

REGULAR MEETING

KILLINGLY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 7:00 PM

Central Office, 79 Westfield Ave.

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mr. Gregory Biggs, Mr. Jeffrey Buchbinder, (late with notification 7:06) Mr. John Burns, Ms. Hoween Flexer, Richard Murray, Ms. Lydia Rivera-Abrams, Dr. Diane Summa, Mr. Christopher Viens.
Student Board Members, Terren Allen (late with notification 7:29) Bryce Bentinck.

Others Superintendent, Mr. Steven Rioux, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Paul Brenton
Present: Keely Doyle, Recording Secretary, and Paul DiPadua, Lauren Konicky, Krissy Cicchetti and Kim Burnham.

1. Call to Order

Board of Education Chairperson, Mrs. Jennifer Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call-above

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Citizen's Comments-No citizen's comments.

Joe Zornado-32 Foster St., Danielson. Mr. Zornado's son, Jack graduated in 2016 and his son's photo is being used in the *Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow* campaign. Mr. Zornado expressed disappointment that neither his son nor himself gave permission for his son's photo to be used in this way.

5. Superintendent Reports

Mr. Steven Rioux

5.A. Attendance Update

Mr. Paul Brenton and Kristine Cicchetti gave an attendance report on the past six years. The new initiative and campaign, *Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow* was created because of the need to implement strategies to lessen the chronically absenteeism rate. Pyramid of interventions are in place in every school but emphasis is in Prek-1 where the rate tends to be higher at this level and high school level. This is a normal national trend. Chronically absent is defined by missing 10% of student days per year. Mrs. Cicchetti works mostly with KCS and educates parents at open houses, teacher parent conferences and PTO meetings. Targeted interventions were done in September. Data will be looked at again in January. Students who are chronically tardy are also targeted for intervention. Ms. Flexer asked if missing the bus an issue? Response by Mr. Rioux, that missing the bus is a rarity and is not an identified factor. Chronically absent students are monitored on a weekly basis. Mr. Brenton is beginning to initialize visits with parents. Meet as an attendance committee about every three weeks.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams asked what the reasons might be for KMS having the lowest absenteeism rate. Are the initiatives being implemented in all grades? Full teams in each school are utilizing the data. Home visits occur for each school.

Mr. Biggs asked for the current trend. Mr. Brenton stated that the trend is positive right now but one or two days can make a huge difference, especially so early in the year.

Dr. Summa asked how do we reconcile the students that have too many absences according to policy and is the policy and process explained to parents at the middle school and high school.

Ms. Rivera-Abrams suggested that more recognition go to parents when their children attend school on a regular basis.

5.B. Go Math Program Update

Paul DiPadua, District Math Curriculum Coordinator and Mrs. Lauren Konicky, KMS Math Interventionist gave an review of the Go Math program and how it is used. A three-year plan is in place for using the program. During 2015-16 a committee was formed to review and evaluate programs. This program was chosen for the following reasons; math practices, rigor, alignment, application, student engagement, differentiation and technology pieces. Go Math is the most popular program in Connecticut and in the Unites States. The five E's engage, explore, explain, elaborate, evaluate. Lauren showed online tools available for students and for parents. Each student k-6 receives an individual username and password. Letters were sent home twice with username and password.

Teachers can tailor a student's lesson to their instructional level. Feedback from teachers has been very positive. Paul and Lauren will be working on the "pacing" with teachers. Students who do not have access to computers at home are given workbooks that contain all the same on-line activities.

5.C. Student Growth Percentiles

A *student growth percentiles* video was shown, created by the Virginia Department of Education. The short video explained how student growth percentiles are determined. Data expresses the progress a student has made and it determines low, moderate or high growth. *Student growth percentiles* can be effective tools for teachers.

5.D. Follow-Up Discussion Regarding Student Achievement

Ms. Rivera-Abrams expressed her frustration, believing students are not receiving consistent learning experiences because of new programs requiring learning time and then being initiated.

Mr. Rioux explained that teachers do have collaborative time to look at data and determine additional support for those students who need it. There are supports under Science Research Based Interventions (SRBI) for all students and tutoring is on-going in small groups with math interventionists. Students receive one-on-one but it falls under the regular education.

5.E. Discussion and Possible Action of Continuous Improvement Plan

MOTION: by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Buchbinder that the Board of Education approve the Killingly Public Schools 2017-2020 Continuous Improvement Plan as presented.

Yes-8 (Mr. Murray absent during vote)

Motion Carries

Ms. Rivera-Abrams suggested that the charts on pages 13 & 14 show school districts in same order. Ms. Rivera-Abrams also asked if third grades students are reading at the third grade level at the end of third grade. Mr Rioux explained that there are many reasons why some students struggle.

Staff continue to identify what works for the students and the district continues to focus on the skillset of teachers and review student growth and assessment data. The right pieces are in place.

5.F. Discussion and Possible Action for Transfer Request

For reclassification of late bus charges originally budgeted in the transportation department but requested transfer into the enrichment/intervention program.

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Biggs that the Board of education approve a transfer in the amount of \$29,294 from the transportation department to the enrichment/intervention program.

Unanimous 9-0

Motion Carries

6. Executive Session to Discuss Attorney Client Privilege Document Related to IA Negotiations

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Burns to go into Executive Session to Discuss Attorney Client Privilege Document Related to IA Negotiations at 8:51 p.m.

Unanimous 9-0

Motion Carries

Superintendent, Mr. Steve Rioux, Kim Burnham, Director of Human Resources and Rebecca Santiago, S & G Legal Council participated in Executive Session. (legal council via phone.)

The board came out of Executive session at 9:32 p.m.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: by Ms. Flexer, seconded by Mr. Buchbinder to adjourn at 9:32 p.m.

Unanimous 9-0

Motion Carries

Respectfully submitted by,

Keely Doyle

Recording Secretary