

**King Philip Regional School Committee Meeting**  
**Remote Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 30, 2020**  
**Approved**

**ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Members Present:**

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jim Lehan, Sarah Ward
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, Michele Sharpe
Wrentham:	Erin DeStefano, Trevor Knott

**Members Absent:**

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Samad Khan (participated at 8:12pm)
Wrentham:	Jim Killion (participated at 7:50pm)

**Visitors:**

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Dr. Mobley, Mr. Azer  
Student Council Representative: Miss James (Observation)

**OPENING OF MEETING:**

Mr. Zinni, Superintendent of Schools, opened the meeting at 6:05pm 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](http://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.

**School Committee Reorganization:**

Mr. Zinni asked for nominations for chair. Mr. Knott nominated Mr. Gee to serve as chair, seconded by Mr. Lehan. There were no additional nominations and Mr. Gee was willing to accept this nomination.

- ✦ A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to nominate Mr. Gee to serve as Chair of the King Philip Regional School Committee for the 2020-2021 school year. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (6): Mrs. DeStefano, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Mr. Gee, Chair, asked for nominations for vice chair. Mrs. DeStefano nominated Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Lehan. There were no additional nominations.

- ✦ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to nominate Mr. Khan to serve as Vice Chair of the King Philip Regional School Committee for the 2020-2021 school year. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (6): Mrs. DeStefano, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

#### **Subcommittee Reorganization:**

- ✦ A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to approve the 2020-2021 Subcommittee List, as presented. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (6): Mrs. DeStefano, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

#### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Zinni read into the Minutes four public comment statements he received via email prior to the start of the meeting:

1. Tracy Malloy, Reopening of School
2. Kristen Balash, Issue of the school district's name and mascot.
3. Linn Caprarella, Discussion of District Name
4. Jill and John Lawrence, Kendra and Jay Kannally, Geoff and Dianne Cardner, and Michael and Natalie Iantosca, Reopening of School

(Jim Killion participated at 7:50pm)

#### **Approval of Minutes – July 6, 2020:**

- ✦ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the Minutes of July 6, 2020, as presented. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (6): Mr. Killion, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (1) Mrs. DeStefano. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Warrants:**

- ✦ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to approve the Warrants of July 6, 2020, as presented (Accounts Payable: 1, 6, 8a and 8b; 7 Payroll). A roll call of members was taken: Yes (7): Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Executive Session Minutes – July 6, 2020:**

- ✦ A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Killion, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes of July 6, 2020, as presented. Yes (6): Mr. Killion, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (1) Mrs. DeStefano. Motion carried.

#### **Communication:**

The following documents were presented as information:

- Bico June Newsletter
- 2020/2021 School Committee Benchmark Calendar

#### **2020/2021 Option 5 – School Calendar**

Mr. Zinni presented the Option 5 version of the 2020/2021 School Calendar which was prepared based upon a report from the DESE Commissioner changing the number of school days requirement for students to 170, which allows for up to 10

days for staff to use in preparation for the upcoming school year. The start date for students would then be September 16. There will be 180 days for staff member with this option. This option also allows for two full professional development days in October to maximize the learning days for the year. This calendar was reviewed and acknowledged by the KPTA.

Discussion ensued on measurables for success of time during the 10 days period prior to students start date. The School Committee asked that Mr. Zinni share this information as it is mapped out.

Discussion ensued on snow days becoming remote days as discussed by DESE. Mr. Zinni pointed out that he is also looking at high heat index days becoming remote learning days and is awaiting feedback on this point from the Commissioner.

Discussion ensued on the hybrid models and Mr. Zinni referred to 3 silos: safety and security; curriculum and instruction; and, planning teams and departments to maximize the learning that occurs.

Discussion continued plans and strategy to modify and the concern for a resurgence of the virus. Mr. Zinni indicated that as required by DESE, three plans have been created to sustain learning, including a transition plan in the event that a full remote schedule is required.

Discussion ensued on transportation of students and DESE guidance with scheduling and routes are based upon the cohort schedule.

(Mr. Khan participated at 8:12pm)

Mr. Zinni gave an overview of the hybrid model as part of the reopening plan. Wednesday would be a remote day for all staff and students to allow for a thorough cleaning of the building would occur.

Discussion ensued on the King Philip Option 5 calendar with regard to the elementary districts of Norfolk, Plainville, and Wrentham.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the 2020/2021 Option 5 School Year Calendar, as presented. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (8): Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee, Mr. Khan; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

### **Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:**

#### **Graduation Update:**

Mr. Zinni thanked Dr. Mobley for the staggering amount of planning of the 2020 Graduation that was held this past weekend at King Philip. The event was held outside to accommodate social distancing for the graduates and two family members. Parents presented their child with their diploma which was a very rewarding experience. According to Dr. Mobley everything went well, and everyone was very pleased with the outcome of this graduation and she thanked everyone for their support and patience during this process. She offered special thanks to the KP Parent Network, Mrs. Rowe, Mrs. Snead, the custodians, Mr. Ferreira, Ms. Greenleaf and the cable companies, Wrentham Police to name a just a few.

#### **DESE Grant Update:**

Mr. Zinni gave an overview of the \$460,000 received from a DESE Grant. These funds are to be used toward the opening of school for items such as PPE and additional technology.

Mr. Zinni also reviewed pools of money received from different areas, the total of which is less than \$500,000. One is a technology grant prepared by Dr. Gilson and Mr. Bois and another is from the Municipal Cares Act in which there is no designated allocation for these funds.

Mr. Azer indicated that there is no official announcement yet on Chapter 70 allocation but anticipates receiving additional documents soon along with state budget scenarios.

#### **Reopening Options:**

Mr. Zinni presented the School Committee with the Districts' preliminary Fall Reopening Plans for their review. This report was prepared based upon a request from DESE to show three models for reopening: an in-person model, hybrid model and a completely remote model. This plan will need to be approved by the School Committee and a final plan submitted to DESE by August 10, 2020.

Mr. Zinni, along with a 20-member committee that consisted of administrators and teachers, worked out every scenario possible to prepare these models based upon socially distanced configurations and schedules at the middle school and the high school.

Mr. Zinni reviewed each model with the committee. Discussion ensued on the balance between safety and the need for a quality education.

Next steps were discussed. There will be meetings with parents for their input and town meetings will be held on August 6, 2020 at both the HS and MS level. The Committee will then meet on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 8pm to discuss the preliminary plan. A vote will be taken by the Committee on the final comprehensive plan on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> which will then be submitted to DESE.

Discussion was held on the "opt out" for students who will not be attending school in-person. Also, students on IEPs may participate in an instruction and services mode of delivery that aligns with state standards, and on-site classes will be available as well. For students and staff members who chose not to return to the classroom, Mr. Zinni referred to a "remote academy" in which core courses will be offered.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

##### **FY21 Budget Update and Vote:**

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to adopt an FY2021 total budget (including debt service) of \$36,177,679 with the following member town assessments:

Norfolk: \$9,462,595

Plainville: \$6,616,884

Wrentham: \$11,245,600.

A roll call of members was taken: Yes (8): Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee, Mr. Khan; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

##### **District Student Handbook:**

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the final version of the 20/21 District Student Handbook as presented. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (8): Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee, Mr. Khan; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

#### **Name of District Discussion:**

Mr. Zinni informed the committee that the district received a media inquiry regarding proposed legislation relating to school mascots. Mr. Gee indicated that the item was included in the agenda at this time for awareness purposes and also as it may be a topic for future consideration. The consensus view of the committee is that it will defer this discussion to a later time for careful processing and consideration, as the reopening of school is a priority at this time.

#### **Reports from School Committee Members:**

None

#### **Adjournment into Executive Session:**

At 9:48pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Knott, 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. A roll call of members was

**taken: Yes (8): Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee, Mr. Khan; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

Mr. Zinni ended the recording session and live stream.

(Mr. Killion left Executive Session at 10:15pm)

**Adjournment:**

**✚ At 10:18pm, a Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Knott, to adjourn. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (7): Mrs. DeStefano, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Knott, Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Gee, Mr. Khan; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Elisa Barrett Witkus  
Secretary to the School Committee*

**Documents presented on July 30, 2020:**

Draft Minutes of July 6, 2020  
Draft Executive Session Minutes of July 6, 2020  
Warrants  
BICO June Newsletter  
20/21 School Committee Benchmark Calendar  
20/21 Option 5 School Year Calendar  
Reopening Options  
District Student Handbook