

School Committee Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2020 - Approved
REMOTE MEETING - RECORDED

In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 novel Coronavirus outbreak emergency, the March 23, 2020 6:00 PM public meeting of the King Philip Regional School District closed to the public to avoid group congregation.

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:04pm.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jeff Curry, Kenneth Dow
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, Samad Khan, Amy Abrams
Wrentham:	Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Jim Killion (participated remotely at 6:50pm)

HS Student Council Representative: Marion Linde (not present)

Mr. Gee, Chair noted that during these unprecedented circumstances due to the Coronavirus, this meeting platform is by a virtual meeting based upon Governor Baker's newly established modified guidelines for open meetings due to the current state of emergency. All votes will be taken by a roll call vote of members and referred to the Remote Participation Policy.

The Chair announced that this meeting is being held in a virtual meeting format and is not being televised by Wrentham Cable 8 and NorthTV (Plainville). However, the meeting is being recorded and will be posted and accessible to the community on the King Philip website. Mr. Gee provided details about how to access school committee meeting documents on the King Philip Website by visiting: www.kingphilip.org

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers: Mr. Azer

Mr. Azer noted that one primary agenda item is to approve the Warrants and address them. He asked for a verbal consent to pay the Warrants and for the Minutes will reflect this.

✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Cate, to approve the Warrants as presented. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (8) Mr. Khan, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mr. Knott, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Gee, Jr. Curry, Mr. Dow.; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATION:

None

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

Mr. Zinni, Superintendent, Dr. Gilson, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Azer, Director of Finance & Operations

COMMUNICATION:

None

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

District response to state health and safety concerns: Mr. Zinni

Mr. Zinni indicated that he has been working with his Administrative Team on a regular basis and has had several conversations and teleconferences regarding the Coronavirus situation. He has been sending out documents to the school committee as they prepared and sent out to the families. He said that his Administration and staff members have been doing whatever they can to help families and the learning process will continue with guidance from the federal and state level.

- **Policy Subcommittee:** Mr. Zinni noted that the Policy Subcommittee, consisting of Mr. Gee, Mr. Khan and Mrs. DeStefano, is scheduled to meet on March 30, 2020 at 7pm. The members indicated that they would hold the meeting virtually and Mrs. Witkus will send them the policies ahead of the meeting for their review.
- **FY21 Budget:** Mr. Zinni also noted that the Tri-town Joint Select Board Meeting scheduled for March 18, 2020 was postponed/cancelled. However, there will be a virtual meeting held on March 24, 2020 and if the school committee members want to attend it is an open meeting. Mr. Zinni and Mr. Azer were invited to attend and can speak with reference to the KP budget and budget process.
- **FY 21 Budget – Norfolk:** Mr. Zinni noted was that the Norfolk Advisory Committee is looking to meet on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 on the KP budget.
- **COVID-19 Update:** Mr. Zinni gave a recap of the week. Department heads met with their departments to discuss learning opportunities for students as well as virtual faculty meetings in both schools. The administrative team provided a list of additional resources by subject area and enrichment ideas for all students including special education. A list of frequently asked questions and responses document was provided. This document is a “living” document and all administrators have been asked for their input. Ms. Dot Pearl, Wellness Coordinator for the 4 districts, provided food accessibility. Another document has also been prepared re professional development opportunities for staff to explore. Mr. Zinni had a conference call with the elementary superintendents on sharing resources.

Families have been asked to contact Dr. Gilson if there are any issues on communication needs. Mr. Zinni indicated that there has been positive feedback about the level of communication from King Philip to families.

Mr. Zinni had a *Zoom* call with the Tri-County Superintendents Roundtable and a company that does industrial cleaning. The superintendents have been ahead of this curve while awaiting guidance from the state. One of the biggest conversations has been how this virus has been transmitted and how to protect our buildings. The virus is fragile and the amount of time that will have passed by the time our students return will be more than enough for the virus to have died along with the cleaning process. Mr. Azer along with Mr. Joe Zahner and the entire custodial staff last week did a thorough sterile cleaning and will continue to monitor and lock down the buildings.

Mr. Zinni reviewed the closure in three levels: short term (through April 7); moderate term (through May 4) and long-term closure and will continue to monitor the situation with the state.

Mr. Zinni reviewed the testing for students and indicated that AP College Board testing has been redesigned. Massachusetts is applying for a waiver re state testing at the federal and state level, with dates to be moved to April or May. Discussion ensued on Grade 10 MCAS testing requirements. Mr. Zinni indicated that Dr. Mobley is monitoring this very closing and is looking at options for students to receive their HS diplomas.

Mr. Zinni indicated that DESE has issued a waiver for a 90-day extension for teaching licensures.

Other Needs:

- Food Donations of perishable food from the cafeteria have been provided by King Philip to local communities and Mrs. Reynolds, Food Service Director, delivered them. Bags of supplies will be distributed by the elementary districts as a “grab and go” to families.
- Surplus medical supplies that hospitals or first responders may need in the three towns are being inventoried by the school nurses and we are working with BICO Collaborative to donate surplus medical supplies. Mr. Zinni indicated that the District does need to keep some medical supplies on hand for when school reopens.

Special Education: Mr. Zinni gave an overview on the broader issue around special education as any student with a disability is guaranteed a Free And Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). This now includes “new learning” for any students with a disability to have a modification to classroom work with accommodations and to receive quality education at home. This would include students with autism, non-verbal, disabled students, as their days work of education is hindered because of their disability and we need to provide them with an education.

Some administrators are hoping for some “wobble room” to support students with disabilities in the home environment. Others feel FAPE is not impacted. We are still waiting for written guidelines from the DOE Commissioner on how to provide student with “new learning” as households have different levels of accessibility. Once these come out, Mr. Zinni will be working with the elementary districts as there are a lot of concerns in the communities.

Mr. Gee asked for any further discussion or comments. Mrs. Abrams said that it is great that Mr. Zinni is working with the elementary districts so that there is a consistent message with all the other superintendents.

Mr. Knott asked about the equity level of household resources. Mr. Zinni referred to access to Wi-Fi, devices and the balance on how we deal with short-term, moderate or long-term closure. He indicated that KP has 1 device for every 2 students. The longer this closure continues we need to find ways to handle this equitably.

Discussion ensued on the closing and monitoring of the buildings. Mr. Azer indicated that the head custodians this week and next week will do building checks and make sure everything is running properly. The fields at the HS have been closed off and locked to prevent groups from gathering and to save the fields. The MS fields cannot be locked.

Mr. Dow asked if the tennis courts could be locked down as well. Mr. Azer will make sure that they are locked.

(Mr. Killion joined the meeting remotely at 6:50pm.)

In conclusion, Mr. Zinni said that if there are any questions any time, he is available by phone, text or email.

Meeting Reminders:

- The Policy Subcommittee will meet remotely on March 30 at 7pm. Mr. Zinni will send out a meeting invitation.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the School Committee will be on Monday, April 6 at 7pm. This meeting will be held remotely and will remain as scheduled according to Mr. Gee.

ADJOURNMENT

+A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Cates, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (9) Mr. Khan, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mr. Knott, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Gee, Jr. Curry, Mr. Dow.; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Mr. Zinni will post this recorded meeting on the KP Website at its conclusion.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa B. Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents presented on March 23, 2020:

Agenda