

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
7:00 PM
Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main St.
2nd Floor, Community Mtg. Room

Present: Mr. Doug Farrow, Mr. Greg Biggs, Mr. Norm Ferron, Ms. Hoween Flexer, Ms. Janice Joly, Mr. Jason Muscara, Mr. Kyle Napierata, Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams.

Absent with Notification: Mr. Christopher Viens.

Others

Present: Superintendent Robert Angeli, Ms. Christine Clark, Manager of Business Affairs, Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Recording Secretary.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Doug Farrow called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Please see above
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Four letters were received via the public comment email, and all were in favor of the vaccination clinic.

Michelle Murphy- I am a Killingly resident. The transportation issue needs to be resolved. Here are my questions that I would like an answer to: Who's in charge? Where are people going to get an answer? Why is there no homeschool option? Can we go to an alternating days schedule? Why is there no Board of Education liaison at Town Council meetings?

LeeAnn Ducat – I am a property owner in Killingly. A school environment is meant to be a supportive and learning environment, and a vaccination clinic supports so many other things other than education. Who is liable for an adverse affect? The district? Many other sites available for the vaccination. How much money is the school receiving for this clinic?

Elise Major – I am Killingly resident and former student. The aata does not support a vaccination clinic on school grounds. The real issue is mental health. Would like to know who gets the money for providing the clinic and who made the deal for this? Who is liable for reaction?

Sarah Roberts – I am a parent with five children in the district. Opposes the vaccination clinic on school grounds. Schools are for education only. There is a mental health crisis due to the

pandemic. You are opening the door to bullying due to segregation based on vaccination status. Vaccination is a parental choice, and should be done in a medical facility.

Lucas Johnson – I am a Killingly High School student in the Vo-Ag program. Peer pressure is added when the vaccination clinic is in school. Students are seen as socially irresponsible for not getting the vaccine. Students are suffering under these mandates. Mental health is a huge concern. Parent and student have the only say.

Patti George – The vaccine is available at numerous places around town. There is no need for the school to offer a clinic. It is solely the parents responsibility to decide whether to vaccinate their children. Schools are for academics and sports. Other countries are putting vaccines on hold for the students. Are you willing to take the responsibility for an adverse reaction?

Nathan Roberts – I am a resident and student of Killingly. Mask mandates affected my brother with his ability to understand social interactions. Masks are viewed as more important than my homework. We are being told to live in fear. Vaccinated people do not need to wear masks, but unvaccinated must. Vaccines are a parental choice. Medical procedures are not to be done on school grounds.

Michael Roberts – I am a Killingly resident and student. We were told things would go back to normal after two weeks, but it has been two years. Would someone please stand up for me?

MOTION: to allow the remaining speakers to participate in public comment.

Made by Mr. Muscara second by Ms. Flexer.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0

Jasmine Brody - I am a parent of students at KCS. Students are being taught that unvaccinated people are a risk. Who will be responsible for an adverse reaction? It is a parental choice. No vaccine clinics in our schools. Do you know what is in this vaccine? The education system is focusing on a medical issue and not putting our children first. There are so many other places to go for the vaccine in the community.

Susan Lannon – I am a soon to be a new Board member, but speaking here tonight as just a mom. After attending the majority of recent meetings, I have left with more questions than answers. Our education system is lacking because of the Board. The Board doesn't run through administration but should be guided by policy. The Board is endangering student health, and personal views are being put above the policy. Clinics are for those who choose to use it. It is not being forced.

Andy Whitehead – The Board of Education is an elected body, and you need to take the opinion of the town residents into account. Who is accountable if something happens to one of our children? How much money is given to the town for this clinic? \$40 per shot? Parents have the final say for their children.

Anne Dauphinais – I am a Killingly life long resident and a nurse. I have received more phone calls over the vaccine and COVID. Parents are fearful of mandates. Students and parents are being bullied and segregated against based on the vaccination status. VARS system has staggering numbers about adverse reactions. Political agenda being pushed down to the local level and the schools. The vaccine is readily available at other facilities.

Samantha St. Onge – I am very concerned about my children. What is going on in the system? As a parent, I am concerned about teacher and staff turnover. My daughter has already lost a teacher and two paraprofessionals this year. Why are we having these huge staffing issues?

Greg Biggs – I am resident, parent and out going Board member. Great things do happen here in Killingly Public Schools. Teachers and administration go above and beyond and should be acknowledged as such. Trauma informed instruction should be our top priority. Our support staff are their trusted adults. If you always do what's best for kids, you can't be wrong. The board is not for a personal agenda. I wish the Board luck in next four years.

Ethan Stepany – I am a student of Killingly Public Schools. The vaccination is tryanny under the guise of saftey. I was forced to leave education behind and was not allowed in school due to not wearing a mask. The mask mandate is for power and control.

MOTION: to allow late arriving speakers to participate in public comment.

Made by Mr. Muscara and seconded by Ms. Joly.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0

Jason Anderson – I am a Killingly resident. Have we turned other non-profits away? If Day Kimball uses the buildings why can't others? Why are our students learning in school that we have white privilege? The district needs and should provide home schooling resources as those parents pay taxes as well.

Scott Heap – I am a Killingly resident. Has Killingly Public Schools received ESSER funds? How much? How is it used? Mask mandates and vaccination rates are tied to ESSER funds.

5. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- A. November 2021 Employee of the Month
 - i. Margaret Morrisette- KMS IA since 2013. Academic and social success of her students. Each day a patient and positive attitude with positive interactions with all stakeholders. Opening car doors with a smile each day to welcome students to school each day. She was honored to be recognized.
- B. Recognitions of Service to the Board of Education
 - ii. Mr. Biggs – humbled by the expereince to serve on the Board
 - iii. Ms. Flexer- being on the Board has been an honor. Families, student and staff have been amazing. I have always advocated for what is best for children.

6. **REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

- A. GECC - Families and students had a food drive for a local food shelter. Thank you to all who participated. Family conference sign ups started today. Progress reports were emailed home on November 16, 2021.
- B. KHS – Football team remains undefeated. Thanksgiving Day game is at KHS at 10:30. Winter sport sign ups are happening now. Unified sports soccer team had a great game on 10/27. The recent robotics skill championship moved Killingly into 1st place in the state. National Honor Society induction is November 18, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Spring musical announcement coming soon. Amazing Veteran’s Day concert by the music department.

7. **TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON**

Killingly Community Center project passed overwhelming. Agenda was not a large one. Looking for a Board of Education liaison to attend the Town Council meetings.

8. **KILLINGLY MEMORIAL SCHOOL REPORT**

Principal Tina Chahanovich presented to the Board on acceleration and how it fits into proficiency based grading. What standards are the priority? Exposure still writing second grade level, but with scaffolding use things like word walls, knowing sight words, small group instruction. How do we know things are working? We use progress monitoring. ERD and 90-minute commitment time is being used to work on these goals. Push in and pull out services 6 week cycle for acceleration. Through Alliance Grant brought back Strive for Success.

It was asked what are we doing for students who are at or above grade level? Small group with mini lessons- they get to set their own goals. What challenges are happening with reacclimating? Stamina for students is lacking. Using SEL and Ruler to help with ACES.

9. **BOARD CHAIR AND COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- A. Curriculum Subcommittee – have a meeting on December 6th
- B. Facilities Subcommittee
 - B.1 Possible Action to Use Non-lapsing Account Funds to Make Repairs/ Upgrades to the KIS Elevator. \$156,500
 - B.2 Possible Action to Use Non-lapsing Account Funds to Make Repairs to the KIS Roof \$30,000 up to \$50,000

Superintendent Angeli explained the rationale and cost associated with the projects.

MOTION: to approve the KIS elevator and roof projects from non-lapsing account.

Made by Mr. Muscara and seconded by Mr. Napierata.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0

Superintendent Angeli told the Board, a dollar amount in the motion is needed.

MOTION: to amend the initial motion to include the use of \$206,500 from the non-lapsing account.

Made by Mr. Biggs, and seconded by Ms. Flexer.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0.

B.3 Possible Action to Use Non-lapsing Account Funds to Make Repairs/ upgrades to the Elevator at 79 Westfield Ave.

Superintendent Angeli informed the Board this is not part of the project just voted on at referendum. There is still \$100k worth of work needed.

MOTION: to have Mr. Anderson come and speak about this topic.

Made by Ms. Flexer, and seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0

It was asked about the permanent building study, and why weren't all of the needs included in the project. Mr. Anderson explained the project presented affected the whole building including where the Recreation Department will be located. The elevator effects Board of Education and EASTCONN only. The Board reminded Mr. Anderson that repairs to Westfield has been kicked down the road. Town Council needs to take on the cost of repairing the elevator.

MOTION: to postpone indefinitely the elevator projector at Westfield Ave. pending Mr. Anderson talking to Town Manager and contractor.

Made by Ms. Flexer, and seconded by Mr. Muscara.

Motion carries: 7-1(Ms. Joly)

- C. Fiscal Subcommittee – have not officially met. Monthly Financial Report of October 2021 presented by Ms. Clark. There were no questions or concerns.
- D. Personnel Subcommittee – scheduled meeting with paraprofessionals and nurses
- E. Policy Subcommittee – No report

10. REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MOTION: to appoint Mr. Marchesseault to the Cable Advisory Council.

Made by Ms. Flexer, and seconded by Mr. Napierata.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

11.A Goodyear Early Childhood Center – The classroom is back up and running. We are just working on finishing up the custodial closet.

11.B Transportation Update – Issues were resolved and now have started again. Currently four buses are not running (7, 14, 48 and 50.) We are hopeful to have staff back soon. In the bus garage, we are following protocols including wearing masks in the garage. Trying to spread children out as best we can. Board commented that the superintendent needs to find alternatives to put younger grades in school even if it means the older grades go remote. We need to be better. What alternatives are we looking at for this? State has been notified. OEC, DPH and CSDE have put together private providers to help with special education transportation. Have researched community stops versus door to door pick up. Missing chart of attendance numbers and the administration needs to be better and isn't trying to fix this problem.

11.C Impact of COVID-19 – Identified as an outbreak community by DPH. The district brought in a testing program 72 tested- 2 people were positive. Didn't initiate anything after that. It was voluntary to be tested. Our numbers are beginning to come down. If and when will *Screen and Stay* be implemented. Unvaccinated people in a school setting with specific guidelines if asymptomatic will be able to stay in school. *Screen and Stay* is a district decision. If data on Thursday is stabilized or decreased then *Screen and Stay* would be implemented starting on Monday. What are other local districts implementing? What are the benchmarks to implement and withdraw from *Screen and Stay*.

11.D Presentation to Region 11 Board of Education – Department Chair and HS principal made a presentation about the Ag program in an effort to have Region 11 students come to Killingly.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC

People have a choice to receive the vaccination. Information was provided both for and against. It was asked what were the results of the parent survey regarding a vaccination clinic. What else can we do to measure the pulse of the community would like in regards to facilitating a vaccine clinic? 25 percent of those who responded from KCS, KMS and KIS which is approximately 150 students out of 1000 were in favor of the vaccination clinic.

MOTION: to instruct Superintendent Angeli to discuss with DKH a clinic at their facility and not to have a clinic on Killingly Public Schools property.

Motion made by Mr. Muscara, and seconded by Mr. Napierata.

AMENDMENT to MOTION: to instruct Superintendent Angeli to discuss with DKH a clinic at their facility, or any other facility, except on Killingly Public Schools property.

Motion made by Mr. Muscars, and seconded by Mr. Napierata.

**MOTION: to move the question. Made by Mr. Muscara, and seconded by Mr. Ferron.
Motion fails due to not being a 2/3 majority: 5 yes (Ferron, Muscara, Napierata, Joly, and Farrow) 3 no (Rivera-Abrams, Flexer and Biggs)**

The Board continued discussion with pros and cons being presented. Many Board members made it clear the schools are not a medical facility and do not want the name of Killingly Public Schools attached to this.

Board voted on the amendment: Motion carries 7-1(Flexer)

Board voted on the motion: to instruct Superintendent Angeli to discuss with DKH a clinic at their facility, or any other facility except on Killingly Public Schools property.

Motion carries: 5 yes, 2 no (Flexer and Rivera-Abrams), and 1 abstain (Biggs)

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2022 CALENDAR YEAR

**Motion: to move agenda items 13 and 14 to the December agenda.
Made by Ms. Flexer, and seconded by Ms Joly.
Motion carries unanimously: 8-0**

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE 2022-23 KPS DISTRICT CALENDAR

MOTION: to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m.

Made by Mr. Biggs, and seconded by Ms.Flexer.

Motion carries: 7-1 (Joly)

15. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. October 27, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Student Enrollment
- C. October 2021 Checks Issued
- D. Senior Class Field Trip Request to Apex Center in MA.

MOTION: to approve the consent agenda minus 15.C (October checks issued).

Made by Ms. Flexer, and seconded by Mr. Ferron.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0

Mr. Ferron has questions regarding check numbers: 12416, 12610, 12365, 12366. Since Ms. Clark is not here to answer the question, the Board will review in December.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS KAA RATIFICATION UNION AGREEMENT

MOTION: to enter into executive session.

Made by Ms. Flexer, and seconded by Mr. Napierata.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0.

The Board of Education went into executive session at 10:51 p.m.

17. POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING KAA RATIFICATION UNION AGREEMENT (effective July 1, 2022 through June 30 2025).

The Board of Education came out of executive session at 10:56 p.m.

MOTION: to approve the Agreement between Killingly Board of Education and Killingly Administrators Association for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025, as presented in executive session.

Made by Ms. Flexer, and seconded by Mr. Biggs.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0.

Ms. Flexer would like to thank the adminsitrators for all they do for Killingly students.

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn.

Made by Ms. Flexer, and seconded by Mr. Biggs.

Motion carries unanimously: 8-0.

The Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Thompson
Recording Secretary