

**School Committee Meeting
Monday, February 4, 2019
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093**

Mr. Gee, Chair, opened the FY20 Budget Public Hearing at meeting at 7:00pm.

Roll Call of Members:

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jeffrey Curry
Plainville:	Amy Abrams, Samad Khan, Bruce Cates
Wrentham:	Jim Killion, Trevor Knott

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Ken Dow
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Erin DeStefano

HS Student Council Representative: Miss Linde

The meeting is being videotaped by Wrentham Cable Access. Mr. Gee explained that the public may visit the district's website at www.kingphilip.org to review informational documents pertaining to each school committee meeting. Videotaped meetings may be viewed in their entirety at www.wrenthamcableaccess.com

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Gee reviewed the procedure for public comment.

Delegations and Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Superintendent, Mr. Azer, Director of Finance & Operations
Mr. O'Connor, Model UN Advisor, Mrs. Rowe, KP Cares Advisor and Passport Representative

FY20 King Philip Regional School District Budget Public Hearing:

- a. **Open Hearing: Mr. Gee opened the hearing at 7pm. He proceeded to table the hearing with the committee's indulgence to take 3 items out of order.**

Superintendent's Reports and Recommendations (Taken out of Order):

Superintendent's Report on Overnight field trips.

Mr. Zinni updated the overnight field trip request forms and accompanying sign off sheets for medical and foreign travel. He explained that these forms will now be processed with both the principal and the superintendent's authorization prior to bringing the trip forward for approval by the school committee. Also, a form about the additional concerns and expectations on an overnight trip for foreign trip approval form for parent approval and an explanation of liability has been provided. There is some information that can be added to this form electronically and Mr. Zinni will follow up with staff members on the use of technology.

HS Overnight Field Trip – KP Cares: Mrs. Rowe

Mrs. Rowe introduced 2 students (Miss Swezey and Miss Mahoney) from KP Cares who participated in the 2017/2018 service trip to Costa Rica. The students gave an overview of their goals and experiences on this trip.

Mrs. Rowe indicated that the next KP Cares service trip will be held in April 2020 travelling to the Dominican Republic. She has contracted with *Passports - Dream Service Learning*. Representatives from *Passports* were present to answer any questions the Committee may have. There were no questions from the Committee.

-  **A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Khan, to approve the KP Cares HS Overnight Field Trip to the Dominican Republic from April 11-20, 2020. All in favor. Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.**

HS Overnight Field Trip – Model UN: Mr. O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor was present to answer any questions from the Committee. He indicated that he has been in touch with the Leadership Teams at UMass many of whom are former students of KP. There were no questions from the Committee.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. Abrams, seconded by Killion, to approve the Model UN - HS Overnight Field Trip to UMass – Amherst from March 8-10, 2019. All in favor. Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.**

FY20 Budget Public Hearing (continued):

At 7:18pm, Mr. Gee reopened the FY20 budget public hearing to be presented by Mr. Zinni and Mr. Azer.

Mr. Zinni reviewed the process and budget goals and indicated that this year's budget is a level service to what last year's budget was; however, he noted that 2 years later some of those budget priorities are in the forefront as well as other priorities. As an example, in that large class sizes are not optimal so that students can receive the highest quality education possible and all students receive the services that they need.

Mr. Zinni reviewed the accomplishments of the students and said that the community should be very proud of their KP students at both the HS and MS. A review of MCAS performance and achievements indicates that KP exceeded the state average in all grades and subjects. Mr. Zinni also stated that Massachusetts is outperforming the nation on a variety of national and international assessments. Thus if KP is out-performing the state and the state is outperforming the nation and the nation is outperforming the world, then KP students are receiving a world-class education and this offers a tremendous amount to be proud of. And, he continued, they are doing this with large class sizes and a limited budget.

Enrollment:

Mr. Azer explained that enrollment is based on October 1, 2018 enrollment. The percentages are used to allocate costs that are above the requirement minimum contribution used to calculate assessments from the individual towns.

Data Comparisons:

Data comparison with the Hockomock League and other regional school districts with only middle schools and high schools with total per-pupil expenditures were reviewed. Mr. Azer noted that all of the districts in the Regional group have a superintendent union, (a district may have multiple districts with 1 superintendent for each entity). King Philip is literally unique that it has a MS and HS only and is not part of a superintendent's union.

Chapter 70 Aid Per Student:

Mr. Azer reviewed Chapter 70 aid per student and the percentage of net school spending and net school spending over requirement and how the state has based its calculations on grade level and special characteristics such as income and property values. He explained that the district understands that there are fiscal constraints, but our job is to advocate for KP referring to net school spending over requirement in the aggregate above requirement.

Julie Redlitz – Norfolk: State aid that shows Chapter 70 aid per students, due to the wealth factor we get less, why do we get less compared to the 3 elementary districts based on the same wealth factor. Mr. Azer explained the formula and "held harmless" or a minimum aid district which is where KP is at because it has not had a significant reduction in enrollment. Governor's budget got an extra \$20 per student. Same aid but less students.

Mr. Zinni reviewed FY18 budget reductions and we are not where we are 2 years ago. He explained, however, that the District is not back to whole based upon the loss of staffing / services, and the one-time use of reserves. Mr. Zinni discussed user fees and that they are a very significant burden and impact on all families.

Revenue and Circuit Breaker:

Mr. Zinni explained Circuit Breaker. In order to receive specialized instruction and to get these services a student must have an IEP. The federal government would cover 40% of these costs, but has not met this 40% level. The District does receive a federal grant and a 15% reimbursement to offset this complicated formula.

Expenses:

Unbudgeted personnel needs were reviewed, such as the assistant superintendent for instruction. Personnel and other items for unbudgeted needs summary total \$1,300,744. Compliance additions amount to \$417,000 based upon a Coordinated Program Review, the Walker Report and other outside agencies, and English Language Learner teachers (one at the HS and one at the MS). A Co-teaching model at the MS would require 3 teachers to realign the whole MS curriculum and student-staff ratio and bring the numbers down. A cost-avoidance program at the MS needs to be adequately staffed by creating a social-emotional program. Along with more support with the addition of a part-time speech & language pathology assistant. Mr. Zinni explained the co-teaching model at the MS and the need to be conscious of the service delivery model. The social emotional program was partially funded this year and will add 1 teacher assistants and part-time adjustment counselor.

Out of district tuition:

Mr. Zinni explained the 3 different types of out of district tuition: special education, school choice programs and charter school.

Mr. Zinni reviewed the special education tuition in which the district provide services to students through the age of 22. McKinney Vento homeless students or displaced students, this law recognizes that these students are given the option to attend school in their home district of origin, or to be transported and then the two districts split the cost of transportation.

Technology:

Mr. Zinni indicated that in FY20, the district will be Implementing Infinite Campus, a new student information management system to replace the current obsolete program.

Facilities:

Mr. Azer reviewed the facilities budget in which utilities have increased due to electricity and heating costs; buildings budget increases due to HVAC repairs and grounds increased due to a new vehicle and a snow budget is unpredictable each year.

Mr. Azer showed the insurance and benefits budget that includes healthcare trends. Because we do not have the health insurance percent increase yet, Mr. Azer has budgeted for a 10% increase. Mrs. Abrams asked for a list of Other IEC employee breakdown that Mr. Azer will provide at the next meeting on February 25, 2019.

Municipal revenue growth factors:

Mr. Azer reviewed the required local contribution rates as a percentage of foundation budget from each of the 3 towns of Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham. The governor's FY20 proposal includes 100% effort reduction.

Operating assessments:

Upon a review of assessments, Mr. Azer indicated that the District is seeking a 6.82% increase on the assessments to balance the projected budget.

Mr. Gee asked for any other questions or comments: Hearing none, he indicated that a final vote by the Committee will be held on March 4 for a final FY20 budget adoption.

Mr. Gee noted that the Norfolk Town Meeting will be held on May 14. Plainville and Wrentham Town Meetings will be held on June 3, 2019.

Close Hearing: Mr. Gee closed the budget public hearing at 9:05pm.

(The Committee took at 10 minute break before returning to the regular meeting.)

Agenda

At 9:15pm, Mr. Gee reopened the regular School Committee meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes of January 7, 2019. All in favor. Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.**

COMMUNICATION:

- KP in the News
- BICO Quarterly Report dated January 2019
- Finance Subcommittee Minutes Dated December 17, 2018
- KPTA Unit C - Notice of Intent to Bargain for a Successor Agreement
- HS & MS Student Council Report: Miss Linde

Superintendent's Reports and Recommendations (Taken out of Order):

Home school policy: Mr. Zinni

Based upon a request from the School Committee, Mr. Zinni researched home school policies and procedures. He indicated that families can petition to home school their child. Basically it is a minimum how they are going to assess, how many hours, and the curriculum used to educate their child at home. An informational chart for each home schooled student is prepared and reviewed based upon information submitted by the parents/guardians to ensure that standard requirements are met.

Mr. Zinni indicated that home schooled students are not entitled to a KP diploma. They cannot take the MCAS, so they have not met the state requirements or met our requirements to receive a diploma. In speaking with Dr. Mobley, she said that the graduation is a celebration of the graduation requirements and since they have not met these requirement, they would not be entitled to the celebration of going to graduation.

Discussion followed that no changes need to be made to the home school policy. Mr. Zinni noted that the school committee can continue to approve home school plans or the committee can designate someone to review and change it that the superintendent be the designee of the school committee.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. Abrams, seconded by Mr. Khan, that the School Committee designate Mr. Zinni to review and approve home school plans on their behalf. All in favor. Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.**

New Business (continued):

2018/2019 Home School Approval

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. Abrams, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the 2018/2019 home school plan for H.R. (Grade 8), per Policy IHBG. All in favor. (Yes); No (0). Motion carried.**

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Norfolk School Committee Representative: Mr. Curry - Budget update for a level service request in Norfolk, class sizes have increased from 17-20 and per pupil expenditure has also increased.
- Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. Abrams – Policy review, per pupil expenditure is high.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano - No report.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Gee said that there would be a meeting of the chairs of the 4 committees this week to talk about collaboration.

Mr., Khan would like to have a discussion on Chapter 70

Mr. Knott would like to have a meeting with at least one head of state from each of the towns to discuss that KP students belong to all of the towns – one education and have more people engaged.

Mr. Cates would like to have a KP school committee meeting take place at the new Plainville Town Hall when it opens to show support for Plainville.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ✚ **At 9:45pm, a Motion made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Killion, to adjourn and enter 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 (Healthcare: Units A, B, C, D and Retirees). All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7) – Mr. Gee, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Khan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0). Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT:

- ✚ **At 10:10pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Killion, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7) – Mr. Gee, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Khan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0). Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents presented to School Committee on February 4, 2019:

- FY20 King Philip Regional School District Budget Presentation
- January 7, 2019 Draft Minutes
- Appointments, Resignations, Retirements, etc.
- Executive Session Draft Minutes of January 7, 2019
- KP in the News
- BICO Quarterly Report dated January 2019
- Finance Subcommittee Minutes Dated December 17, 2018
- KPTA Unit C - Notice of Intent to Bargain for a Successor Agreement
- HS & MS Student Council Report
- Review of Updated Procedures for Overnight and Foreign Travel
- HS Overnight Field Trip – KP Cares: Mrs. Rowe
- HS Overnight Field Trip – Model UN: Mr. O'Connor