REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
MEMORANDUM

TO: School Committee
FROM: Dr. Zielinski
DATE: August 9, 2017
SUBJ: Community Advisory Working Groups

Three Community Working Groups have been established; a budget working group, a public relations (PR) working group, and a strategic plan working group. The Advisory Team to the working groups met on July 20, 2017 and discussed the makeup of the individual working groups, a general timeline for reporting back to the School Committee, and drafted a letter to gain community support and additional membership to the individual working groups (see attached). There is a planned working group kick off meeting scheduled for August 14 at 5:45pm, just prior to the 7pm King Philip School committee meeting.
As many of you are aware, the past budget season was a very challenging one for King Philip and our three towns. It is a challenge that schools all across the country are facing with expenses growing at a faster rate than revenues.

One positive that came out of this difficult budget process, however, was incredible interest and support from the community. As a direct result of this interest, the KP School Committee hosted three roundtable discussions to start to flush out areas that KP could improve upon. Community members from all three towns, as well as members of the towns’ leadership attended the roundtables.

There were several themes that emerged from the meetings. One key finding was that the KP budget will continue to be a challenge because of insufficient state funding, increasing healthcare costs, and some unique challenges that regional school systems face. We are going to need to find efficiencies in the budget and new revenue sources to be able to continue to offer an excellent education. A second finding was that it was clear that not everyone is on the same page when it comes to what we want KP to be as a district; we need to take a new look at our strategic direction. And thirdly, we need to do a better job of communicating with the community.

To begin to address these important areas of concern, we decided to enlist your support. We have received countless requests to provide assistance in these areas and we would like to take the community up on its generous offers. At the most recent School Committee meeting, it was decided that Community Working Groups (CWGs) should be created to tackle and implement these ideas. Three groups were identified as the top priorities: **Budget, Public Relations and Strategic Planning.** There were additional CWGs identified, but we decided to focus on three to start this year and will potentially begin others in the next fiscal year.

A Community Working Group Advisory Team has been created to get this initiative rolled out. It is comprised of two School Committee members, one member of the KP Administration and three members of the community. This Advisory Team will provide guidance and direction to the three working groups. Each of the three working groups will consist of two co-chairs (a SC member and a community representative), as well as a member of the KP administration and several members of the community.

We are looking for community members to get involved and help shape the future of King Philip. If you would like to join the Budget, PR, or Strategic Planning group please fill out the survey below, so we can get your basic contract information. We would love to find community members that have specific skills in these areas, but it is also important to have some fresh eyes on each subject, and therefore, prior experience is not required.

The time commitment will be a minimum of one meeting per month with some work done independently or as a small group on different topics within your larger group. We envision these groups starting in mid-August and working through most of the school year. We recognize that everyone is busy and the level of commitment will vary by individual.

We are excited to begin work on these new initiatives and hope you will consider joining us!