Sybella Fredricks, Madelynn Wheeler and 8th graders Molly Garland, Lucy Gavis, Avery Main, Dakota St. Jean.

Students learned from KIS Teacher, Allegra Plantier, how to put together a theatrical show from start to finish. They provided photos and memories of making a show come to life, from the set development to show selection and time and stage management. Students learned about marketing and promoting the production and different ways of engaging with the community. 104 KIS students actively participated in the production.

#### **7. PUBLIC COMMENT-**

Public Comments: John LaBelle shared that what the students are doing in the KIS theater program and presenting at the Board Meeting today are amazing. He encouraged the Board of Education to consider Mr. King for the open position on the Board. He thanked The Board of Education for their work on the Budget this year.

#### **8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF KHS FIELD TRIP TO FRANCE AND SPAIN, SPRING BREAK 2027**

Proposed trip for spring break of 2027; David Rollinson proposed this trip to immerse his students in the language and culture.

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux makes a motion to approve the proposed KHS field trip to France and Spain during spring break 2027. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.**

**Unanimous, Motion carries**

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

### **A. Administration Problem of Practice Presentations**

Dr. Nash's introduction- KPS implements Problems of Practice to create a living system and planning that is active throughout the year. Data is collected and then the goals are developed and this is a constant process for student and Administrative growth.

Karen Lagace- KHS focussed on MTSS Tier 1 Supports (what do we need to do to support our students' needs?)

Chronic absenteeism has been almost cut in half over the last year. Mental Health check-ins with students through PRIDE Intervention/ PRIDE HR, developed with student feedback and leadership. Soft Skills area for improvement was in decision making.

Bryant Sheldon- KIS Academic focussed on Culture centered as a holistic growth mindset surrounding the area of Mathematics. There was an initial focus on Tier 1 instruction for teachers. The transition to the Illustrative Math program, which takes students from 1st grade through 8th grade, for education continuity. They worked with students at the beginning of the year to create individualized student goal setting forms to assess the individual goals and strategies of each student. During the school year, teachers worked with their students to achieve their goals, they had the students track their own progress and growth. KIS was looking to implement common philosophies across all teachers, for continuity of teaching. Through this process they saw students become engaged in wanting to improve their depth of knowledge and become more invested in their own learning process. One Teacher started out the year with 9 students requesting a retake; which jumped to 39 students requesting a retake to improve their grades and learn how hard work benefited their education.

Tina Chahanovich KMS- Reading program was their Problem of Practice for 24-25. Intentional planning for student engagement with frequent class surveys of student feedback. High active engagement in ELA increased from 52% to 76% of lessons, with a marked improvement for the student experience.

Emily Caviggia- KCS focussed on the Reading program, looking to continue to support student engagement. Increased staff understanding of Social Emotional Learning and Trauma Informed Practices. Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) administered to all Kindergarten and first grade students at the beginning and the end of the year. These efforts have led to better engagement in the classroom, specifically doubling the number of students who are reading at or above grade level.

Sally Sherman - Goodyear Director focussed on Teacher Practice; small group instruction to grow the depth of knowledge among students. Learning Experience Plan required to meet funding requirements through the Office of Early Childhood. Planning time and self evaluations were combined for self improvement throughout the year. 86% of lessons are now at a Level 3 out of 4.

Elise Geary- PPS Director focus is on staff's self awareness of Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Clear

and concise roles and responsibilities; supporting staff's growth and development with increased collaboration, curiosity and preparedness for all teachers. Developed and implemented "Meeting Norms" for all meetings. Student process outcomes have improved as a result of more collaborative and curious Teachers and staff.

Kevin Napierata noted that he appreciates the hard work of the administration team and the work that they do investing in the students.

Kelly Martin notes that she is always amazed at how prepared and thorough the team is; she appreciates them and their work.

B. Budget Update- Possible action to adopt 25-26 budget

Dr. Nash thanks all voters who came out to vote; the budget passed. She is asking the Board to approve the proposed reductions to the budget. The Board of Education originally adopted a budget of \$49,738,817.00, which was adjusted by the Town Council to \$47,938,817. This represents a reduction of \$1,800,00.00, and an increase of \$554,978 over the 24-25 budget. On May 28, 2025 Dr. Nash presented a revised, recommended budget with 14 positions eliminated, 11 positions reduced and 3 jobs lost. \$446,064.00 was reduced for supplies expenses. Dr. Nash has recommended that the Board of Education utilize \$300,000.00 from the non-lapsing fund for initial start-up costs associated with Killingly Therapeutic Academy. The whole Administrative team has agreed to a 1 year pay freeze. The currently vacant Assistant Principal position will be reduced from a 12 month to a 10 month position. Dr. Nash advised that schools across the state, including Killingly, were approved for SEED Grant funds. These funds, which will be used for the expansion of special education programs and will be coming to schools for this upcoming school year; Killingly was approved for \$152,000. Dr. Nash proposes that Killingly use those funds to possibly offset the \$300,000 from the non-lapsing funds, to support the costs of the Killingly Therapeutic Academy, depending on the timing.

Kelly Martin- inquired if all secretaries will be cut from 12 months to 10 months.

Dr. Nash- The answer is no; we looked at a secretary to student ratio, to make the determination.

Misty Murdock- Is there a way to keep paraprofessionals on for next year? And what will be the process to bring those positions back because those seem to be positions where we always have a need.

Dr. Nash- Those positions that we are looking to eliminate are currently vacant and have been vacant for most of the school year; we would go through the Personnel Committee and the Board of Education for approval to bring those positions back, in the future.

Misty Murdock- can we use the non-lapsing funds to cover the reductions in supplies costs as outlined in the new budget?

Dr. Nash- that is not a good use of those funds; those funds are designated more for large, single transactions

Reductions presented on May 28, 2025

- 1 high school classroom position
- 2 elementary school classroom positions (2 Vacant)
- 3 intervention positions (1 Vacant)
- 2 special services positions (2 Vacant)
- 3 paraeducators (1 PT, 2 FT) (3 Vacant)
- 2 Custodians (1 PT, 1 FT) (1 Vacant)
- All Administrators take a 1 year pay freeze
- 1 District Reading Consultant position eliminated

- 1 Assistant Principal position reduced from 12 months to 10 months (Vacant)
- 7 secretaries reduced 12 months to 10 months (specific B and B+ positions between KCS, KMS, KIS and KHS)
- Proposed reduction of \$300,00 from ESS for KTA- to be paid from non-lapsing

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to adopt the budget with the reductions as presented by Dr. Nash. Misty Murdock seconded the motion. Unanimous; Motion carries**

#### **10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FOOD SERVICES CONTRACT FOR 25-26**

Dr. Nash- KPS is very pleased with the ongoing partnership with Whitsons, and the quality product that they routinely deliver.

Kelly Martin- provided positive feedback regarding the relationship between Whitsons and KPS

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux motions to approve the Food Services Contract as it is written for the 25-26 school year. Kyle Napierata seconded the motion. Unanimous; Motion carries**

#### **11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF ADJUSTED STUDENT MEAL PRICES.**

Dr. Nash- to stay in compliance the calculating tool recommends that we raise the minimum price per student meal by \$0.50 per meal. We are proposing the recommended increase of \$.50 per meal for this upcoming year. For the audience we would like to let you know that for the 26-27 school year, the fiscal committee will investigate community eligibility provision (CEP), which would provide free meals for most, if not all Killingly students. The District would likely need to dedicate funds from the operating budget to bring this to fruition.

Kelly Martin- this is the recommended price increase?

Tim Mugan- Yes; we will still be a little bit short, but I don't recommend anything above a \$0.50 increase. This at least puts us in the ballpark.

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the adjusted student meal prices, with an increase of \$0.50 per meal. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve. Unanimous; Motion carries**

#### **12. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION FOR TRANSFER EXCEEDING \$10,000.00 TO SUPPORT PROTECH SERVICES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS FROM AN OUTSIDE AGENCY**

To clean up budget lines, we are looking to move funds to zero out lines and cover the expenses (\$106,114.57) associated with ProTech services; expenses were primarily for Speech and Language support through French River. We utilized an outside agency for services, since we were not able to hire a Speech Pathologist until March.

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the budget transfer to cover**

**expenses associated with ProTech student services. Kyle Napierata seconded the motion.**

**Unanimous; Motion carries**

### **13. INTERVIEW OF DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION OF APPLICANT TO FILL BOARD VACANCY WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Board invited Mr. Nelson G. King Jr to join the meeting for an interview. Mr. King was endorsed by the DTC to fill the Board of Education vacancy. Board Members were given a copy of his resume. The Board interviewed Mr. King.

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the nomination of Mr. King to join the Killingly Board of Education. Misty Murdock seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yes- 8 (Laura Dombkowski, Laura Lawrence, Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Susan Lannon, Meredith Giambattista)**

**No- 0**

**Unanimous; Motion to approve Mr. King for the Board of Education carries**

### **14. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Michelle Murphy: Opioid settlement funds through a class action lawsuit funds have been designated for CT: \$300million over 18 years.

There were two requests for the current \$166,000 available. One ask was related to NDDH, one ask was for a camp/shelter for first responders to help support those with PTSD. All of the current available funding was approved to support the request for first responders.

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

A. Curriculum Committee

- Upcoming meeting anticipated for June 25, 2025

B. Facilities Committee

C. Fiscal Committee

Still working on the Access Road; it is up in the Wetland development with the town.

D. Personnel Committee

- Upcoming meeting anticipated for June 25th

E. Policy Committee

F. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying

G. AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot

Mr. Iamartino and Dr. Nash worked together to create a survey system to vote for preferences. She asked for feedback from the Board on user experience. The survey will be sent out to KIS students, parents, staff and stakeholders as well as KHS students, parents, staff and stakeholders; the data will then be presented to the sub-committee.

Misty- will the data be line itemed so it is more numbers, for more anonymity?

Dr. Nash- the data can be presented in any way that you want; this is a customized survey.

Kelly Martin- as pained as I am by the idea of picking a new name, I went through the form and the survey was very simple and easy.

Misty Murdock agreed that the survey was quick and easy to use.

- Upcoming meeting anticipated for June 23rd to discuss the data from this survey

H. Updates from Liaisons for: Town Council, CABA, Cable Advisory, EASTCONN, Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, PBC

- Town Council- no report
- CABA- no report
- Cable Advisory- no report
- EASTCONN- no report
- Economic Development- no report
- Parks & Recreation- no report
- PBC- no report

## 16. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. May 28th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. June 2nd, 2025 Student Enrollment
- C. June 2025 Employee of the Month Nomination

Meredith Giambattista pulled Item A from the consent agenda, due to some board members being absent at the previous Board of Education meeting.

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux motions to approve the June 2, 2025 student enrollment report as well as the June 2025 employee of the month nomination. Kyle Napierata seconded the motion.**

**Unanimous; Motion carries**

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux motions to approve the minutes from the May 28th ' 2025 meeting as presented. Misty Murdock seconded the motion.**

**Yes- 5 (Laura Dombkowski, Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata)**

**No- 0**

**Abstentions- 3 (Laura Lawrence, Meredith Giambattista, Susan Lannon)**

**Motion carries**

## 17. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to adjourn at 9:17pm; Misty Murdock seconded the motion.**

**Unanimous; Motion carries**

Respectfully submitted by,

*Meg Whiteley*

Recording Secretary