

KING PHILIP REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 5, 2018
King Philip Regional High School - Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Francomano, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:31PM.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Members Present:	Norfolk:	Jeff Chalmers
	Plainville:	Patrick Francomano, Samad Khan
	Wrentham:	Jim Killion, Trevor Knott
Members Absent:	Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Kenneth Dow
	Plainville:	Charlene McEntee
	Wrentham:	Erin DeStefano
HS Student Council Representative:		Miss Linde

The meeting is being videotaped by Wrentham Cable. Mr. Francomano explained that the public may visit the district's website at www.kingphilip.org to review informational documents pertaining to each school committee meeting. Videotaped meetings may be viewed in their entirety at www.wrenthamcableaccess.com Mr. Francomano also explained the procedure for public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed with an asterisk () are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion if action is required. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:*

Approval of Minutes:

-  **A Motion was made by Mr.Khan, seconded by Jim Killion, to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2018 as printed. All in favor. Yes (5); No (0). Motion carried.**

Delegations and Visitors:

Mr. Hardy, MASC; Dr. Gilson, Assistance Superintendent/MS Principal; Mr. Azer, Director of Finance; Ms. Dill HS Teacher

Approval of Minutes:

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Killion, to approve and hold executive session minutes dated January 22, 2018 as printed. All in favor. Yes (5); No (0). Motion carried.**

New Business: (Taken Out of Order):

Presentation on Trip to Quebec: Mrs. Dill

Mrs. Dill, HS Foreign Language Teacher discussed the recent trip of the French Club to Carnevale de Quebec 2/1-2/4, 2018. The trip was a great immersive opportunity for the students.

HS Overnight Student Council Trip:

Ms. Dill presented an overnight field trip to the MASC Leadership Conference in which 16 students and their chaperones would be attending and they would like to participate in the *Polar Plunge*. This is a great opportunity to learn all of the aspects of student council and compare what other districts are doing in terms of student council.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the HS overnight field trip to the MASC Leadership Training State Conference, in Hyannis, MA to be held from March 7-9, 2018 as presented, according to Policy JJH and IJOA. All in Favor. Yes (5); No (0). Motion carries unanimously.**

HS Music Overnight Field Trip:

Mrs. Barbara Snead spoke on behalf of the music program for the Winter Guard Overnight trip to Dayton on 4/10-4/15, 2018 with 20 students. She indicated this would be the first time back since 2012 competing against 400 other groups.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Chalmers, to approve the HS Overnight field trip for the Winter Guard to be held on April 10-15, 2018 in Dayton, OH, according to Policy JJK and IJOA. All in Favor. Yes (5); No (0). Motion carries unanimously.**

MS Program of Studies (1st Reading): Dr. Gilson

Dr. Gilson presented the 1st reading of MS program of studies. She indicated that the district would like to reinstate the STEM position noting Media Arts: Grade 8 Micro-bit Computer Controllers being embedded into Media arts as the programs is being revised. Mr. Francomano asked if there are any other areas for change and do we need a timeframe for a second reading? Dr. Gilson noted that she is not expecting any additional changes to the MS program of studies.

- ✚ **A Motion to waive the second reading was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Killion. All in Favor. Yes (5); No (0). Motion carries unanimously.**
- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the 1st reading of the 2018/2019 Middle School Program of Studies as presented by Dr. Gilson. All in Favor. Yes (5); No (0). Motion carries unanimously.**

Reports from School Committee Members:

- Norfolk School Committee: Mr. Chalmers noted the last Norfolk school committee meeting discussed items on policy, enrollment and budget.
- Plainville School Committee: None
- Wrentham School Committee: None
- HS Student Council Report was presented by Ms. Linde.

Communications:

Dr. Zielinski presented the following:

1. DECA at Mansfield Holiday Inn in which all students are moving forward to States.
2. Letter from State Senator Richard Ross and State Representative Dooley's office dated 1/19/18 regarding the funding of circuit breaker; otherwise the district is looking at a reduction in expected circuit breaker reimbursements.

MASBO Financial Report:

Mr. Azer distributed the MASBO Financial Operations Report dated 8/14. There were no questions asked from the committee.

Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent: Community Working Groups (CWG) – Update: Dr. Zielinski

Members of the Budget, Community Relations and Strategic Planning Working Groups will be presenting the CWG presentation. Kendra Kannally (Norfolk) and Scott Manchuso (Wrentham). From the Budget CWG, there was a need for collection of data points to back up the fact vs fiction and the groups merged. The groups became much better informed of what our district looks like. Data was provided by Business Office.

Referencing the presentation, Mr. Manchuso indicated that the district is investing at a lower level than other districts. SPED costs make a 3% increase. Chapter 70 and Net School Spending, King Philip is coming in lower than benchmark Mr. Knott questioned why this is occurring. Mr. Azer responded that reasons relate to Chapter 70 funding and the formula.

Referencing Page 3, Special Education out of district costs are rising substantially. While required and mandated, these costs are putting pressure on regular education. 67% of students are not placed in out of district schools until MS or HS years (secondary) as per DESE. Need to understand how we go forward for pathways to fund both SPED and Regular Education. Ms. Kannally noted that the out of district students usually are placed out for 10 years (until age 22). Do we start to see a decline in the other regular education standards while SPED increasing?

Referencing Page 4, Elementary Schools are being funded higher than KP per pupil. Ms. Kannally noted that this should not be elementary vs KP. The same student invested at \$14.3K level and then invested less once the child hits KP – what is best for both populations? KP is below in per pupil spending. What do we do about this scenario? We can speak to the towns to fund at a higher level; however she feels this is a long term approach. What can we do in the short term? We are behind in administration with prior year cuts and below funded the capital projects.

Referencing page 5 of the presentation, Long term, the CWG would like to review the superintendent's union again. Referencing page 6, the CWG look forward to the next 6-24 months and will report back to the school committee with their findings. Ms. Kannally noted

that the superintendent union would need to move forward from all 4 school committees to look at this opportunity. KP is investing lower than districts that are sharing administrative costs, referencing the per pupil expenditure slides.

Unfinished Business:

FY 19 Budget Update and Town Assessments – Mr. Azer presented the FY 19 budget presentation

Mr. Azer explained that the Governor's new projected funding release is above the foundation budget so King Philip will get no additional chapter 70 funds. Proposal was \$20/student in chapter 70 which equates to \$40,000 projection. The State continues to underfund the charter tuition reimbursement or \$26K vs \$75K projection for a total increase of \$4470.

Referencing page 4 chapter 70 trends shows KP trends are declining while all others are increasing (Chapter 70 aid per pupil). Due to the wealth factor of the formula which has not been updated in over 25 years. Unfortunately, the towns are property value heavy which does not translate into cash. Mr. Knott asked what is difference in the formulas with KP vs towns? The formula relies on the foundation budget which for KP is higher than the towns which demonstrates the inequities in the formula.

Referencing Page 5, Circuit breaker reimbursements – state totals, there is an increase of .71 inadequate. KP has lost over 1.2MM in unfunded circuit breaker. The state should be reimbursing at 75% for all costs over the 4X factor and they are only funding at 65%. Charter tuition reimbursements trends are heading down. Transportation reimbursements (less than 12 years ago – trends are heading down). KP is significantly underfunded. There is a large gap from what the state told the towns would be funded but they are not.

Discussion ensued on net school spending and unbudgeted needs as outlined on Page 9.

Mr. Knott requested more simplified language regarding local contribution. Since Plainville is not at the 82.5% target the state will make up the difference for the towns who have not reached the 82.5% target. All related to the foundation budget. The difference between these numbers and 100% is what the state will fund in chapter 70. Why are Norfolk and Wrentham at their targets? Mr. Azer responded as combined effort yield (wealth factors – what you can afford) vs foundation budget at 82.5% The state then fills in the gap.

Public Comments/Discussion:

Mrs. Snead commented that we have been presented with a large amount of data. What are the next steps? She does not want to lose momentum with all this work. Is this CWG driven or school committee driven? Mr. Azer noted that there is a tri-town meeting scheduled for February 13, 2018 with the King Philip Regional School Committee to see if towns can fund this.

Mrs. Snead? What do we do with the CWG data group? Can we present the info to the three towns?

Mr. Francomano noted that we have short term and long term solutions. Short term with respect to this current budget need to be assessed with the town finance committees to hopefully fund at a rate that will not jeopardize the education at KP.

Kendra Kannally: Referencing the Chapter 70 slides, KP is the only district that is not part of a superintendent union. Would we be able to receive more aid eligible if we were a superintendent union? All four districts are above foundation so we all get the \$20/student and not additional aid.

Mr. Francomano asked how are they allocating expenses with a superintendent union? Mr. Azer responded that assuming the scenario of a superintendent earning \$100K, with four districts each district is charged \$25K and all services proportionately assigned and the foundation budget is apportioned by students in the district.

Kendra Kannally: Are there any efforts being done by lobbying efforts to the state to get reimbursements changed? Mr. Francomano responded that there are many lobbying efforts being made to the state for transportation, circuit breaker and chapter 70 by many MASC, MASS, MMA and school organizations. Dr. Zielinski noted that the House Ways and Means is the group that makes these decisions. Legislators will respond to grass roots efforts. Mr. Azer noted challenges are there three line items are funded in one-line item and then DESE allocates the \$\$ by %. Regional schools put in claims against the expenses etc. then reallocated on a % basis. Ballot question – “millionaire’s tax” to aid education. Number of efforts are different levels.

Kendra Kannally noted that there is currently \$678K gap and we have to pay \$573K to service just for our special education budget.

Figure Skating Update:

Dr. Zielinski noted that KP students are wishing to compete under the KP name with USFSA. Dr. Zielinski obtained a legal opinion from Attorney Waugh. There are many unanswered questions regarding liability and insurance as referenced in her memo dated January 30, 2018.

Mr. Francomano requested that this item be tabled to March 5, 2018.

Superintendent Search – Update:

Mr. Francomano explained that Mr. Hardy was unable to attend this meeting due to a conflict. He has forwarded an e-mail regarding the finalists which has been distributed. The finalists are selected from a pool of 30 candidates. Site visits have been scheduled and Mr. Francomano asked if any other members are available on any of those days. Mr. Khan will get back to chair with availability. Mr. Francomano detailed the interviews and site visit schedules. Interviews are open to the public and would like the public to attend.

Mr. Francomano reviewed the time period for the interviews. Mr. Hardy has requested that all members be prepared to ask questions. Members were provided with the question list from the semi-finalist round. All candidates will be asked to make an opening statement consisting of their vision for KP; why are you a good candidate, etc. Limit opening statement to 5 minutes. Provide them opportunity for a closing statement (5 min) as well as Q&A (5-10 min)

Mr. Francomano asked about the opportunity for the public to ask questions. Mr. Khan indicated that it may be helpful, but should be consistent. Mr. Killion noted regarding public comment that you never know what you are going to get. Either allow individuals to ask questions or have the public submit questions via public comment cards. Or solicit questions from the internet and have them prepared ahead of schedule.

The consensus of the Committee is to allow public questions and scenario #2 (public comment cards) is preferred. Mr. Knott suggested that the committee members who have already seen the candidates sort through the public comment questions. A suggestion from the committee is all questions have to be turned in within the first 30 minutes of the interview. Allocate 10 mins for public comment. And allow another 10 minutes for a break.

Member questions would be limited to 5 minutes responses per question: Mr. Francomano does not see any need for member questions to be reviewed or screened but just need to ensure that the member questions are not redundant. Members need to be prepared with 3-4 questions.

Questions from Individual Committee Members:

Mr. Francomano noted he received a call from Plainville residents regarding later school day start times. Mr. Francomano noted that this was previously discussed and to have the SC sponsor a public forum and have a speaker discuss the topic and schedule for March in library on an off night. This would give the public opportunity to be educated on topic. The consensus of the Committee is for chair to move forward with this suggestion. Mr. Khan indicated if this is successful, to look for future topics.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- ✚ **A Motion was made at 9:15pm by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Killion, to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; and, to discuss the reputation character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual, and to return to open session solely for the purpose of adjournment. All in favor by roll call vote. Yes (5); No (0). Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT:

- ✚ **A Motion was made at 9:30pm by Mr. Khan, seconded by Killion to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote. Yes (5); No (0). Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen Wolf
Recording Secretary*