

School Committee Meeting
Monday, March 2, 2020 – Approved 4/6/2020
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Jeff Curry
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Jim Killion

HS Student Council Representative: Marion Linde (absent)

Mr. Gee reviewed the Public Comment policy and procedure.

The Chair announced that this Meeting is being televised by Wrentham Cable 8 and NorthTV (Plainville) provided details about how to access school committee meeting documents on the King Philip Website. All documents may be viewed in their entirety at: www.kingphilip.org

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

COMMUNICATION:

Personnel Update provided in a memorandum dated February 26, 2020, from Mr. Azer.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

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

COMMUNICATION:

HS & MS Student Council Report:

Key events that are coming up or have occurred within the district include: March 3, 2020 @ 6 PM- Informational session for those parents and students interested in the U.S. Military; March 5, 2020 @ 6 PM- Presenter Dr. Ian Saxine (Bridgewater State University) on “King Philip” and “King Philip’s War” for students, parents, faculty, and community; March 16, 2020- Spring sports begin, Friday, March 6-@ 7 PM Freshman/ Sophomore Dance HS Cafeteria; KP Cares hosting Volleyball Tourney in March 3, 2020 @ 11:30 AM; Class of 2023 hosting a Sports Tourney on March 10 @2:30 PM, Class of 2022 is hosting a Dodge Ball Tourney on March 12, Band O Rama is March 14th @ 6 PM, Symphony Band Clinic March 3; Concert Band Clinic on March 11th, and Student Council members are attending the MASC School Committee Spring Conference from March 4th-6th.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Zinni discussed the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) and new state requirement for school districts. The SOA requires districts to submit a plan with input from the School Committee on how the district will support increased achievement for subgroups. Mr. Zinni noted that a high-quality professional development program designed to provide instruction in core content areas would be the standard that we feel we can support. The amount awarded to the district for the SOA at approx. \$57, 134 does not balance our budget. Mr. Zinni asked for a green light from the School Committee to proceed with the understanding that he will provide the School Committee with a report after April 1st. Mr. Zinni will be completing the short form provided by the state that is a two-page form that documents the initiatives that we will be working on towards high quality professional development.

✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, for the superintendent to fill out the short form of the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) for \$57, 134. All in favor: Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
FY21 Budget Update and Vote:

Opening slides referenced the process, calendar, past budget reductions and where we are with our efforts to restore personnel from FY18 (HS Engineering, Instructional Tech Specialist, World Language Teacher, and Wellness Coordinator), unbudgeted needs summary, and provided the School Committee with a common definition of level services which maintains everything the district is doing now and adds inflation. Members attending were reminded that School Committee members could vote beyond the approved budget. District spending is 62.24% Instruction, Technology is 2.98%, Transportation is 6.08%, Facilities is 6.91%, Debt Service is 5.23%, and Insurance is 16.56%. Forecasts are favorable to a reduction in Out of District Tuition transportation. Mr. Zinni referenced the recommended adds to special education as cost avoidance positioning. Building quality internal programs is a more favorable approach and allows more students to benefit from in district programming. Co-teaching provides students with the quality learning experiences in a least restrictive environment. Staffing proposed in based on IEPS of students entering and continuing within the district. It is notable that there is a 34% reduction in special education tuitions. Positive aspects of the budget included insurance and benefits where increase to the premiums came in only at increase of 5%.

Mr. Azer noted that the Facilities part of the budget is a reactive budget. He described current issues faced by the district with boilers, hvac equipment, rooftop units, and roof, and referenced our work on a capital budget to create long range plans. We have been doing incremental repairs and are fortunate it has been a relatively minor winter. Both Mr. Azer and Mr. Zinni have emphasized the importance of presenting respectful responsible budgets. There are certainly additional items, like textbooks/ techbooks, that would enhance the needs of our students. He gave the example that we will need 162k for textbooks that could be revisited so that they are phased in over time. Mr. Azer indicated that if there are unexpended funds, we can look at funding things like textbooks rather than roll into R&D. During the review of Assessment calculations by Mr. Azer, it was noted that all major factors went down for Norfolk and Plainville, while Wrentham went up. Currently, our operating level service reflects an increase of 3.49%.

Mr. Dow asked how the required local contribution is determined. Mr. Azer said this takes in the ability to pay factor and then it adds in minimum and boots it up by the municipal revenue growth factor. With examination of 5-year trends, with the exception of the FY18 year, he reminded the committee that they were not seeing anything else at the level of what we are looking at this year. He also added that Wrentham could not have anticipated that this year’s budget assessment for Wrentham was an almost 8% increase. Mr. Azer indicated that Wrentham is about 40% of the KP budget.

The recommended town assessments based on enrollment is as follows:

	Norfolk	Plainville	Wrentham
Operating Assessment	\$8,981,874	\$6,248,985	\$10,677,282
Debt Service	\$593,549	\$454,247	\$701,704
Total Assessment	\$9,575,423	\$6,703,232	\$11,378,986

The FY2021 total budget (including debt service) recommended for adoption is \$36,510,240.

Discussion amongst the school committee continued with the recognition that as the buildings age, there are definite capital needs that need to be addressed. Mr. Zinni and Mr. Azer will be continuing to work with town officials so that they are aware of King Philip needs. Mr. Zinni pointed out that we are looking at the reality – there is only so much income and we make a conscious decision on

what is appropriate in our budget line items. A reminder of all budget needs for King Philip will again be presented by Mr. Zinni and Mr. Azer on their next talk show via Norfolk Cable Access. Mr. Knott and Mr. Case stated their support for continued education about our capital budget needs. Mr. Azer suggested that we should be spending half to three quarters of a million on capital.

Special Education was noted as having an unusually high number of reductions (\$797,890). We have been working on building internal programming that allows students that would have been in out of district placements to return. By adding special education personnel, we have changed the trajectory of the curve. Ms. Abrams brought up the fact the students with SEL needs are rising across the country. She reminded the committee because of the growing need; the committee might see additional requests in the coming years.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to adopt an FY 2021 total budget (including debt service) of \$36,510,240 with the following member town assessments:**
 - **Norfolk: \$9,575,423**
 - **Plainville: \$6,703,232**
 - **Wrentham: \$11,378,986**
- All in favor: Yes (7); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

MS 2020/2021 Program of Studies (2nd Reading):

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the MS 2020/2021 Program of Studies, with the elimination of the proposed seventh grade exploratory world language position. All in favor: Yes (7); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

HS Band Camp: Overnight Field Trip and Camp Mataponi Contract

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Cates seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve: 1) the HS Band camp contract between King Philip Regional School District and Camp Mataponi; and 2) to approve the attendance of KPHS band students to attend Band Camp from August All in favor: Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.**

Superintendent Evaluation Discussion

Mr. Zinni presented his goals as they were approved late in the year. Mr. Zinni reminded the School Committee that if there were areas needing to be attended to, he would appreciate notice. Mr. Zinni indicated that he had language in his previous district's contract that School Committee members needed to serve on the School Committee for 1 year prior to evaluating the superintendent.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Norfolk School Committee Representative: Mr. Curry - None

Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. Abrams

- Plainville voted not to accept stipends for being a member of the School Committee for following school year.

Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano-None

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

Dr. Gilson thanked Mr. Gary Brown, Athletic Director for supporting all of the district athletic events. She provided an update on the end to the Winter Sports Season which included the following: The Girls Indoor Track team won the Hockomock Championships;, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball and Boys Ice Hockey qualified for the MIAA tournament; Alpine Skiers (Meghan Powers and Addison Malloy) qualified for the MIAA Alpine Skiing Championships, Mike Griffin won the Division II MIAA Mile and won the MIAA All State Mile. The Boys Indoor Track Distance Medley team qualified for the Nationals. The team is comprised of Eric DeLorenzo, Jovan Joseph, Mike Norberg and Mike Griffin, Shawn Conniff won the MIAA Division II Central Sectional Championship (third year in a row) and the MIAA Division II Wrestling Championship at 195 pounds. He placed fourth at the All State meet this past weekend, Lauren Fusco qualified and competed at the MIAA Gymnastics individual competition, Cheerleading competed at the Hockomock Championships and qualified for the Regional Championships.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Ms. Abrams also let the School Committee know that her School Committee term will be concluded at the end of March and requested time for the School committee to examine the concussion policy.

- Mr. Cates mentioned the Plainville meetings on March 19th, March 25, and March 31 and suggested that interested members pick one of the three to attend. Mrs. Abrams said that the continued message is that we are advocating one education K-12. She added that students are not done being educated until they receive a diploma.

ADJOURNMENT

- + **A Motion was made by Mr. Cate, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9PM. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7) Mr. Gee, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Knott, Mr. Dow, Mrs. DeStefano; No (0). All in favor; Motion carried.**

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dr. Susan Gilson
Secretary Pro-Tem*

Documents presented on March 2, 2020:

FY21 Budget presentation
Student Opportunity Act Information
Superintendent Goal's 2019-2020
MS Program of Studies, 2nd reading