

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2025**  
**7:00 PM**

**Central Office, Conference Room A, 79 Westfield Ave., Killingly, CT 06239**

**MINUTES**

**Present: Laura Dombkowski (absent with notification), Nelson King, Laura Lawrence (absent with notification), Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Susan Lannon (via Zoom), Meredith Giambattista. Student Board Members: Emerson Joly, Evan Kozy.**

**Guests: Superintendent Susan Nash, Recording Secretary Meg Whiteley.**

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

Meredith called the meeting to order at 7pm. Emerson Joly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS**

Meredith Giambattista wanted to recognize and appreciate all teachers for getting their classrooms ready and a smooth start to the school year.

**4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

A. KPS Para of the Year 2025-2026, Carol Dragon

B. KPS Teacher of the Year 2025-2026, Joelle Guillot

**5. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

**Goodyear:**

Goodyear kicked off the year with a well-attended open house on August 26th. As part of being a nature-based program, the school added greenery and natural elements to the playground area.

**KCS:**

Transportation, including both bussing and parent drop-off/pick-up, ran smoothly, and there was a noticeable sense of enthusiasm among both students and staff.

The Kindergarten Open House was a great success, with over 90% of families in attendance.

Grade 1 Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 11th, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM.

**KMS:**

The KMS Open House was held on Wednesday, September 3rd. The Scholastic Book Fair was also in full swing that evening, drawing a huge crowd; funds raised from the fair will directly support cultural and performing arts events for our students throughout the year. Many KMS students participated in the Governor's Summer Reading and Math Challenge.

**KIS:**

KIS is off to a strong start this year. Staff are focusing on fostering student respect and providing more meaningful feedback to support growth. KIS is also working with the Town Parks and Recreation Department; before the *Hocus Pocus* showing on September 24th, PE staff will lead games at Davis Park,

and the school will host a tent in the town's Light Parade community event the following day. Boys' and girls' soccer and cross country teams are preparing for their first competitions next week.

**KHS:**

On August 27th, Killingly High School hosted its annual Freshman Dinner and Orientation, hosting over 300 freshmen and family members. Killingly High School hosted its annual Club Showcase: from academic and leadership organizations like FBLA, Student Council, Model UN, and TSA, to creative and recreational options such as Robotics, Free Draw, Ceramics, Frets & Friends, LEGO Club, Bible Club, Yoga Club, Environmental Awareness and e-Sports, there was something for everyone.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT-**

*No Public Comment*

**7. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

CT water company will be doing work along RT 12 between plainfield and killingly, on a water main. Sewer moratorium is still ongoing; discussion with Frito Lay is still ongoing. Renter's abatement rebate is still available up until the application deadline on September 30th. Coffee with Council & BOE will be held on September 27th at 9am, at the Chubby Dog Coffee. A lot of complaints and concerns have been raised about the signs at one house on Upper Maple Street. All legal avenues are being looked into; the issue has been elevated to the state level.

Kelly Martin raised a question concerning the sewer moratorium.

Michelle Murphy clarified that Frito Lay contributes a lot to Killingly's allocated B.O.D (Biological Oxygen Demand) volume, as well as the overall contaminant levels. If Frito Lay pre-treated their waste material before it reached the Killingly system, it would decrease the overall load, reducing the impacts to the whole system. They are engaged in discussions about possible solutions.

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

- A. Curriculum Committee
- B. Facilities Committee
- C. Fiscal Committee
- D. Personnel Committee
  - Killingly Public Schools has begun negotiations with teachers
- E. Policy Committee
- F. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying
- G. AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot
  - The Historic Committee met over the summer to discuss aspects they thought would be valuable to reflect in the logo. Dr. Nash and the Committee worked with Jostens to develop the logo that best reflects the "Trailblazers". The new logo will be unveiled in the upcoming months.
- H. Updates from Liaisons for: Town Council, CABE, Cable Advisory, EASTCONN, Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, PBC

**9. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MONTHLY CHECK AUTHORIZATION for June 24-25, July 24-25, August 24-25, July 25-26, August 25-26**

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux makes a motion to approve the proposed Check Authorizations for June 24-25, July 24-25, August 24-25, July 25-26 and August 25-26 as presented. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.**

**Unanimous, Motion carries**

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

- A. Opening of School Update

- Back to school was very smooth this year. JB worked extra hard to make sure that the student lists were accurate and the routes were tried and tested repeatedly. Phone calls were placed to parents, to verify where the students were getting picked up and dropped off. This was the quickest dismissal on the first day that Killingly has had.
- KTA is underway. There are 13 students, with room for growth. Thank you to Elise Geary for her behind the scenes work to get that program off the ground.
- Adult Education classes began this week. There are 4 students in the ABE classes, there are 3 students in the GED classes, and 1 student in the ESL classes. Babysitting is being provided for parents who might need to bring their little ones with them.
- There is currently one open Certified position for a special education teacher. The last time that Killingly had an equally low New Teacher Orientation count at the start of the school year was back in 2015, with 11 new teachers. Killingly started this school year with 8 new teachers.

B. Access Road Update

The third proposal for the Access Road, that eliminates all Wetland impacts, was approved and Killingly is ready to commence with the work.

C. Discussion and possible Action regarding Alliance Grant Approval and Submission

Dr. Nash shared that some staff from the After School clubs are paid for from the Alliance Grant, as well as \$5,400 that has been allocated for CHR. program.

**MOTION: Kyle Napierata makes a motion to approve the proposed Alliance Grant Budget and Application as presented. Kyle Marcoux seconded the motion to approve.**

**Unanimous, Motion carries**

D. Achievement Report

Dr. Nash shared some definitions and background information about the Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) testing and data collection. In both ELA and Math scores, Killingly students have surpassed the scores of students in nearby districts. The area that will be an increased focus on this this current school year will be providing additional supports for middle school math.

Killingly High School students all take the SAT during the spring semester of their Junior Year. During the 2024 testing, 52% of the students met the goal for 1 or both benchmarks. During the 2025 testing, 63% of the students met the goal for 1 or both benchmarks. There will be a continued emphasis and focus on middle school math support, and additional workshops will be provided for teachers, to help them provide additional supports for their students. To continue the positive momentum and support student academic growth in the areas of Literacy and Math, school staff will continue to implement the strategies garnered from last year's PSAT/SAT tutor.

Killingly Public Schools has been strides in lowering behavior incidents, and helping to engage students and create a safer environment for students. There has been a 26% reduction in office referrals, from 23-24 to 24-25. Because of this, students reported feeling safer in their school, with more than 87% of students giving positive feedback during the annual climate survey. All climate surveys from students, staff and parents showed a positive trend in students, staff and parents feeling safer, valued and supported.

Chronic absenteeism has dropped significantly since 2022. The schools' resource officer has worked with Christina Main to make home visits and keep students engaged in their education and school community.

Kevin Marcoux thanked Dr. Nash for her effort in promoting how awesome Killingly is, and for putting in the time and energy to help support the students, staff and parents.

## **11. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Student Enrollment
- C. Discussion and possible action for KHS Ag Education students to attend and observe Agriculture Information Booths on September 13th, at The BIG E in Springfield, MA.  
Every year Killingly's Vo-Ag program brings up to 50 students to the BIG E on the first Saturday, because that is when the Agricultural events are going on and there is a focus on the FFA and Agricultural awards and Leadership. It gives students a great learning opportunity. Each student receives a neon lanyard to wear, and students are all paired together in groups of 2 or more for safety purposes. There are multiple chaperones, and each student is given the contact information for each chaperone, along with a map of the fairgrounds for safety.
- D. Discussion and possible action for KHS Marching Band field trip to participate in the September 26th Parade at The BIG E in Springfield, MA.
- E. Discussion and possible action for KHS Marching Band field trip to UMASS Band Day 2025 on October 18th, in Amherst, MA.

**Consent Agenda item A was pulled, due to one Board member's absence during the previous meeting.**

**Meredith Giambattista asked for a Motion to approve Consent Agenda items B,C,D,E. Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the consent agenda items B,C,D and E; Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.**

**Unanimous; Motion carries**

**Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the June 25th, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented; Kyle Napierata seconded the motion to approve.**

**6 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention (Susan Lannon).**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Kevin Marcoux makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kyle Napierata seconded the motion to approve.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm**