

King Philip Regional School Committee
Remote Meeting - Approved
Monday, January 25, 2021
7pm

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the meeting at 7pm.

This meeting is being recorded by Mr. Zinni and is being live-streamed.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jim Lehan
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, John Faraca, Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Jim Killion, Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Sarah Ward (Joined the meeting at 8pm)
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Present

Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Bois, Mr. Azer, Miss James

Mr. Zinni recorded and live-streamed the meeting. NorthTV recorded the meeting.

OPENING OF MEETING:

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 Zoom Meeting 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Zinni read into the Minutes the following 3 emails:

1. Mark Waxman, Wrentham: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
2. Gianna Cassetta, Wrentham: District's Plan relative to discrimination, diversity, equity, and inclusion

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- ✦ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the Minutes of December 21, 2020 and January 11, 2021, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Payment of Bills, Financial Report:

- ✦ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Killion, to approve the following Warrants: Payroll: 50; Accounts Payable 51, 52a, 52b and 52c, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

AGENDA

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer, Miss James

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

- ✦ A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to retain and approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 11, 2021, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (1-Mr. Faraca). Motion carried 7-0-1.

Communication:

- HS Student Council Report: The HS Student Council Report dated January 25, 2021, was presented by Miss Ahunna James

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

District Update:

Transition to Remote Learning:

Public Health Information:

- Mr. Zinni read into the Minutes a Public Health Statement from the Public Health Nurses, of Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham dated January 25, 2021 on the necessity of that the District to transition to remote learning and cancel all after-school activities and athletics for the remainder of the week due to confirmed cases of Covid-19 within the district and the need for contact tracing
- These matters will be reassessed with the Public Health Nurses during a meeting on Friday, January 29, 2021 at 10:30am. Mr. Zinni is hopeful that the District will reopen on Monday, February 1, 2021.

Discussion ensued on the data received and the reasoning why the District needed to transition to remote learning. Due to HIPPA regulations, Mr. Zinni indicated that since information is restricted, he has provided all the information allowable to the school committee and will update them as further information becomes available.

Update on Flu Vaccine Requirement: DESE transmitted a letter dated January 15, 2021 from the MA Department of Public Health – School Health Unit removing the requirement for the flue vaccination for attendance of students.

Class of 2021 Senior Class Activities:

Mr. Zinni provided a preliminary list of senior activities to try to create the best possible experience for and recognition of seniors in this unprecedented year. The High School administration, along with parents, have been working on ideas for events and will try to schedule them as late in the school year as possible as outdoor events. Some of the events include a senior picnic, a senior parade, prom on the turf field. Graduation may be held on the turf field rather than Stonehill.

(Ms. Ward arrived at 8pm)

Enrollment Data:

At the request of a previous school committee discussion on enrollment, Mr. Zinni provided information on the number of students leaving KP to attend private or other schools. Student Placement Choices from Grades 8 to 9 over a five-year span were presented. Mr. Zinni explained that based upon the data, there is fluctuation from year to year but we are not seeing a mass exodus to private school at this time. Many students who leave KP are going to schools such as Tri-County that offer specific programs for their individual needs.

Mr. Knott indicated that a comparing KP’s data with the data from other town’s could inform future discussions.

Bus Bid Timeline:

Mr. Zinni referred to the Late Start Time Initiative undertaken last year and that the elementary districts could not move change their start time due to the complexities of the transportation of students of both the elementary districts and King Philip. Mr. Azer has started the bid process for KP for the next contract term of three years.

South Shore Initiative:

Mr. Zinni announced that he is working with the South Shore Initiative along with the UMass Dartmouth leadership team regarding a dual enrollment program for students who are not on track to attend college, or don’t feel that they can afford the college opportunity, or are on a trajectory to attend college.

Tri-Town Equity Committee Update:

As Mr. Zinni reported in a previous meeting, the Healthy KP Initiative was awarded a grant in the amount of \$625,000 over a five-year period. KP is the fiscal agent for this grant with part of these funds to be used to hire a paid coordinator.

Mr. Zinni along with the elementary superintendents and the Equity Committee provided a job description for the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion which is also a grant funded position. This position will be overseen by the four district superintendents and the chosen candidate will be hired and start in mid to late February, provide an entry plan and work with the four communities. The chosen candidate will work with the district leadership teams to conduct equity audits and identify, assess and create action plans to address institutional biases and structural racism in district programs and practices and their associated impacts on underserved and under-represented communities along with other duties and responsibilities.

Mr. Gee commended the initiative and the Commitment Statement on the job description.

Revised Budget and Finance Calendar Recommendations:

A Revised Budget and Finance Calendar was presented as information only. Mr. Lehan asked that the complicated process that determines the increases in town assessments in relation to increases in the KP budget as a whole be clearly explained in the Public Budget Hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

School Committee Goals:

Mr. Gee presented the current school committee goals for review. He asked for recommendations for updates to be discussed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

HS Program of Studies (1st Reading)

In a memorandum dated January 12, 2021, Dr. Mobley presented proposed changes to the 2021/2022 HS Program of Studies along with a rationale for each change. Mr. Zinni asked that if any school committee member has any questions to please let him know before the next meeting so that Dr. Mobley can address them during a 2nd reading.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

— Norfolk School Committee Representative: Sarah Ward – Will present her report at the next meeting.

- Plainville School Committee Representative: John Faraca - Teachers hired under the Cares Act funding have been secured to their positions through the end of the school year; Green Community Grants have been submitted.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Erin DeStefano – DESE required time on learning has been exceeded; K and Grade 1 students who have chosen in-person learning are in school 4 days per week; increase of in-person learning time for vulnerable students on Wednesdays as well as assistance of teacher assistants; MCAS changes and spring testing schedule; Report cards were distributed through the Aspen Family Portal; Challenges on pool testing discussion. An anonymous family donated lunch for the whole staff from the Red Rooster, along with a letter that was very much appreciated.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ADOURNMENT:

- ✚ At 8:55pm, a Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Cates, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on January 25, 2021:

Agenda
Warrants:
HS Student Council Report