

Regular Board Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
7:00 PM
Central Office, Conference Room A
79 Westfield Ave., Killingly, CT 06239

MINUTES

Present: Laura Dombkowski (absent with notification) , Nelson King, Susan Lannon (absent with notification), Laura Lawrence (absent with notification), Kevin Marcoux, Kelly Martin, Misty Murdock, Kyle Napierata, Meredith Giambattista. Student Board Members: Tomas Gutierrez, Melody Hutchinson.

Guests: Superintendent Susan Nash, Recording Secretary Meg Whiteley.

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meredith Giambattista called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Nelson King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

3. BOARD SHOUT-OUTS

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

A. Employee of the Month recognized- Brenda Despathy

5. EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: TEACHING & LEARNING SHOWCASE

Liz Bauman- KHS Art Teacher. AP students sustained investigation, complex and conceptual art making over a long period of time. Reflecting on the art making process, starting AP Portfolio. Photography, skills and composition. Personal object project. Painting- killingly paintings- draw the landscapes out of the KHS windows, then they paint in those same locations- to celebrate the visual vista of Killingly from that vantage point. Folk Grant has enabled the initiation of a ceramics club at KHS, that is open to all students that attend the school, with or without prior experience. Accessible art, to help build community. Proposal for new visual arts course focusing on illustration. Art with a purpose for engaging with people; textile design, book covers, so much potential. KHS art show at the end of the school year, invitation. April 2026 showcase.

6. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Michelle Murphy- Town council has only had 1 meeting (which was a Special Meeting) since the September 10th Board of Education meeting. The Historical Society came and spoke about a bench in the park, dedicated to Mary Keys, who was the first person to ever have a patent in the US.

7. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Goodyear Report:

Goodyear spends the first six weeks of school explicitly teaching rules and expectations related to everything-walking in the hallways, taking turns using classroom materials, hand washing, and so on. Hats off to staff and families for making meaningful connections; every year I am amazed at how well children, and families, new to the school experience, settle in.

KCS Report:

Each Kindergartener contributed one of their favorite nursery rhymes, to create a class book, and proudly read their work aloud to classmates and members of the administration, showcasing their growing confidence in reading and public speaking. First graders used a hands-on learning approach to foster curiosity and deepen their understanding of human anatomy. Reminder: KCS Picture Day is Tuesday, October 14th.

KMS Report:

During the first KMS Community Meeting of the 25-26 school year, one student from each fourth-grade class was recognized as a Koala Captain. These students demonstrate responsibility, respect, and safety, and serve as positive role models. The traveling trophy was awarded to a class in each grade with best class attendance in September. KMS's Golden Koala Award was presented to KMS's ASO, Mr. Scott Johnson who continues to go above and beyond to keep everyone safe at KMS. On Friday, October 3rd, KMS students celebrated their hard work in the Governor's Reading and Math Challenge!

KIS Report:

Based upon feedback from teachers and students, our staff noticed that *peer respect* is an area where we can grow, so we have initiated the *Respect Campaign*. Students who show respectful, responsible, and safe behavior in shared spaces can earn small prizes. We've added a *Peer-to-Peer Respect Initiative*, which highlights moments of real student-to-student respect. Our goal is to make KIS a warmer, more welcoming place. Middle school can be challenging, and we want our school to feel like a place where students belong, take risks, and support one another. We're really excited to see how this campaign helps build our school community.

KHS Report:

KHS held its 2nd Annual Fall Wellness Day on September 26; students participate in a variety of wellness-focused activities which promote both physical and mental well-being. The KHS College Fair was held on October 2; more than 50 colleges and universities attended, providing students with information about academic programs, admissions, and campus life. The Homecoming Football Game is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, and the Homecoming Dance will be held on Friday, October 25.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FIELD TRIP REQUEST FOR KHS BROADCAST JOURNALISM CLASS TO ATTEND THE STUDENT TELEVISION NETWORK CONVENTION IN TAMPA, FL FROM FEBRUARY 26TH TO MARCH 3RD 2026.

Dan Durand- KHS takes students to the Student Television Network Convention every single year. Only missed 2 out of the past 20 or so years. This gives students real, hands on experience in a competitive environment with national peers. The convention rotates its' location each year. Fundraising, sponsorships to raise funds to cover the costs of the trip, to reduce direct student cost. Each year it is typically between \$300-\$400.00 for students.

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the Field Trip Request for KHS Broadcast Journalism Class to Attend the Student Television Network Convention in

Tampa, FL from February 26th to March 3rd 2026. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to Approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INTERVIEW THE RECOMMENDED CANDIDATE FOR ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

The Board invited Superintendent Sue Nash, HR Director Kim Burnham to join them in executive session at 7:23pm. Executive session ended at 8:09pm.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CANDIDATE FOR ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

MOTION: Kelly Martin made a motion to approve proposed candidate Andrea Drake for Killingly Assistant Superintendent. Kevin Marcoux seconded the motion.

Unanimous, Motion carries

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

12. BOARD CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

- A. Curriculum Committee
- B. Facilities Committee
- C. Fiscal Committee
- D. Personnel Committee
- E. Policy Committee

- 1. 1st Reading of Policy #5131.911 Students- Safe School Climate Plan

Tabled to be further discussed in committee, before being presented for consideration to the Board of Education.

- 2. 1st Reading of Policy #3323 Business & Non-Instructional Operations

Policy was previously approved back in 1999. Pricing has changed and a lot of things have changed since 1999. Everything over \$10,000 has to go out for bid, for RFP. Pretty much everything that we try to order is over that figure out. A recent Vo-Ag project resulted in the need for a bid, because the current policy does not allow for a consortium process for projects that we have completed in the past. This new proposed policy would increase the vote amount to \$25,000 and would include language allowing room for consortium processing for purchases.

- 3. 1st Reading of Policy #9325.5 Bylaws of the Board- Telephonic and Videoconferencing Participation
No changes being requested by the Policy Committee.

- F. AdHoc Committee to Discuss District-wide Bullying

- G. AdHoc Committee to Discuss School Mascot
- H. Updates from Liaisons for: Town Council, CABE, Cable Advisory, EASTCONN, Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, PBC

13. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Christine Clark- September marked the end of the quarter for Fiscal Year 25-26. Narrative report has been shortened; focused on projected revenue and expenditures for the year. Respectful of time, since the Board of Education Meetings are held once a month, the narrative will be provided once per quarter; the System Object Report will be provided monthly for review and approval. Initial projects at the end of the first quarter have \$561,000 above previously anticipated revenue. The revenue increase primarily comes from additionally retained ASTE Grant funds, as well as an increase from 61 projected, to 77 actually enrolled Regular Ed students. The expenditure surplus is anticipated to be \$119,000, coming from salaries and benefits for unfilled positions. There will likely be some positions that will be filled through outside agency hires, requiring funding beyond what was budgeted for the positions. Special Education costs and reimbursements are expected to balance out, with no impact to the bottom line anticipated. Tuition, transportation and related services will continue to be monitored closely. The out of town Regular Ed students come from: Brooklyn (58 students), Pomfret (4 students), Woodstock (2 students), Sterling (13 students). . Misty Murdock inquired about what happens to the additional tuition money that goes to the town side, how does that offset the overall school budget? Christine Clark shared that the money goes into a central fund with the town; the school budget is an appropriation of the town budget. When the school brings in more revenue, it goes back to support the general fund as a revenue source, which then means that Killingly will need to raise less money in taxes to cover the budget.

14. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MONTHLY CHECK AUTHORIZATION

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the proposed Check Authorizations for September 25-26 as presented. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

15. BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS OVER \$10,000

A. TO COVER CONTRACTED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S SERVICES, THROUGH AN OUTSIDE AGENCY.

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the proposed Budget Transfer for School Psychologist over \$10,000 as presented. Kelly Martin seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

**B. TO COVER CONTRACTED SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST'S SERVICES,
THROUGH AN OUTSIDE AGENCY**

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the proposed Budget Transfer for Speech Language Pathologist over \$10,000 as presented. Kyle Napierata seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

**C. TO COVER CONTRACTED SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER'S SERVICES,
THROUGH AN OUTSIDE AGENCY**

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the proposed Budget Transfer Special Education Teacher over \$10,000 as presented. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

16. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. Update regarding Pilot Alternative High School Program

If this program yields positive results, we would like to move it under the umbrella of our KTA program. We have long recognized that we have something missing for students that are over age and under credited. We wanted to offer an alternative program that operates outside of the box, to provide the missing pieces to help a student get to where they need to be to graduate. We wanted to start small with a manageable program to pilot this brand new program with up to 10 students that meet the program's criteria. We initially reached out to 4 families to see how the program could fit and meet the needs of their students, to help them graduate. We then opened the program up further to a total of 6 families. Our goal is to increase the program's capacity to 10 students, before the end of the school year. This program is budget neutral, because of the Adult Education Grant, support the program's staffing. This program offers a personalized path to graduation. Some students have a very traditional school day, for some students that method doesn't work quite so well for them, so we are thinking about Internships and work study to fulfill their necessary credits. Administration is meeting with the teachers weekly, to make sure that the coursework is progressing and the students are on track to meeting their graduation requirements.

Kevin Marcoux inquired about the age range of the students participating in the pilot program.

Dr. Nash supplied that the students are in the 16-18 age range.

B. Access Road Update

After the ongoing challenges concerning Wetland impacts, the planning committee went back to the drawing board and developed a new plan that eliminated any wetland impacts and required two retaining walls. This new plan passed the Wetland Impact. Once the construction quote for this new plan came back it increased the cost of the first phase of the project from the original budget appropriated by the Board of Education at \$856,000 (which included a contingency fund), to \$1.7million. Dr. Nash advised the Board of Education against utilizing all of their Non-lapsing fund on the first phase of the project, which is comprised of three separate phases. Dr. Nash advised that her and Mike Vassar intend to present this fiscal picture to the Town Council during their next meeting, and recommend that we move forward

with the initial plans for a minimal impact to the wetlands, which would save roughly a million dollars, on the first phase of the project.

C. 2026-2027 Proposed Board of Education Meeting Dates

Meeting dates are accepted as presented for 26-27, with the time continued at 7pm.

D. Grant Update

1. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Title I Grant

MOTION: Kyle Napierata made a motion to approve the proposed Title I grant submission as presented. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

2. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Title II Grant

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the proposed Title II grant submission as presented. Kyle Napierata seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

3. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Title III Grant

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the proposed Title III grant submission as presented. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

4. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Title IV Grant

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the proposed Title IV grant submission as presented. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

5. Discussion and Possible Action regarding MHSP- Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the proposed Mental Health Services Professional grant as presented. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

6. Discussion and Possible Action regarding SBMH- School-Based Mental Health Services

MOTION: Kevin Marcoux made a motion to approve the proposed School-Based Mental Health Services grant as presented. Nelson King seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

17. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Student Enrollment
- C. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Field Trip Request for KHS Child Development II Class to visit the Eric Carle Picture Book Museum in Amherst, MA, on October 16th 2025.
- D. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Field Trip Request for KHS' Photography Class to visit Roger Williams' Memorial Park in Providence, RI
- E. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Field Trip Request for KHS' Ski Club to bring students to Wachusett Mountain in Westminister, MA on January 5th, 12th, 26th and February 2nd, 9th, 23rd of 2026.

MOTION: Misty Murdock made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A-E as presented in the Consent Agenda. Kyle Napierata seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Kyle Napierata made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Misty Murdock seconded the motion to approve.

Unanimous, Motion carries

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm