

KING PHILIP REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES - Approved
May 7, 2018
King Philip Regional High School - Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Gee, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Members Present: Norfolk: Michael Gee, Kenneth Dow
 Plainville: Amy Abrams, Samad Khan, Bruce Cates
 Wrentham: Trevor Knott, Jim Killion

Members Absent: Norfolk: Vacant Seat
 Wrentham: Erin DeStefano
 Plainville: Present

HS Student Council Representative: Miss Linde

The meeting is being videotaped by Wrentham Cable Access. Mr. Gee 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. Gee also explained the procedure for public comment.

Mr. Gee welcomed and extended congratulations to Mr. Cates as Plainville's newly-elected member to the King Philip Regional School Committee.

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

Dr. Zielinski, Superintendent, Mr. Azer, Director of Finance, James Dow, DECA Advisor
Attorney Catignani

FY19 School Choice Public Hearing:

Mr. Gee opened the FY19 School Choice Public Hearing at 7pm. Dr. Zielinski's recommendation is that the King Philip Regional School District not participate in School Choice for FY19 due to the current enrollment. There were no further comments.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. Abrams, seconded by Mr. Killion, that the King Philip Regional School District not participate in School Choice for FY19 school year due to the current enrollment. All in favor. Yes (7); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

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 Mr. Killion, to approve the Minutes of April 23, 2018, as presented. All in favor. Yes (6); No (0); Abstain (1) – Mr. Cates; Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

DECA SCDC Presentation: Mr. James Dow

Mr. James Dow, DECA Advisor presented the School Committee with highlights of the year along with the DECA awards received. He also wanted to give the DECA students the opportunity to speak on behalf of the outstanding DECA program offered at KP. Chapter made up of 92 students, under the direction of James Dow. With 92 students participating, 100% of membership went on to state qualification and this continues every year. The Chapter was ready for competition by presenting 27 projects. The School Store reached a Gold Standard Award. KP DECA

Chapter members earned the organization's highest honor at DECA's annual International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, GA, April 21-26, 2018. 5 students made it to the international stage which qualified the most students at the ICDC. Jaron May served as Executive President and deferred a year of college so that he could serve in this capacity.

Mr. Dow introduced the 5 teams that received recognition at the International Level, with each team giving a brief presentation on their project.

- *Days for Girls* – non-profit to raise awareness of feminine hygiene products to be used in 3rd World Countries. ICDC Top 16 International Finalists. Category of Community Service Projects.
- *Hope for Henry*, Early detection of cancer and to spread awareness. Top 10 International Finalist in ICDC. Public Relations Category.
- *Start Up Business – Fortiflex* which was a business proposal to see if an investor would invest in the company in dancing. Achieved Top 10 International Finalist.
- Sports + Entertainment Promotion Plan. NASCAR promotion plan that promoted the importance of networking. Awarded 2nd Place “DECA Glass”
- Learn + Earn, Tied Together, connecting people together and the opportunity to change the world little bit at a time. Involved in 2 charities including homeless people and the endangered species of sea turtles on Cape Cod. Awarded 2nd Place “DECA Glass”

Mr. Dow thanked the alumni and the parents involved in the DECA program who served as mentors to the students. Mr. Dow also thanked all the parents and chaperones who donated their time to the program.

Mr. Gee announced a brief recess at 7:42pm.
Reconvened at 7:45pm

HS Student Council Report: Ms. Linde (Taken out of Order)

Ms. Linde presented her report dated May 7, 2018. In addition, McCann's Warriors will be selling bracelets and all proceeds will go to Mrs. McCann Black.

Consent Agenda: (continued)

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

COMMUNICATION:

Appointments, Resignations, Retirements, etc., were presented in a memorandum from Dr. Zielinski dated May 7, 2018.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Killion, to retain and approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 23, 2018, as presented. All in favor. Yes (5); No (0); Abstain (2) – Mr. Cates and Mr. Dow.

COMMUNICATION:

- KP in the News:
 - “KPRHS discusses later start times,” dated May 3, 2018, *localtownpages*
 - KP DECA Press Release, dated April 30, 2018, Mr. James Dow
- Finance Subcommittee Minutes dated April 6, 2018
- Letter from NEAS&C dated April 23, 2018. Dr. Zielinski reviewed the content of this letter. Dr. Mobley will address this further at the May 29, 2018 meeting.
- Distribution of 2018 Ethics Compliance Forms
- Distribution of 2018 Disclosure Forms

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Community Working Groups – Update:

In a memorandum dated April 30, 2018, Dr. Zielinski provided an update on the Community Working Groups (CWG) that included the Budget Working Group, the Strategic Planning working Group and the Community Relations Working Group. The CWG met on April 30, 2018 to discuss the current financial situation based on the Norfolk request of a 4% assessment.

Mr. Gee thanked the members of the CWG in which a lot of work on the budget and community relations has been accomplished this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FY18 Budget Update: Mr. Azer

Mr. Azer presented a Power Point Presentation on the status of the FY18 budget to date including budgeted items vs. actuals in each category. Substitute teachers were highlighted as there were a number of teachers out on leave this year which offset the teachers' line item % projected balance. The District is over budget on building maintenance, due to inclement weather conditions this year and there were 6 snow days this year and putting the % projected balance at -49.79%.

Mr. Azer noted that "unencumbered" regular salaries for custodians represent offset from facility rentals. A portion of "other salaries" (overtime) will be offset by facility rentals.

FY19 Budget Update: Mr. Azer

In a memorandum dated May 1, 2018, Mr. Azer outlined the FY19 budget update and also presented a Power Point presentation. Mr. Azer reviewed the FY2019 state aid which includes Chapter 70, transportation reimbursement, charter tuition reimbursement and the variance from the original budget vs variances from the Governor's budget. A revenue recommendation was included with an increase usage of E&D funds from the original amount of \$300,000 to a revised amount of \$400,000 in order to prevent further cuts. The 2.65% total increase (without debt service) is the % variance to FY2018. Special education tuition revisions will be a net reduction to total budget of \$187,896. Mr. Azer said there may be an adjustment to FY19 transportation budget would be revised by eliminating late buses for a total savings of \$43,000 which may have an impact to some after school programs.

The Finance Subcommittee is hoping to avoid cutting staff by the elimination of HS history teacher and part time music teacher (2 positions) equal the new cuts.

Mr. Azer explained that the aggregate assessment is now based at 3.09%; the target was 3%, but because of the formula that the towns are using is dictated by the state there are different breakdowns. Norfolk town meeting is May 8, 2018. We are below level service budget according to Dr. Zielinski.

Reference was made to the assessments to the towns. Mrs. Abrams noted that Plainville is at 3.3%. While she understands that Plainville's local town budget and assessments for all of the towns, she is frustrated that the school community comes in lower for King Philip than our town school districts.

Mr. Cates said that fewer students are going to charter school and the lower amount that we start to fund KP same as elementary schools consistent funding across the board and the same for the capital side for our buildings. Need to get level service budget this year.

Mr. Knott referred to the statistics noted in Mr. Azer's handout in which KP is below the Hockomock League and the state averages for per pupil expenditures, and has been underfunded year after year and this shows in the statistics presented. Discussion ensued that this document should be made public on social media and placed on the KP website.

Discussion ensued on the budget presentation process to the towns in which they need to determine where they want to put their financial dollars. The CWG are an advocate for KP.

Discussion ensued on the elimination of the late bus and Mr. Azer's first recommendation would be to restore that cut. Miss Linde stated her concerns about losing the late bus for students. She raised valid points that the late bus is used by some students who participate in after-school co-curricular, athletic, music activities and social events and the late

bus provides them the opportunity to participate as they may come from families who cannot provide transportation after school. Mr. Khan suggested that it could be cut to a partial restoration by days or less buses.

Mr. Gee opened the meeting to Public Comment:

A suggestion was presented that Lowe's has a great grant program for STEM and Chromebooks in which the district can apply. Mr. Azer asked that this information be sent to him.

Tracy Malloy of Norfolk, Member of the CWG: Norfolk did not fulfill that number. KP came back with a revised target and there are now cuts in the budget because Norfolk is the first town meeting. The funding for students at KP, how MA set the foundation budget and it is supposed to be \$1400 higher for a HS student vs an elementary student. Mrs. Malloy provided the following statistics on per pupil spending for FY17:

Wrentham \$15.5K

Plainville \$16.6K

Norfolk 15.0K

KP \$15.2K

The Foundation budget rates set by the state for FY19 are:

\$9116.81 for HS

\$7738.29 for elementary

Mr. Azer responded that the foundation budget sets 12 different categories of students and spending categories, the required number for HS higher than for MS and MS for elementary students. For the 3 towns, for last year, all elementary students received more per pupil spending per student. KP is less, and is not being funded fairly.

Discussion ensued on why the District is so eager to meet Norfolk's expectations and meet their request? What are the ramifications if we do not, can they reject the budget completely? Dr. Zielinski explained that each town pays a portion of the assessment based on population proportionately and that one of the budgets will need to increase their budget significantly. 2 out of 3 towns need to vote the budget up. Plainville voted to put their money last year in their stabilization fund which then affected all 3 towns' assessment.

Mr. Cates asked why are we caving so easily.

Mr. Gee referred to the Norfolk warrant for town meeting in which it indicated that they have a 4% increase to their budget.

Mr. Azer stated that budgeting involves negotiations to reach an agreement otherwise there is no budget. Numerous meetings take place over the budget process. Norfolk is first, we have to ideally come out of Norfolk town meeting with their approval and have to get 2 out of 3 towns. We have been working at this every day since October and trying to avoid what happened last year.

Mrs. Julie Radlitz: Does the issue come down to \$40K and the real student impact is the late bus. We have been very insensitive to KP students over the years spending \$1400 less than the elementary schools. Can any changes be made tonight instead of making an amendment at Norfolk town meeting?

Mr. Azer: I am very cautiously optimistic. We will continue to have the late busses reinstated in some form by August and that is the top thing to bring back if there are funds. However, on May 7, we need to "put a stick in the sand" but it may change.

Mr. Cates: We need to make our case, and guess what Norfolk says?

Mr. Azer: We are not guessing. What we are recommending tonight is what the Norfolk officials are recommending. Discussion ensued that budgets are negotiated and we presented 7.21% and revised it to 5.15%, so it is not us coming down, but them coming up and a fair compromise.

Discussion ensued that parents want more money to our students and want KP to be funded better than elementary schools. It is ultimately up to the residents of the towns to do something. We need to start approaching selectmen and town administrators and have funding more equitable across the board.

Julie Radlitz: We want people to stand up to elected officials, but the CWG is trying to find out how to get all the elected bodies to work together as there is a lot of disparity about how the elementary budgets are looked at by their

towns, and KP is the “ugly stepchild” but to Tracy’s point, we do need to be funded better. These are the same children coming up through the KP schools.

Discussion ensued that KP needs a long-range strategic plan where we want KP to be and survive the turnover of all of the boards that includes shared services and that the towns need to work together.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Knott, that based upon the Finance Subcommittee recommendation, the School Committee approve the total budget, including debts of \$34,657,740, with the following operating assessments: Norfolk \$8,618,479; Plainville \$5,831,375; and Wrentham \$9,502,052. Yes (4) – Mr. Knott, Mr. Killion, Mr. Gee, Mr. Dow. Opposed (3) – Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Khan and Mr. Cates. Motion carried 4-3.**

Director of Student Support Services Search

In a memorandum dated May 2, 2018, Dr. Zielinski provided a probable timeline for the selection, interview and appointment process for the Director of Student Support Services. It was recommended that a chair be appointed from the School Committee and that 2 members of the school committee sit on this committee as this position is a school committee hire.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Killion, to appoint Mrs. Abrams as Chair of the Search Committee for the Director of Student Support Services. All in favor. Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.**

Following discussion, Mr. Killion will be the second member of the School Committee on this Search Committee.

2018/2019 School Committee Retreat Discussion:

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. Abrams, seconded by Mr. Khan, to hold the 2018/2019 School Committee Retreat on Wednesday, July 18, 2018. All in favor. Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.**

School Committee Self-Evaluation – Update:

Tabled to May 21, 2018.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mrs. Abrams requested that the results of the HS senior survey (Naviance) to be presented upon completion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ✚ **At 9:46pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Knott, to adjourn into Executive Session, for the purpose of Executive Session - #3, 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. (Unit A Negotiations; Healthcare), and not to return to open session except for the purpose of adjournment. All in favor by roll call vote. Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.**

(Mr. Dow recused himself from Executive Session.)

Adjournment:

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to adjourn at 10:08pm. All in favor by roll call vote. Yes (6); No (0). Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee

List of documents presented at the April 23, 2018 meeting:

Draft Minutes of April 23, 2018
Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers
Appointments, Resignations, Retirements, etc.
April 23, 2018 Executive Session Minutes
KP in the News
Finance Subcommittee Minutes dated April 6, 2018
Letter from NEAS&C dated April 23, 2018
Distribution of 2018 Ethics Compliance Forms
Distribution of 2018 Disclosure Form
Community Working Groups – Update
FY18 Budget Update: Mr. Azer
FY19 Budget Update: Mr. Azer
Director of Student Support Services Search
2018/2019 School Committee Meeting Dates Calendar (2nd Reading)
School Committee Self-Evaluation - Update
HS Student Council Report: Miss Linde