

School Committee Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2020 - Approved
REMOTE MEETING- RECORDED

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:02pm and read the following statement into the Minutes:

Good evening. This Open Meeting of the King Philip Regional School District is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the “COVID-19 Virus.” “Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, Section 20.”

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor’s Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will present public comment during that designated portion of the meeting. As directed in the posting, public comment should have been emailed to the superintendent of school prior to the start of the public comment section of the meeting and will be read by the superintendent on the commenter’s behalf.

For this meeting, the King Philip Regional School District is convening by *google hangout* as posted on the District’s Website identifying how the public may join. Please visit: www.kingphilip.org

Please note that this meeting is being recorded, and that some attendees are participating by video conference. All voted will be taken by roll call vote.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jeff Curry, Kenneth Dow
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, Samad Khan, Amy Abrams
Wrentham:	Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano, Jim Killion

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Present

HS Student Council Representative: Marion Linde

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- February 24, 2020 Draft Minutes
- March 2, 2020 Draft Minutes
- March 16, 2020 Draft Minutes

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. Abrams, seconded by Mr. Killion, to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020 as presented. A roll call vote was taken: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Killion, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain: (1) Mr. Curry. All in favor. Motion carried. (Mr. Dow did not participate in this motion due to technical difficulty.)
- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Curry, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the minutes of March 2, 2020 as presented. A roll call vote was taken: Yes (6): Mr. Gee, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain: (2) Mr. Curry and Mr. Killion. All in favor. Motion carried. (Mr. Dow did not participate in this motion due to technical difficulty.)
- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Curry, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the minutes of March 16, 2020, as presented. A roll call vote was taken: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Killion, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain: (0). All in favor. Motion carried. (Mr. Dow did not participate in this motion due to technical difficulty.)

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers: Mr. Azer

Mr. Azer noted that one primary agenda item is to approve the Warrants and address them. He asked for a verbal consent to pay the Warrants and for the Minutes will reflect this.

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the Warrants as presented. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (8) Mr. Khan, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mr. Knott, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Gee, Mr. Curry; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor. Motion carried. (Mr. Dow did not participate in this motion due to technical difficulty.)

COMMUNICATION:

None

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

Mr. Zinni, Superintendent, Dr. Gilson, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Mobley, HS Principal, Ms. Kreuzer, MS Principal, Mr. Azer, Director of Finance & Operations, Mr. Bois, Technology Director

COMMUNICATION:

Miss Linde presented the HS Student Council Report. She added that the King Philip Sports Boosters and KP Nation created custom lawn signs for the Class of 2020 celebrating seniors in this difficult time. With over 40 cars and over 80 volunteers, lawn signs were placed overnight so that every KP senior woke up to a custom lawn sign in their front yard. It was amazing to see the community come together to show support for our seniors, and the class of 2020 thanks KP Boosters and KP Nation as well as all the volunteers for their efforts.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

District response to state health and safety concerns: Mr. Zinni

Mr. Zinni indicated that he has been working with his Administrative Team on a regular basis and has had several conversations and teleconferences regarding the Coronavirus situation. He has been sending out documents to the school committee as they prepared and sent out to the families. He said that his Administration and staff members have been doing whatever they can to help families and the learning process will continue with guidance from the federal and state level.

- **Technology Update:** Based upon the need for students to do their school work from home, the District sent out a survey to families to identify those students who may not have access to technology, computers, Wi-Fi and those that need to share devices among other family members. In an effort to help families, Dr. Mobley and Mr. Bois distributed *Chromebooks* this past week and Mr. Bois is looking into a solution for families who do not have access to Wi-Fi. This situation according to Mr. Zinni is very fluid and the District will continue to look at solutions to these problems.
- **Food Distribution:** Mr. Zinni noted that Norfolk and Plainville are continuing to distribute food for families in need and the District's Food Service Program has reached out to families as well. They are working closely with the elementary districts to help provide assistance. Ms. Dot Pearl has been assisting in this area as well.
- **HS Scholar-Athletes:** Dr. Mobley announced the Hockomock Scholar Athletes from KP in which she and Gary Brown, Athletic Director, surprised them at their homes and congratulated them: Samantha Robeson (Ice and Field Hockey) and will be attending WPI in the Fall. And, John "Jack" Cannon (Tennis) who will be attending either Rice or Cornell. Congratulations to both scholar-athletes on their accomplishments.
- **MS Learning Plan:** Ms. Kreuzer gave the School Committee an update on the learning plan at the Middle School. She indicated that teachers are assigning specific learning activities and keeping track of student attendance and completion of assignments. Students have shown engagement in various methods and teachers are making sure they give variety to students. Mr. Kreuzer discussed the challenges involved such as the streamlining of emails. Positive feedback has been received on Choice Boards and now all teachers have a Google Classroom. The teachers are very proud of their accomplishments and the administration will support them in any way we can as some families have sustained loss of jobs, have sick family members, students can be anxious and general concern for everyone.
- **HS Learning Plan:** Dr. Mobley indicated that the introduction of new material to students will be implemented soon, but for now teachers will stay with enrichment before the HS moves on to new learning as she would like all students to be engaged. Dr. Mobley is cognizant of the fact that some students do not have a device that has a camera and they are troubleshooting for access and equity for all students. Dr. Mobley discussed how this is uncharted times and all schools are struggling with this. She has initiated *Screencastify* and has been holding parent town halls to explain Google Classroom. Dr. Mobley has also been holding student town halls and having faculty meetings on a regular basis.
- Mr. Zinni said that the Administrative Team has been working 24/7 trying to find creative ways to support the staff and students and assist those who work behind the scenes. He noted the need to continue to reach out to all of our families and offer support and updates.
- Discussion ensued on Wi-Fi and the costs involved in providing access and devices to those families who do not have it. Mr. Bois is researching a full range of costs and services from providers which range from \$20 to \$200. There is also a backorder on some items. This will be discussed at the next administrative meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. Discussion continued that the elementary districts have had similar issues and the IT Directors have shared what they are doing in each of their districts. Mr. Zinni noted that the collaboration among the districts has been incredible.

Security Measures with On-line Learning Tools: Mr. Bois

Mr. Bois gave an update on technology and security measures that are in place and how the KP staff has been incredible and have worked together on how to use these tools. One of the pitfalls is trying to stay aware of the 270 staff members and the students and this new form of learning and how to protect the users. Mr. Bois explained that while we cannot ban video conferencing, we need to come up with the best practices and procedures to secure it better, by educating the users and let them make an informed choice on how they are teaching their students. The administration is involved in all decision-making and vetting these tools as much as possible. Mr. Bois reiterated that this is type of learning is distance learning, not online learning, which is a whole different type of learning.

Professional Development: Dr. Gilson is continuing to work on professional development for staff, including custodians and teacher assistants and food service staff members. She has looks at resources from all over the country and recognizes that there are several opportunities available. Dr. Gilson has also been talking to several families and guiding them to resources which has proved to be very helpful to them. She thanks the School Committee for their support during this process.

Mr. Zinni updated the Committee that on Monday, March 30, he opened the buildings to staff members, BICO and the nurses so that they could obtain any supplies that they needed. The medical staff was able to donate medical supplies that included gloves, masks, wipes and hand sanitizer to the local fire departments and first responders. Discussion ensued that budget-wise, the District will replenish these supplies for the next school year.

On a separate matter, Seniors who were to travel to the Dominica Republic on a service project were refunded their full deposit from *Passport* as this trip was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Mr. Gee thanked the staff.

Teacher Evaluation:

Mr. Zinni has been working with the KPTA to look at the teacher evaluation tool and timelines for the evaluation and summaries. A draft memorandum of agreement has been prepared and it is anticipated that this document will be presented to the School Committee early next week to obtain a vote in executive session.

Superintendent's Evaluation:

Discussion ensued on Mr. Zinni's evaluation and timeline as a contractual obligation by the end of this school year. Mr. Gee indicated that a timetable will be determined as the elections in the towns have been postponed.

April 2020 Vacation:

Mr. Zinni gave an update on the DESE Commissioner's guidelines for the last day of school for the 2019/2020 school year using the four (4) days of April vacation as school days in which they would count toward bringing the school year to a close at the 185th day. Mr. Zinni has spoken with the Administrative Team and the KPTA and they are in agreement and recommend that we continue the momentum of distance learning and to move forward with this plan as there is the possibility that the shut down of schools due to COVID-19 could continue past May 4, 2020 or beyond. By using the 4 days of April vacation this would bring the last day of school to June 19 rather than June 24. (Correction – June 18, 2020)

Discussion ensued on the schedules with the elementary districts and to ask the community what their opinion would be. Mr. Zinni indicated that he has spoken with the elementary superintendents and reviewed the guidance from the DESE Commissioner. Mr. Zinni recommended adjusting the 2019/2020 school year calendar to cancel April vacation and to have April 21, 22, 23 and 24, 2020 as days of learning.

Discussion ensued on the payment of staff for the four (4) days during April vacation and any budget implications.

✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Curry, to move the superintendent's recommendation by adjusting the 2019/2020 school year calendar and to cancel April vacation and have April 21, 22, 23 and 24, 2020 as days of learning. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor. Motion carried. (Mr. Dow was unable to participate due to technical difficulty.)

FY21 Budget:

Mr. Zinni and Mr. Azer reviewed the upcoming budget meetings with the towns scheduled for this week. Mr. Zinni indicated that at this point it is unclear what the communities and the state level will do. The District did its best to respond responsibly due to these circumstances. Discussion ensued on whether the district is spending more due to Covid-19. Mr. Azer reviewed the current expenditures of the custodial and food service departments. He also noted the loss of revenue on rentals of the buildings and fields. The state has recommended and strongly urged districts to pay staff and special

education tuition and transportation costs. He hopes to work with Holmes to negotiate a contract amendment or a memorandum of understanding.

Discussion ensued on the towns' budgets as two towns need to pass KP's budget in order for it to be approved by June 30, but this year approval may not occur until later the summer. Mr. Zinni is looking at all scenarios that will have the least impact on children and staff.

Town Elections:

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, all town elections have been postponed to at least June 30, 2020. Therefore, all sitting elected officials will remain in their position until a successor has been sworn in by each town clerk.

Policy Subcommittee: A meeting will be scheduled within the next few days for a policy review.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. Abrams – Plainville will be meeting on Tuesday, April 7. The Plainville teachers held a parade throughout the town.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano - Dr. Cameron presented a PowerPoint to the community on what the District has done throughout this crisis. He included a very structured schedule by grade. She commended his efforts and those of King Philip which has been phenomenal. The School Committee has been meeting weekly.
- Norfolk School Committee Representative: Mr. Curry - Norfolk has had a similar effort as Wrentham and has provided a week-long calendar. The School Committee has been meeting weekly.

ADJOURNMENT

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mrs. Abrams, to adjourn the meeting at 8pm. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (8) Mr. Khan, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mr. Knott, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Gee, Jr. Curry; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor. Motion carried. (Mr. Dow did not participate in this vote due to technical difficulty.)**

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting. Mr. Zinni will post this recorded meeting on the KP Website at its conclusion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa B. Witkus

Secretary to the School Committee

Documents presented on April 6, 2020:

Agenda

Draft Minutes of February 24, 2020

Draft Minutes of March 2, 2020

Draft Minutes of March 16, 2020

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

HS Student Council Report

District response and update to state health and safety concerns - COVID-19

Security Measurers with On-line Learning Tools

Teacher Evaluation

April, 2020 Vacation

FY21 Budget Update

Town Election Update