

Regular Meeting
KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
7:00 PM
Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main St.
2nd Floor, Community Mtg. Room

MINUTES

Present: Ms. Janice Joly, Mr. Norm Ferron, Ms. Jennifer Hegedus, Ms. Susan Lannon, Ms. Kelly Martin, Mr. Jason Muscara, Mr. Kyle Napierata, Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams, and Mr. Viens.

Others

Present: Superintendent Robert Angeli, Assistant Superintendent Susan Nash-Ditzel, Ms. Christine Clark, Manager of Business Affairs, and Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Recording Secretary.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Ms. Joly called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL** Please see above.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - Jennifer Horner, Killingly resident and parent, spoke about the SBHC missing from the agenda, and the perception of the Board when it comes to issues.
 - Scott Heap, Killingly resident, spoke about unmasking our children.
 - Lisa Vondeck, Killingly resident, spoke about unmasking our children.
 - Michelle Murphy, Killingly resident, grateful for the Board having the hard discussions regarding masks, Critical Race Theory, and Social Emotional Learning.
 - Susan Lannon, Killingly resident and parent, spoke of the SBHC, being the voice for those who elected her.
 - Charles Hutchins, Killingly resident, spoke about whole milk to be served again in schools.
 - Katrina Frink, Killingly resident and parent, spoke about unmasking our children.
 - Nancy Grandelski, Killingly resident and Killingly Intermediate School social worker, spoke in favor of Social Emotional Learning.
 - Lucas Johnson, Griswold resident and student Ellis Tech, spoke about unmasking our students.
 - Mike Gagnon, Killingly resident and parent, spoke about unmasking our children.
 - Hannah Gregorie, Killingly resident and parent, spoke about unmasking our children.
 - Julie Slovar, Killingly resident and parent, spoke about unmasking our children.

4. ADDRESS BY THE BOARD CHAIRWOMAN

- Ms. Joly addressed the Board and those in attendance regarding the time commitment of Board members, and the upcoming policy change to public comment, and proper decorum of the Board and those in the audience.

5. REPORT BY STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

- **KIS** – The school community participated in the “*Say Something*” training sponsored by *Sandy Hook Promise*. January Students of the Month were mentioned. Spring sports will start soon.
- **KMS** – The Winter Olympics came to KMS with unified arts theme week. Activities included murals in the hallways, bobsled and luge competitions, and gold, silver, and bronze spoon medals for cafeteria behavior.
- **GEEC** – The students are currently engaged in science lessons focusing on solids and liquids. The snow has been an amazing tool for this.
- **KHS** – The high school community also participated in the “*Say Something*” training. Unified sports had an amazing game on February 2nd against Woodstock with a packed gymnasium. Our wrestling team was State runner up in Class S. Two athletes earned the title of state champion in their weight class. The *Mama Mia* cast started rehearsal, and cannot wait to perform in person come May. Our band and chorus will be traveling to Disney April 3 through 8 for live performances and workshops.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Fiscal** – There is no update since last meeting.
- **Facilities** – There is a meeting scheduled for March 1st.
- **Policy** – There is a meeting scheduled for March 3rd.
- **Personnel** – There is an executive session later in the meeting to review the nurses’ contract.

7. PRESENTATION BY FFA STUDENTS IN CELEBRATION OF FFA WEEK

- Chapter Present, Rhiannon Martin, and Chapter Treasurer, Samantha Goulston, presented. The Killingly FFA Chapter has 150 students from grades 9-12. Students are split into groups based on their area of study, for example aquaculture, animal science, floral design, and environmental sciences. The students explained the events and activities planned for FFA week at KHS. At the end of the presentation, the students handed out FFA gift items to Board members and Administration.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

A. Financial Report for the Month of January 2022

- Since the last report to the Board, not much has changed other than the special education out of district tuition line item has increased. The substitute line item had a significant increase, but the breakage in the certified salary line item will off-set the increase. Retroactive pay for paraprofessionals has been posted.
- A joint meeting of the Town Council and Board of Education fiscal committees occurred on February 17th. They discussed potential changes moving forward. It was asked if Ms. Clark was in attendance. The Superintendent answered no.

B. Update Public Act 21-2 Section 63

Superintendent Angeli reminded the Board regarding a provision in the Implementor Bill effective in the 2023 fiscal year (2022-23 school year). This act generally prohibits municipalities from receiving Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund grants if a public school or associated athletic team under its school board's jurisdiction uses Native American names, symbols, or images without tribal consent. The Superintendent explained these monies are received by the municipality and not the Board. By March 15th, the Superintendent will submit a form answering questions regarding school name, mascot, and attach the matching imagery. He will sign forms as will the Town Manager, Ms. Calorio. Mr. Viens asked how much funding was associated with this grant. Superintendent Angeli informed the Board is it approximately \$98,000.

C. Non-Resident Attendance

Superintendent Angeli received a written request for a student to remain in Killingly Public Schools for the remaining 2021-22 school year, despite no longer living in town. He has granted the requested, and is informing the Board per policy. If the student wants to stay in Killingly Public Schools beyond this year, it would be on a tuition basis.

D. Killingly Schools Public Relations Plan

This is in response to previous Board conversations about how we share the great things happening in Killingly Public Schools. Dr. Nash reviewed a proposal with the Board. How do you push this idea out to a larger audience? PR firms were put out to RFP. This initiative is grant funded. The main goal of this initiative is to create a road map to help attract students from sending towns, as well as with teacher recruitment. After reviewing the RFPs, Rebel Interactive was selected for this initiative.

Motion made by Mr. Viens, and seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to add Mr. Shimer to the agenda.

Motion carries: 6-3

Mr. Shimer discussed branding Killingly Public Schools, and shared his past history with Northeastern Connecticut. Killingly Public School is seeking help in creating a plan to help the district better promote itself. Some key questions to consider: What is the information that is sought? Where do people go for that information? This work and RFP was in response to an unfilled need and request dating back to pre-pandemic. A few Board members expressed concerns regarding this proposal, including lack of experience with other public schools. Other Boards members, while in favor of initiative had additional questions, and would like to see additional information.

E. Approval of Flyers

Board members have asked about the process of flyers being distributed to families in the district. Superintendent Angeli explained the process, and began to read our existing policy regarding this. It was asked if the policy was included in Board member packets, and it was not.

Motion made by Mr. Viens and seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to postpone discussion.

Motion carries: 9-0

F. Mask Mandate

Superintendent Angeli updated the Board on the mask mandate, anticipated to end, no earlier than February 28th. Decisions for masking would be left up to local Boards of Education. The Board created and adopted a masking policy in October 2020. The Superintendent recommends suspending through the end of school year, and provided his rationale. Masks are still required on transportation due to a federal mandate, although that could change. Those who wish to wear masks may do so. The Board asked a question regarding transportation. Since we are private company and do not receive federal funding for transportation, do we need to follow it. The Board asked him to look into this.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SUSPENSION OF POLICY #4118.237, 4218.237, 5141.8 PERSONNEL – CERTIFIED & NON-CERTIFIED and STUDENTS- FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

The Board discussed whether to suspend the policy or rescind, and the ramifications of each. The procedure to rescind was discussed.

Motion made by Mr. Muscara, and seconded by Ms. Hegedus to forego the second reading, and rescind the masking policy as presented.

Motion to amend made by Mr. Muscara, and seconded by Ms. Martin to forego the second reading, and rescind Policy 4118.237, 4218.237, and 5141.8 Personnel – certified & non-certified and students- face masks/coverings.

Roll Call Vote on Amended Motion:

Ms. Hegedus - Yes

Mr. Muscara – Yes

Ms. Martin – Yes

Mr. Viens – No

Mr. Ferron – Yes

Mr. Napierata – Yes

Ms. Rivera-Abrams – No

Ms. Lannon – Abstain

Ms. Joly – Yes

Motion Carries: 6-2-1

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Muscara – Yes

Ms. Martin – Yes

Mr. Veins – No

Mr. Ferron – Yes

Mr. Napierata – Yes

Ms. Rivera-Abrams – No

Ms. Lannon – Yes

Ms. Hegedus – Yes

Ms. Joly – Yes

Motion carries: 7-2

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING 2022-23 TUITION RATES

The Superintendent is asking for Board approval for the 2022-23 tuition rates. He explained operational cost vs. capitol cost (only applies to HS). The Board had questions about special education services. Superintendent Angeli informed the Board these are general education rates, and special education services are billed separately.

Motion made by Mr. Muscara, and seconded by Ms. Lannon to approve 2022-23 tuition rates as presented.

Motion carries: 9-0

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BUDGET TRANSFER

- The Superintendent reminded the Board this transfer was coming before them as it is more than \$10,000, so Board approval is required. This transfer covers the salary of a high school position for the remainder of the school year. The position is from a placement agency, so funding needs to come from professional tech services vs. salary line item. The Board asked why a transfer is necessary when we have ESSER funds. It was explained the money was previously budgeted. The transfer request form shows more accurately how the money was spent.

Motion made by Mr. Ferron, and seconded by Mr. Viens to transfer the funding as described in document.

Motion carries: 9-0

12. CONSENT AGENDA

12.A February 9, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

12.B January 2022 Checks Issued

12.C Smart Start Continuation Funding 2022-23

Ms. Rivera-Abrams pulled 12.A and 12.C from the consent agenda.

Ms. Joly pulled 12.B from the consent agenda.

12.A – Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked for the sentence in Section 10 stating the Superintendent addressed those concerns be removed as she feels he did not.

Motion made by Mr. Viens, and seconded by Ms. Hegedus to approve 12.A with edits.

Motion carries: 8-0-1

12.B – Board members have many questions about the checks. Ms. Joly and Mr. Ferron would like to meet with Ms. Clark to discuss this. Some of these items could be paid with grants vs. the local budget.

Motion made by Mr. Napierata, and seconded by Ms. Rivera-Abrams to postpone the vote on the checks.

Motion carries: 8-1

12.C – This is the annual approval for the Smart Start grants. These support our pre-school programs. These grants are through the Office of Early Childhood. Each grant amount is for a different grant.

**Motion made by Mr. Muscara, and seconded by Mr. Ferron to approve 12.C as presented.
Motion carries: 9-0**

Request made by Ms. Martin for a five-minute recess at 10:10 p.m.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NURSES TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

**Motion made by Mr. Muscara, and seconded by Mr. Hegedus to go into executive session to discuss the nurses tentative agreement, and invited the Superintendent to join them.
Motion carries: 9-0**

The Board entered executive session at 10:20 p.m.

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE NURSES TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

The Board came out of executive session at 10:33 p.m.

**Motion made by Ms. Rivera-Abrams, and seconded by Mr. Ferron to approve the contract with nurses, as presented by the Superintendent.
Motion carries: 9-0**

15. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion made by Ms. Hegedus, and seconded by Ms. Martin to adjourn.
Motion carries: 9-0**

The Killingly Board of Education adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Thompson
Recording Secretary