

**King Philip Regional School Committee Meeting
FY22 Budget Public Hearing - Approved
High School Auditorium
February 8, 2021 - 7:00 PM**

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the FY22 Budget Public Hearing at 7pm.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Norfolk: | Michael Gee, Jim Lehan, Sarah Ward |
| Plainville: | Bruce Cates, John Faraca, Samad Khan |
| Wrentham: | Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano |

Members Absent:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Norfolk: | Present |
| Plainville: | Present |
| Wrentham: | Jim Killion |

Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer

NorthTV and Wrentham Cable 8 recorded the meeting.

FY22 Budget Public Hearing:

Mr. Zinni, Superintendent and Mr. Azer, Director of Finance & Operations presented the proposed FY22 Budget of the King Philip Regional School District.

Mr. Gee asked for comments from the audience.

Mr. Jeff Johnson of Plainville commented on the need to find a way to get the assessments down to what towns can sustainably afford.

Mr. Ted Janson of Plainville discussed the level service budget and allocated state aid and Chapter 70 state aid.

Discussion ensued that the proposed budget is based upon projections right now and if the actual revenue cannot meet these levels, then expenses would need to be reduced. Mr. Zinni indicated that the district has the responsibility to provide its students with the best education possible based upon these projections. The district is trying to sustain what we already have. Mr. Zinni explained that during the budget process, both he and Mr. Azer attend all budget meetings with the towns that we are invited to and answer any questions that the towns may have.

Discussed ensued on excess and deficiency. Mr. Azer indicated that the district is using about 30% of this amount, unlike other municipalities, we do not have a reserve fund, and we have been using a portion to fund the operating budget. Further discussion was held on enrollment.

Mr. Johnson wanted to acknowledge his appreciation for the efforts.

Close Budget Hearing:

Mr. Gee closed the hearing at 8:52pm.

Public Comment:

Mr. Zinni received and read the following emails as public comment:

1. Jill Lawrence, Norfolk: District plan to reopen schools.
2. Katie and Chad Campbell, Wrentham: Return students to school full time.
3. Sheri Calderone: Plan to return kids back into school full time.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to approve the Minutes dated January 19, 2021, as presented. All in favor. Yes (8); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.
- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to approve the Minutes dated January 25, 2021, as presented. All in favor. Yes (8); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Approval of Warrants:

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers
No. 54 Payroll; 55a, 55b and 55c Accounts Payable warrants.

Communication:

None

Agenda

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

None

Communication:

None

Reports of the Superintendent:

District Update:

Mr. Zinni was pleased to share a textbook on *Law and Policy* that he was one of the contributors on in the area of policy and special education.

HS Athletics and Activities:

Mr. Zinni gave an update on the winter sports program and thanked Mr. Brown, Athletic Director, and the coaches. Unfortunately, there were some Fall sports that we unsafe to play due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, a fourth season was created for the following sports: Football, Cheering, Volleyball, and Gymnastics. The District is moving forward with those athletic opportunities after February vacation.

Dr. Mobley shared that the HS has begun to work with the clubs. They are now opening the larger spaces to try to get back to in person meetings.

Vaccine update:

In a memorandum dated February 3, 2021, Dot Pearl, Director of Wellness is trying to secure and offer voluntary teacher Covid-19 vaccinations for school employees. This will be a regional clinic for the four school districts of Norfolk, Plainville, Wrentham, and King Philip, partnered with Cataldo

Ambulance/ProEMS. Mr. Zinni explained that specific dates for administering the vaccinations is in the process of being confirmed and is dependent upon the State's rollout of Phase 2 and vaccination availability. The district is pursuing FEMA and CARES grant funds to offset proposed costs in which the estimated cost to KP will be approximately \$600 for each two-day clinic.

Working with At Risk Students:

Mr. Zinni explained several support systems that the administration is working on, including:

Trying to schedule 4 days for students that need additional help and support.

Teachers that are working virtually have created a "Zoom with the Expert" in which students can Zoom with teachers at certain times for additional help.

We now have 3rd party counseling with William James College paid for through the Wellness Grant and a Help Desk.

The MS is offering a Homework Club for students.

The district social worker, paid for by the Wellness Grant, is offering home visits.

Returning to Full in-person learning:

Mr. Zinni explained that based on the data from Dept of Education website, there are no high schools and only 2% of middle schools that are in person. 67% of districts across the state are hybrid. Dr. Gilson has surveyed area districts and found that area schools are on a 4 days a week model. Seekonk and Norton are on a remote day model one day a week.

Mr. Zinni explained that KP is already at 3 ft capacity. When people ask for our plan, that is phase 4 of our opening plan. With one-days' notice, as soon as the guidelines are lifted, our schedule works. All we need is guidance from the state beyond the 3-foot distancing. Mr. Zinni explained the process in which we need a day to move desks and get buses up and running. The guidance is still 6 ft., but no less than 3 ft. and that is what we adhere to.

Mr. Zinni continued that Mr. Knott shared an interesting idea regarding the creation of a 3 cohort rotational system and explained that if we were at 6 feet, this might have worked. We are continuing to investigate new and creative ideas. The other issue that continues to come up is quarantining. Board of Health supports nothing less than 14 days. 2 districts are still in the red with one in the yellow. After we come back from February, we will continue to revisit these things.

Thank you for reminding us that the return plans are built in. Some folks have referred to return plans that are popping up. There is pressure for districts that have been remote to bring students back in. They have also asked districts that have the capacity to bring more students in to do that. Are students in the building for 40%, some students are actually in about 20% per week.

We are ready and we are anxious to get our students back in. I have heard from a few people about equity in the cohorts. The administration continues to monitor this.

Mr. Zinni informed the committee that a bus bid for school years 21-24 has gone out and will be reviewed in mid to late March. The bid specs included a number of start time scenarios to determine if a later start for the school day would be feasible.

Discussion ensued regarding communication from the District and what is the cadence in sending communications? Mr. Zinni explained every Sunday he provides the School Committee with his weekly update. The Principals send out a Warrior Weekly that goes out every week to all of the parents. District wide messages are sent out by the superintendent on various issues (COVID-19 updates, snow days, etc.).

Discussion ensued on having questions/answers (survey) go out to the community.

Questions from the community...FAQ question...so community can get used to a regular cadence. Dr. Cameron sends 2x weekly. Sunday and Wednesday... very short.

Questions/ Answers go out to community - We need to be more responsive to the general public.

Review of School Committee Goals:

The School Committee reviewed their current goals along with an edited version that Mr. Gee provided. Acceptance of these Goals is anticipated at the next meeting on February 22, 2021.

High School Program of Studies (2nd Reading):

A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Knott to approve the 2021/2022 HS Program of Studies, as presented. All in favor: Yes (8); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Reports from Individual School Committee Members:

- Norfolk School Committee – Ms. Ward: Teachers association bargaining.
- Plainville School Committee – Mr. Faraca: The next meeting is scheduled for 2/9/21. Discussion on looking how to bring students in grades K-2 back in for 4 days a week. Plainville has been doing 6-foot distancing and are considering 3-foot distancing. Looking at moving Grade 3 to the Wood School. Seeking parent input on both topics.
- Wrentham School Committee – Mrs. DeStefano: Nothing new to report since the last meeting.

Adjournment:

- ✚ **At 9:45pm, a Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Lehan to adjourn. All in favor: Yes (8); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa B. Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Agenda Items of February 8, 2021 included:

Agenda

FY22 Budget Public Hearing Presentation

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

Students Transitional Education Program for Success (S.T.E.P.S.)

2021/2022 HS Program of Studies 2nd Reading)

KP Student Records, Registration & Withdrawal Procedures Manual

School Committee Goals