

King Philip Regional School Committee
Remote Meeting – DRAFT
Special Meeting
Monday, January 19, 2021

OPENING OF MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Erin DeStefano

HS Student Council Representative: Miss James

Visitors:

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

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

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair returned the meeting to open session at 6:55pm 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 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.

Mr. Gee indicated that this special meeting was called based upon the request of committee members. One member is not present, but has no objections to the meeting being held.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Zinni read into the Minutes the following 5 emails:

1. Daniel Campbell, Plainville – learning models; DESE requirements.
2. Brad and Brooke McCreedy, Norfolk – Does not support the decision that student decide on a full year commitment to a learning model.
3. Lisa Golden, Plainville – Does not support decision that all students decide on learning model
4. Susan Pisani, Wrentham – Opposition to commit to a learning choice model
5. Julie Redlitz, Norfolk – Flexibility on decision of learning model

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Consider the requirement for students who are choosing remote to commit to remote learning for the remainder of the school year:

Mr. Zinni recommended that the School Committee rescind their vote of January 11, 2021, on its initial decision to require all families to commit their children to either a hybrid or remote learning model for the remainder of the school year and return to the model the district is currently following. Mr. Zinni stated that the District serves all children and needs to provide them with the best education possible and we are doing the best we can for all of our students during these unprecedented times.

Mr. Gee read the Motion taken on January 11, 2021 into the Minutes:

A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Knott, to move the Superintendent's recommendation to require students who are choosing remote to commit to remote learning for the remainder of the school year, or when the state and DESE allow all students to come back without restriction; with the exception of those students who are required to temporarily quarantine. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (1-Mr. Cates); Abstain (0). Motion carried 7-1-0.

A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to rescind the referenced Motion of January 11, 2021, to require all families to commit their children to either a hybrid or remote learning model for the remainder of the school year and to return to the model the district is currently following.

Discussion followed on DESE guidelines and regulations which Mr. Zinni indicated the District adheres to.

Discussion ensued on further planning for students who are in the at-risk category and those that need additional support. Mr. Zinni and the administration are working on several options to assist these students.

Mr. Gee moved the Motion on the floor:

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to rescind the referenced Motion of January 11, 2021, to require all families to commit their children to either a hybrid or remote learning model for the remainder of the school year and to return to the model the district is currently following. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8) Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried (8-0-0).**

Covid-19 Pool Testing:

At the request of the School Committee, Mr. Zinni explained the Covid-19 Pool Testing pilot program offered by the state. Mr. Zinni has been in conversations with Hockomock and elementary superintendents to evaluate the option. Two of the districts he consulted have piloted the program and had many problems; most have passed on the offer. The challenges or drawbacks include limited staffing and funding to conduct these tests, and training of nurses to conduct the testing is required that has cost factors attached. Mr. Zinni also referred to some unintended consequences that may arise due to staffing.

ADJOURNMENT:

- ✚ **At 9:05pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Knott, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8) Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried (8-0-0).**

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on January 19, 2021:

Agenda