

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Town Hall, 172 Main St.**

Please Note: The meeting will be broadcast on Channel 22 and  
streamed on the KPS website: <https://www.killinglyschools.org/>

**MINUTES**

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

**Present** Ms. Hoween Flexer , Mr. Chris Viens. Student Board members, Madelyn Sumner  
**Via Zoom:** and Grace Gilman.

**Others** Superintendent, Mr. Robert Angeli, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Paul Brenton,  
**Present:** Ms. Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary.

**CALL TO ORDER-** Mr. Doug Farrow called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL-**see above

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT-** Four public comments were received, via email through the Public Comments email. Recording secretary Keely Doyle read aloud, some segments conveyed from each of those public comments

**4. RECOGNITION OF APRIL 2021 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Elizabeth Sierakowski was not able to attend tonight's meeting but the Board recognized her as April 2021 Employee of the Month. Ms. Sierakowski is an administrative assistant for the KIS Library Media Center. She is dedicated to her work and keeps the media center running smoothly. Faculty and staff consistently sing Beth's praises for her dedication to education and serving all students.

## **5. REPORT BY KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Student Board representatives Madelyn Sumer and Grace Gilman shared some news about events taking place in the district.

Goodyear students have been learning about matter and its properties. Students created their own bridges with different materials to see if their bridges could support different weights. Students identified design problems with their bridges.

KCS is holding a Cereal Box Challenge through June 14<sup>th</sup>. Donations of cereal boxes will be given to the local food pantry. The Killingly Brooklyn Rotary donated 20 pairs of sneakers to KCS.

KMS will facilitate the ACES walk on May 5<sup>th</sup>. SBAC testing for students in grades 3 and 4 will take place on 5 days within the first 2 weeks of May. Grade 4 students sent thank-you cards and posters to health care workers at a Day Kimball Hospital for all they've contributed during the COVID-19 epidemic.

At KIS students can sign up for the student-led conference. Eighth graders will be celebrated during the month of May on KIS News.

KHS seniors will have a Field Day on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Seniors are disappointed that they are the only school in the area not having a prom. KTV's latest episode release has been a huge success with the students.

## **6. KILLINGLY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

Principal, Ms. Heather Taylor shared with the Board the work and focus of Social and Emotional Learning, or SEL at KIS. Ms. Taylor summarized Killingly Public Schools Core Values, Killingly Board of Education Board Goals and the KIS Mission Statement and Vision.

Ms. Taylor defined Social Emotional Learning process and its meaning for Killingly Intermediate School. SEL support was first introduced in KIS in the 2015-16 school year, with Restorative Practices. It is a methodical approach to social and emotional learning that builds a caring, equitable learning environment. Creating better relationships with students and discussing negative behavior help students better understand their actions and consequences. Evidence-based practices involve all students in their social, emotional and academic growth. SEL supports not only students, but also supports teachers.

KIS created a SEL webpage, which hosts hyper-links to many student activities and vital resources.

Ms. Taylor shared that detentions and suspension rates have plummeted over the past several years. Mr. Muscara asked about data that support the benefits of restorative practices at KIS, and added statistics could be misleading.

## **7. BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Farrow shared that board members received emails from parents, expressing frustration regarding the decision to have remote learning days on April 26 and 27 due to unexpected transportation complications. This topic will be talked about later in the meeting under the superintendent's report.

## **8. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

- 8.a. Curriculum Subcommittee- Mr. Biggs shared that the subcommittee elected Ms. Joly as the new chair. At tonight's curriculum subcommittee meeting, members continued to discuss the PK-12 Health curriculum. Information regarding the curriculum will be presented to the full Board in the near future, therefore, at this time no action is needed.
- 8.a.1. Possible Recommendation and Action Regarding Safer, Smarter Schools Health Curriculum.  
No action taken.
- 8.b. Facilities Subcommittee- Mr. Napierata shared that there have been no meetings since the last Board meeting.
- 8.c. Fiscal Subcommittee

#### 8.c.1. Discussion and Review of March 2021 Financial Reports

#### 8.c.2. Quarterly Projections of Revenue and Expenditures

Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared the subcommittee met on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The monthly fiscal reports were reviewed in addition to the quarterly projections of revenues and expenditures. A 2.2M surplus from the 2010-21 budget is anticipated. Salary accounts project a positive balance of \$1.1million and is the largest contributor to the balance. State funding for special education costs will not increase the status of estimated surplus but the surplus will be retained by the Town and to go into the Town's general fund.

If the Board so chooses, they could a request that the Town Council increase the cap on non-lapsing account. Currently the account is capped at \$2 million.

Usage of the non-lapsing account was discussed at depth and past MOUs were reviewed.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams shared concerns that non-lapsing funds are going towards more capital improvement projects as opposed to more educational driven expenses but the account can go towards both.

The subcommittee asked what the total amount is for the past three years of monies returned to the Town.

Mr. Angeli will have that figure for the next fiscal subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams also asked for clarification on policy or protocol relating to holding Zoom meetings for subcommittee meetings.

8.d. Personnel Subcommittee- Mr. Farrow conveyed that paraprofessional negotiations continue. Negotiations for the Nurses Union will begin soon.

#### 8.d.1. Discussion and Possible Approval of a Secretarial Sick Bank Request

The personnel subcommittee supports this sick bank and is forwarding the request to the full Board for approval.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Ms. Joly to approve the secretarial sick bank for up to 35 days for Judy Daignault.

**Unanimous**

**Motion Carries**

8.e. Policy Subcommittee- Mr. Muscara shared that a policy subcommittee meeting will soon be scheduled.

### 9. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Mr. Angeli congratulated Mr. Paul Brenton on his new superintendent position at Plainfield Public Schools. Mr. Angeli thanked Mr. Brenton for all his hard work for Killingly Public Schools and especially for helping Mr. Angeli with his transition into Killingly. Mr. Angeli also congratulated Ms. Heather Taylor on her new position in Putnam as high school principal. He thanked Ms. Taylor for her dedication and wished her well.

#### 9.a. Review & Discussion of Board Bylaw #9325.5, Telephonic and Videoconferencing Participation

Board members reviewed the policy and discussion ensued. Mr. Angeli shared advantages and disadvantages of participating in subcommittee meetings via Zoom.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams communicated that especially for subcommittee meetings, Zoom meetings should be an option and not be imposed or be a requirement. If subcommittee members do not want to be on screen during a Zoom meeting, that telephone participation could offer the same level of participation.

Mr. Farrow suggested having the policy reviewed by the Board's attorney.

Mr. Biggs shared that the policy should be reviewed by the policy subcommittee.

Mr. Muscara shared that the policy will be reviewed by the policy subcommittee.

9.b. Update on KMS Building Project

Mr. Angeli shared that the KMS project is moving forward and the Town's Permanent Building Committee selected Antoniazzi Architecture Group for the KMS project.

9.c. Discussion Regarding Transportation Coverage and 9.d. Discussion Regarding How Decisions are Made for School Delays, Cancellations Early Dismissals in Inclement Weather.

Mr. Angeli shared how the process works when determining delays, cancellations, or early dismissals for inclement weather. He referenced the recent snowstorm on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The decision to hold school was based on the forecast and discussions that took place, very early that morning.

While busses were in route picking up students in the morning, the severity of storm intensified and the amount of snow was unanticipated. Mr. Angeli made a decision that he was in the best interest of the safety of children and the district, by discontinuing any more students being picked up.

Students who were already transported to schools would be transported back home in the afternoon at their normal time. The roads were clear by this time.

Mr. Angeli reminded the Board again of the shortage of bus drivers in Killingly. He shared this same information with Board members at a previous Board meeting. Many districts are facing bus driver shortages.

There are approximately 5 bus driver vacancies. COVID-19 has exasperated the situation in addition to standard absences that all departments experience.

On Friday, April 23 during spring break, Mr. Angeli was contacted by interim transportation supervisor, Kim Bush and she conveyed concerns that there were not enough bus drivers to adequately transport students to school the following week.

The decision was made to have remote learning for all students on the following Monday and Tuesday. This allowed time to consider options in how best to transport all students to school. In order to alleviate the situation, bus runs were re-routed and student pick-up and drop-off times were adjusted. A survey went out to parents, inquiring how many parents rely on bus transportation. Over 1,200 responses were received, showing approximately 700 students rely on transportation. Applications for the transportation supervisor vacancy are being reviewed and qualified candidates are being identified. First interviews are anticipated to commence in 2-3 weeks.

Ms. Rivera-asked if it is possible to hire private transportation services and she conveyed that the superintendent should have a contingency plan in place for emergencies, such as this.

The Board shared that recent decision to have remote learning and the lack of adequate transportation imposes financial burdens for many families and has a negative impact.

9.e. Board of Education FY2021-22 Budget Adjustment to Meet Town Council's Recommended Reduction

Mr. Angeli reminded Board members that a BoE budget of \$45,029,798, an increase of \$882,524 or a 2.0 % increase was sent to Town Council on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Town Council suggested that the budget be reduced by \$661,787 to equal a 0.5% increase. Based on the above, the superintendent proposed the following adjustments.

**Proposed reductions are:**

\$37,658 -After School Tutoring - picked up by the ARP ESSER  
\$48,107 - Summer School salary - picked up by ESSER II or  
\$9,600 - Summer School transportation - summer school grant  
\$22,500 - Transportation, late Bus, picked up by ARP ESSER or Alliance  
\$4,058 - Instructional Improvement, Mentor Overage- picked up by ARP ESSER  
\$6,000 - Professional Tech. Services -cut  
\$4,800 - Professional Development -cut  
\$24,000 - Communications, Software Apps  
\$144,238 – Inform. Technology, Payoff Leases 12, 13,14 -picked up by ESSERII/Alliance & 2021 Surplus  
\$68,329 - Information Technology Cancel Lease 15- picked up by ESSERII/Alliance & 2021  
\$1,778 - Disability Insurance -adjust for new rate  
\$29,208 - 0.45 FTE School Counselor-cut  
\$26,550 - 0.45 FTE Family/Consumer Science-cut  
\$55,313 - 0.50 FTE Latin-cut  
\$94,804 - 1.0 Library Media Position-ARP ESSER  
\$32,900 - 2 Benefit Packages at GECC-2022 Surplus  
\$50, 614 – PPS Staff 0.5 BCBA- ARP ESSER  
\$7,025 – Misc. reductions, insurance, postage, supplies, salaries (cut)  
**\$667,482 Reduction adjustments subtotal**

**Adjustments to Increase the Budget**

\$4,445 - Information Technology, OculusIT- New Expense  
\$1,250 - F-1 Recertification Fee – New Expense  
**\$5,695**

**\$661,787** -Total reductions, adjustments plus increases

**MOTION:** by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, seconded by Mr. Napierata to add proposed action to the agenda item 9e.

**Roll Call Vote**

**Yes-6**, Mr. Ferron, Ms. Joly, Mr. Muscara, Mr. Napierata,  
Ms. Rivera-Abrams, Mr. Farrow.

**No -3**, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Flexer, Mr. Viens.

**Motion Carries**

Chris Viens made a motion to amend the motion but it was not seconded.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to accept the budget adjustments as proposed reducing the budget to a 0.5% increase

**Roll Call Vote**

**No-5**, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Ferron, Ms. Flexer, Ms. Joly, Mr. Viens

**Yes-4**, Mr. Muscara, Mr. Napierata, Ms. Rivera-Abrams, Mr. Doug Farrow.

**Motion Fails**

On Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Public Hearing, Mr. Angeli will present a budget of \$45,029,798, or 2.0% increase and will also share the above, mentioned reductions and adjustment that would equate to a 0.5% increase.

## 10. ACTION ITEMS

### 10.a. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Facility Use Fees

**MOTION:** by Mr. Muscara, seconded by Ms. Flexer to approve the Facility Use Fees with Special Olympics added to the Group 2 category.  
Unanimous  
**Motion Carries**

## 11. CONSENT ITEMS

**MOTION:** by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Mr. Napierata to approve consent items;  
11.a. March 2021 Authorized Checks  
11.b. April 7 2021 BOE Meeting Minutes  
8- Yes.  
1-Abstain  
**Motion Carries**

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Mr. Muscara to adjourn at 10:18 p.m.  
Unanimous  
**Motion Carries**

Respectfully submitted by

*Keely Doyle*

Recording Secretary