

*King Philip Regional School Committee Meeting
Remote Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2020 – 6PM
Minutes - Approved*

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jim Lehan, Sarah Ward
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Erin DeStefano, Jim Killion

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Michele Sharpe
Wrentham:	Trevor Knott (joined the meeting at 7:25pm)

Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer, Mr. Bois, Mr. Brown

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the meeting at 6:00pm and read the following statement into the Minutes:

Good evening. This Open Meeting of the King Philip Regional School District is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus." "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, Section 20."

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will present public comment during that designated portion of the meeting. As directed in the posting, public comment should have been emailed to the superintendent of school prior to the start of the public comment section of the meeting and will be read by the superintendent on the commenter's behalf.

For this meeting, the King Philip Regional School District is convening by Zoom Meeting as posted on the District's Website identifying how the public may join. Please visit: www.kingphilip.org

Please note that this meeting is being recorded, and that some attendees are participating by video conference. All voted will be taken by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Zinni reported that there were no public comments received.

Approval of Minutes:

As a correction to the minutes dated July 30, 2020, Ms. Ward was present for this meeting and asked that the minutes reflect this.

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Ms. Ward, to approve the Minutes dated July 27, 2020; July 30, 2020, with the noted correction; and, August 6, 2020, as presented. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (7) Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor, motion carried.**

Approval of Warrants:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the following warrants (11 AP, 13 AP, 12 PR, 14a AP, 14b AP) as presented. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (7) Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes dated July 30, 2020, as presented. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (7) Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor, motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:

Communication:

Mr. Zinni reported that the District has reached out to the entire KP community and has tried to provide them with as much information as possible. Feedback has been very positive, noting that some parents are concerned about health matters and there are others who would like to their children to return to the classroom upon the opening of school. He has responded to everyone who has contacted him. Town Halls have been held at both the HS and the MS level and the KP website has been updated regularly on Covid-19.

MS Scheduling Update:

Mr. Zinni updated the School Committee on a differential in the schedules at the MS to keep cohort numbers down and that there is no viable way to create three different math levels at this time. Math will be moved into one higher-paced level with additional supports for differentiated learning.

Athletic Update:

Mr. Zinni and Mr. Brown gave an overview of the sports programs based upon the newly released MIAA guidelines. The School Committee will be asked to vote on the Fall Sports Schedule at the next meeting. Mr. Brown answered several questions from the Committee on schedules; safety modifications that are a priority for the health and well-being of our students; and the floating season of Fall II. Mr. Brown reiterated that King Philip will follow all of the guidelines implemented, with sport modifications for each sport, to limit exposure to Covid-19, including the wearing of masks and no high-fives. Spectators will be limited with only 50 for outdoor sporting events. Mr. Brown has contacted the KP Sports Network and Ms. Greenleaf who may tape games and post them on the KPSN for additional viewing. There will be no state tournaments in the fall.

Award Notice:

Mr. Zinni gave an update on two exciting grant award notifications:

- The first grant is for Supporting Students' Behavioral and Mental Health & Wellness Grant Award which Ms. Dot Pearl assisted in procuring as a one-year grant for the four districts in the amount of \$247,196.00. This grant will fund the positions and services of the Wellness Director and the social workers of the four districts for the next year.

Ms. Pearl along with Mrs. Reynolds, Food Service Director, will continue to be coordinating and distributing meals to students who meet the requirements until the start of school. Ms. Pearl is also coordinating a childcare program for staff members. Discussion ensued on the YMCA food service program for the four districts. The School Committee requested an update on this program throughout the school year as it unfolds.

- The second award (which is match eligible) was a Remote Learning Technology Essentials Grant in which King Philip was awarded \$182,769.00. This technology grant was procured by Dr. Gilson and Mr. Bois and will be

directed to student services, internet connectivity, and any assistive technology students require to use their devices (such as identified in an IEP).

Discussion ensued on the purchasing of Chromebooks for each student so that there will be no sharing of devices. A student will be issued a Chromebook in Grade 7 and will be theirs to use through Grade 12. Each Chromebook will be assigned, and a policy is in the process of being implemented in which upon distribution, a parental signature will be required. This policy is currently under review by legal counsel and will be brought forward to the Policy Subcommittee and final approval by the School Committee. Further discussion was held on the wireless infrastructure and bandwidth within the District.

Approved Home School Plans:

Mr. Zinni provided the School Committee with a report on the approved 2020/2021 Home School Plans to -date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

2020/2021 Lane Changes (Unit A):

In a memorandum dated August 24, 2020, Mr. Zinni recommended the approval of the 2020/2021 Unit A Lane Changes. Mr. Azer noted that funding for these lane changes for teachers has been encumbered in the budget.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Lehan, that per the Unit A (Teachers) Memorandum of Agreement between the KPTA and the School Committee, all individuals subject to the currently effective agreement shall be eligible to move between salary schedules for the 2020/2021 school year providing that adequate verifying documentation has been received by the superintendent as outlined in the contract. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (7) Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor, motion carried.**

HS Safety Plan:

Mr. Azer presented a new traffic signage plan for the high school. Mr. Azer assisted by Mr. Zahner, Facilities Manager, implemented these signage improvements due to the location of the high school which is in a quite dangerous location due to the connecting roads. Also, the HS has never been designated a school zone, but a safety zone. The new signage should alleviate some of these challenges. The Department of Transportation has reviewed this plan. Funding for this project will come from the HS Parking Revolving Account. Discussion ensued on enforcement by the Wrentham Police Department and the possible installation of cameras. Next steps will be discussed further as they become available.

Meeting Date for Building Walk-Throughs:

Mr. Gee discussed the upcoming meeting dates in September and asked the members for their input as to how these meetings should be held (whether remote or in-person meetings). Following discussion, the Committee decided to hold meetings scheduled in September as follows:

September 1, 2020 – remote meeting, starting at 7pm.

September 14, 2020 – in-person meeting, starting at 7pm.

Following discussion, it was decided that a building walk-through of the HS will occur prior to an in-person school committee meeting in October prior to students returning to school. Further discussion will occur at the September 1, 2020 meeting, if needed.

Policy Review (1st Reading):

Due to the Covid-19 emergency, two policies have been created and recommended for approval by all districts by the MASC. A third policy – Title IX, has language changes. The Policy Subcommittee has reviewed these policies and is recommending approval by the full committee as follows:

1. Policy EBC-Supplemental covers a group of policies already approved and has been created as a general (interim) policy on COVID-related matters.
2. Policy EBAFC – Face Coverings
3. Title IX – Civil Rights Grievance Procedure: The language has been changed by the federal legislature and reviewed by Attorney Michael Joyce, who has reviewed and vetted the KP Handbook.

(Mr. Knott arrived at 7:25pm)

Mr. Cates shared his concern over the language in Policy EBAFC on Face Coverings and punitive wording within this policy. Mr. Zinni explained that additional language was added by Attorney Waugh to the original policy presented by MASC regarding discipline guidelines. Mr. Zinni further explained that this policy is in line with the CDC, MASC and DESE, and vetted by Attorney Waugh.

Following discussion, these policies will be presented for a 2nd reading at the September 1, 2020 meeting.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Ms. Ward – Norfolk School Committee. Topics included: Students will start school on 9/14 using the hybrid model; calendar change with no ½ days; discussion on transportation, survey, registration, and fees.
- Mrs. DeStefano – Wrentham School Committee. Topics included: Students will start on 9/14 using the hybrid model; calendar updates; scheduling; face coverings; surveys re devices; transportation.
- Ms. Sharpe – Plainville School Committee – No Report.

ADJOURNMENT:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Ms. Ward, to adjourn at 7:40pm.
A roll call of members was taken: Yes (8) Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Gee; Mr. Knott. No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa B. Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented 8/24/20:

Draft Minutes of July 27, 2020
Draft Minutes of July 30, 2020
Draft Minutes of August 6, 2020
Draft Executive Session Minutes of July 30, 2020
Warrants (11 AP, 13 AP, 12 PR, 14a AP, 14b AP)
Approved Home School Plans for the 2020/2021 School Year
20/21 Lane Changes (Unit A)
HS Safety Plan
Policy Review (1st Reading):
File EBC-S
File EBCFA
Title IX