

**KING PHILIP REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FY Budget Public Hearing
January 22, 2018
King Philip Regional High School - Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Francomano, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Members Present: Norfolk: Kenneth Dow, Michael Gee
 Plainville: Patrick Francomano, Samad Khan, Charlene McEntee
 Wrentham: Jim Killion

Members Absent: Norfolk: Jeff Chalmers
 Wrentham: Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano
 Plainville: Present

HS Student Council Representative: Miss Linde

The meeting is being videotaped by Wrentham Cable. Mr. Francomano 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 Mr. Francomano also explained the procedure for public comment.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS:

Mr. Hardy, MASC, Dr. Gilson, Assistant Superintendent/MS Principal
Mr. Azer, Director of Finance, Dr. Mobley, HS Principal, Ms. Lacher, Director of Special Education, Mr. Michael Bois, Interim Director of Technology

HS Student Council Report (Taken out of Order):

Ms. Linde presented the HS Student Council report dated January 22, 2018.

AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS:

FY19 King Philip Regional School District Budget Public Hearing was opened by Mr. Francomano, Chair at 7:03pm.

Dr. Zielinski welcomed everyone in the audience to the Budget Public Hearing and introduced Mr. Azer who will be presenting the FY19 proposed budget and will entertain questions following the presentation.

Mr. Azer presented the FY19 budget based upon several components.

- **Introduction**
Mr. Azer commented on the Governor's budget in that it is anticipated that the Governor's budget will be coming out on Wednesday, January 24th. In his past experience they try to boost local aid as it is an election year to obtain votes. The budget process was reviewed including budget goals that are adopted. All goals should link to the district strategic plan, SIP and capital plans. Mr. Azer gave an overview of the school committee goals and this year includes the superintendent search.

- **KP Pride**
Mr. Azer gave an overview of MS and HS student accomplishments; student achievement exceeds state average in ELA, Math and Science based upon the CPI – 2016; MCAS performance KP results exceeded state average in all grades and subjects. SAT Performance compared to Hockomock League, KP is above the league average.

- **Enrollment**

Mr. Azer explained that enrollment is based on October 1, 2017 enrollment. The percentages are used to allocate costs that are above the requirement minimum contribution used to calculate assessments from the individual towns. KP is below the state average in all 3 areas in demographics.

- **Data Comparisons**

The School Committee and the Administration have been working with the Community Working Groups who have gathered data using 2 comparison groups and identified as: Hockomock League and Regional schools with only middle schools and high schools. 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.

Mr. Azer reviewed Chapter 70 aid per student and net school spending and net school spending over requirement and how the state has based its calculations on grade level and special characteristics. Total per pupil expenditures is 2nd to lowest, and all of the other districts have superintendent's union, to keep district costs lower. KP is well below the state average and that of other similar districts.

- **Revenue**

Mr. Azer presented a review of general fund revenue, revolving funds or self-sustaining accounts. Three-quarters of KP budget comes from town assessments; 25.5% on Medicaid reimbursement; 0.9% on E&D. The assumption is that the budget will be level funded from FY18 to FY19, with the numbers changing based upon the governor's budget. Transportation reimbursement is short over \$200,000 each year from the state.

Mr. Azer gave a review of E&D over the past 9 years. Revenue scenarios were reviewed using E&D and not using E&D which would have implications on assessments. Each of the scenarios are exclusive of debt service.

- **Unbudgeted Needs**

HS and MS budget needs were reviewed as well as other budget needs totaling \$600,000, including proposed Teaming at the Middle School. Any additional funds that were to become available would be put into this area. Other budget needs include a phone system replacement; the added position of a facilities manager, which was outlined in the MASBO Report; capital plan facilities audit; and, reduce user fees.

- **Expenses**

Level service projections include employee salaries, contracted services, supplies and other items, special education tuition which includes current 6th graders and debt service (capital expenses). Budget areas includes 6 categories: technology, transportation, facilities, insurance, debt services and instruction. The percentage variance without debt service would increase to 4.99% or \$1,580,397.

Out of district tuition include circuit breaker reimbursement in which all of the areas show an increased percentage. Virtual tuition is increasing to \$8265 in FY19.

Special education tuition will increase \$721,420 based upon 6 students entering KP next year who are already in out of district placements from the elementary districts. There is also a mandate to add a social/emotional program at a cost of \$90,000. These reductions are all included in the budget. The District is required by law to provide services to all special education students. Mr. Azer

Special education enrollment for in-district students in special education specialized programs and out of district students by fiscal year and by the number of students as of October 1 was reviewed.

The FY19 projected technology budget was reviewed with a 0.15% variance over FY18.

Transportation budget was reviewed including regular education, special education and homeless (McKinney-Vento) transportation. Regular transportation contract is currently out to bid.

Facilities budget for FY19 shows a variance of 1.68% over FY18.

Health insurance is currently out to bid and the district expects competitive pricing which may change the insurance budget. Debt service are the bonds that were borrowed for the building projects.

- **Summary**

Mr. Azer presented budget Scenario #2 as the one needed to balance the King Philip budget. The assessment would need to be 6.80% total assessment percentage increase needed to balance the budget. Mr. Azer explained that he is just putting it out there for discussion and the FY19 budget summary is asking for a \$883,384 is the gap to what the towns have indicated to us and what we are proposing as a level funded budget, the aggregate would be 6.8%

- Discussion – Request for Comments from the audience from Mr. Francomano:

Ms. Radlitz, Norfolk – What is the 6% to assessments, what is the total increase? 4.99%

Mr. Steward, Wrentham: Said this was a fantastic presentation. Asked about deferred maintenance risk for upcoming years. Mr. Azer indicated that this has not compiled yet, referred to audit, if something breaks we fix it. We cannot predict costs. There are things that are broken that we not fixing, and not be proactive to get ahead of those things.

Mr. Steward asked if the school committee has any plans to address these costs. Dr. Zielinski indicated that the district has identified a capital plan for the larger components, and we do have some general ideas this has been presented town meetings.

Discussion ensued on how the district may need to come up with money for repairs in the future.

Discussion ensued on cutting transportation costs and the use of Van Pool for special education in house transportation, who is the lowest priced vendor.

Mr. Francomano asked for any questions from the Committee and indicated that this presentation will be updated in February with a formal vote at the first meeting in March (3/5/18).

Mr. Gee echoed what was said about Larry Azer's presentation. He referred to Slide 27 Chapter 70 Aid per students, and asked what are the dynamics and why we would be lower than the average than the other districts? Mr. Azer indicated that this is based on wealth of communities and takes a combination of aggregate property value and income from all the residents and bases on state aid. The other part to that is the foundation budget. Discussion followed.

Mrs. McEntee asked for an update on the transportation bid. Mr. Azer indicated that the 4 districts talked about doing a joint collaborative bid, however, there are a few differences that the districts keep unique to themselves, i.e., minimum age of the busses may make it unable to do in one big joint bid. There will be a combined pre-bid meeting. The public school transportation in this area is not terribly competitive in the bid process. There is more than one company out there, hopefully we get more than one bid. We are going to be buying routing software all of us and hope to make a decision soon and leads to more efficiency and a savings.

Mr. Francomano indicated that there have been discussions with larger vendors and for them to come into a new area it has to be worth their while, they have to set up facilities to park and services the busses and requires a significant investment for infrastructure to come into a new area and we don't have that large of a market share to make it worth their wild.

Mr., Khan asked for an update on the health insurance contract. Mr. Azer indicated that the district met with a broker has comparisons were done, and our current rates are better. They look at claims and risks profile and the type of employees that we have, who have less job related injuries and conditions that might be a result of their work and risk profile is less expensive. Our plan is most cost efficient. GIC just made major changes and there is a massive uproar in communities due to changes.

Mr. Killion asked about Slide 63, out of district tuition and the variance of \$573,081 is that accurate and could it be lowered if students could come in house. Mr. Azer explained that this could change as the single most volatile part of the budget is special education, but that is what it is right now.

Mr. Gee was curious about the technology hardware in the technology budget. Mr. Azer indicated that even though it is not shown on the chart it is being handled.

Discussion ensued if it was unusual that out of 12 schools, King Philip is the only one who is not a member of a superintendent union in the state.

- **Close Hearing**

Mr. Francomano closed the FY19 Budget Public Hearing at 8:31pm.

Unfinished Business: Superintendent Search Update (Taken out of Order):

Mr. Hardy gave an update on the superintendent search process in which he indicated that the preliminary interviews are ongoing and should conclude by Tuesday, January 23. The next step will be to conduct interviews with the school committee. To meet the timeline, interviews will need to be conducted within the next 2 weeks in order to vote on February 26 to select the next superintendent. Based upon school committee members' availability, and the number of candidates to be interviewed, it was decided that the following dates/time will be scheduled to conduct interviews:

- Wednesday, February 7 at 6pm;
- Saturday, February 10 at 8am; and
- Monday, February 12 at 6pm.

Discussion followed that February 5, 2018 would remain as a regular school committee meeting (Mrs. McEntee and Mr. Gee are unable to attend on February 5).

Mr. Hardy will handle contacting candidates and setting up site visit schedule. These will be posted as a visitation site visit. Discussion ensued on the makeup of the representation for the site visits, they are open to all members and can invite people to come with you and invite members of the search committee. Tentative dates are February 13, 14 and 15 during the day with one in the morning and one in the afternoon depending on logistics.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Snead commented that she has been part of budget discussions and community working groups for almost 10 years. She referred to the data that the community working groups received that there is disparity as to what the students at King Philip receive and what the students at the elementary level receive. She feels it is incumbent on us to have a committee to look at what these numbers and data is showing us. She referred to regular education students being on the back of special education students, where the district has to legally provide services. She said that there are several school committee members who are not running for reelection and is very concerned about institutional knowledge and concerned that others will leave as well. She is tired of seeing fees going up and up and ask that we start looking at this and hopefully the community working groups can assist.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed with an asterisk () are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion if action is required. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mr. Killion, to approve the minutes of December 18, 2017. All in favor. Yes (5); No (0). Abstain (1) Mrs. McEntee. Motion carried.**
- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mr. Killion, to approve the minutes of January 8, 2018. All in favor. Yes (6); No (0). Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

COMMUNICATION:

Appointments, Retirements, Resignations, etc.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes of December 4, 2017. All in favor. Yes (4); No (0), Abstain (2) – Mrs. McEntee and Mr. Dow. Motion carried.**
- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes of December 18, 2017. All in favor. Yes (4); No (0), Abstain (2) – Mrs. McEntee and Mr. Dow. Motion carried.**

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes of January 8, 2018. All in favor. Yes (5); No (0), Abstain (1) Mr. Dow. Motion carried.**

COMMUNICATION:

NESDEC Demographic Analysis prepared for Norfolk Public Schools:
Discussion ensued on concerns from Plainville in which Superintendent Raiche had NESDEC look at the population. Mrs. McEntee said that the population has not increased significantly. King Philip will keep an eye on this for any potential impact over the next 3-4 years.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Community Working Groups – Update: Dr. Zielinski gave an update in her memorandum dated January 18, 2018 on the Budget, Community Relations and Strategic Planning working groups.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- o Norfolk School Committee Representative: None
- o Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. McEntee – At the last meeting there was an update from Wellness Committee on their relationship with Nike to work with students and PE teachers; walk to school will be held on 2/14; superintendent update on attendance which is good; met with Plainville selectmen on the capital plan; reviewed DESE annual report card; School Committee reviewed a recent survey.
- o Wrentham School Committee Representative: None

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Gilson proposed a change in a professional development day and change in the 2017/2018 school calendar. DESE changed March 29 to an MCAS testing day which was scheduled to be a professional development day. It is proposed to move the early release day to March 9 as a professional development day.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to approve the recommendation of Dr. Gilson to change the professional development day from March 29, 2018 to March 9, 2018. All in favor.**

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- ✚ **At 9:05pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Gee to convene 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. Ann to return to open session solely for the purpose of adjournment. (Unit A; KP Cafeteria, collective bargaining negotiations). All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (6); No (0). Motion carried.**

(Mr. Dow recused himself from Executive Session.)

ADJOURNMENT

- ✚ **At 9:35pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by McEntee to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (5); No (0). Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

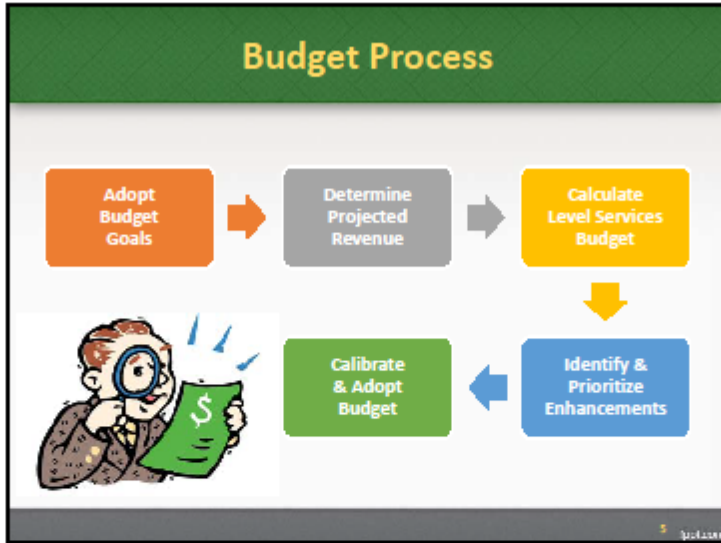
Lisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee

List of documents presented to the School Committee on January 22, 2018:

- FY19 Budget Presentation
- December 18, 2017
- January 8, 2018
- Appointments, Retirements, Resignations, etc.
- Executive Session Minutes of December 4, 2017
- Executive Session Minutes of December 18, 2017
- Executive Session Minutes of January 8, 2018
- NESDEC Demographic Analysis prepared for Norfolk Public Schools
- Community Working Groups – Update
- HS Student Council Report: Miss Linde
- Change in Professional Development Date

Double click on PowerPoint to open presentation

1/18/2018 9:22 PM



FY 2019 Budget Calendar

Date	Description
Monday 12/18/17	Initial budget presentation
Monday 1/22/18	Public budget hearing
4 th week of January	Governor's budget released
Tuesday 2/13/18	Meeting with town officials
Monday 3/19/18	Final budget adoption
Tuesday 5/8/18	Norfolk town meeting
Monday 6/4/18	Plainville & Wrentham town meetings

Finance subcommittee meetings are scheduled throughout budget process