

**King Philip Regional School Committee  
Remote Meeting - Approved  
Monday, January 11, 2021**

**OPENING OF MEETING:**

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the meeting at 6:07pm.

This meeting is being recorded by Mr. Zinni and is being live-streamed.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	John Faraca, Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Present

**Visitors:**

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

**ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- ✚ At 6:10pm, A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing 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; and, to return to open session. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

- ✚ At 6:52pm, A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to return to open session. All in favor by call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Mr. Zinni continued to record and live-stream the meeting. NorthTV recorded the meeting.

**OPENING OF MEETING:**

Mr. Gee, Chair returned the meeting to open session at 6:55pm 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](http://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.

### **ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **Members Present:**

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

#### **Members Absent:**

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	John Faraca, Samad Khan (arrived at 7:57pm)
Wrentham:	Present

HS Student Council Representative: Miss James

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Zinni read into the Minutes the following two (2) emails:

1. Jill Lawrence – Norfolk: Wednesdays for In-person learning
2. Tracey Molloy – Norfolk: Advocating for In-person learning

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

None

#### **Payment of Bills, Financial Report:**

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Killion, to approve the following Warrants: Payroll: 47, 48; Accounts Payable 49a, 49b; 49c and 49d, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

### **AGENDA**

#### **DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS**

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer, Miss James

#### **Approval of Executive Session Minutes:**

None

#### **Communication:**

- HS Student Council Report: The HS Student Council Report dated January 11, 2021, was presented by Miss Ahunna James

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **District Update:**

#### **Increase in Positive Covid-19 Cases – Coverage:**

Mr. Zinni indicated that since there has been an uptick in positive Covid-19 cases in the state following the holidays, there have also been positive cases diagnosed in both buildings which has made it necessary for several staff members to self-quarantine based upon contact tracing results. This has resulted in a lack of supervision in both buildings, and the administration assisted to provide coverage, as needed, in areas such as lunch and arrival/dismissal times. Mr. Zinni pointed out that throughout this pandemic, the students have been exceptional in wearing their masks and social distancing. Mr. Zinni is hopeful to remain in the hybrid learning model during this time. Discussion ensued on substitute coverage.

#### **Synchronous Learning:**

Mr. Zinni noted that on January 14, 2021, the MS will fully implement a synchronous learning model for their hybrid students similar to the HS. Students will be required to check into each period on Zoom and remain synchronously engaged in their class. A letter has been sent to parents describing these changes. This change to synchronous learning will align the HS and the MS with 52 hours of structured learning time which is above the state minimum requirement of 35 hours over a 10-day period.

#### **Technology Update:**

Mr. Bois and his Technology Team have set up the Cleartouch screens in both the HS and the MS and have continued to provide support as needed. Mr. Bois will be holding instructional sessions on the new technology over the next few days.

#### **Public Health Information:**

- Mr. Zinni presented a Public Health Statement from the Public Health Nurses, of Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham dated January 6, 2021. This statement indicated the necessity to maintain the strict 14-day quarantine period for all students and faculty in the stated towns who have had an exposure to a confirmed case. This will be revised on an ongoing basis. While the State of Massachusetts continues to be in a surge mode, the public health nurses feel this is the best decision to maintain a safe school environment. Discussion followed.
- The Public Health Nurses also feel that Wednesdays be kept as a remote day as this has proven to decrease the rate of in-school transmission of Covid-19 and are a crucial day to keep as a remote day. Discussion ensued on CDC, DESE and Local guidelines. Mr. Zinni indicated that the District will continue to follow the Local guidelines.
- School Nurses will be receiving the Covid-19 vaccine in Phase I as they are considered essential workers. Teachers, and other school employees, are in the B category to receive the vaccine.

#### **DESE Update on After-School Activities:**

Mr. Zinni provided an update from DESE dated January 11, 2021, on the supplemental guidance for student groups and school events, that provided general guidance for gatherings. He indicated that after-school activities are still active organizations within the District. DESE guidelines include:

- Whenever feasible and to the maximum extent possible, these gatherings should be moved online. Online events can be held where all participants are virtual, or where students and staff are in person, but audiences are virtual.
- In-person gatherings (such as events and performances) should be discouraged and must abide by the safety requirements.
- Gatherings of 10 or more are discouraged.

#### **Attendance:**

Discussion ensued on the methodology of taking and tracking attendance for those students who want to attend remotely on a particular day in which they are scheduled to be in-person rather than taking a day off. Mr. Bois explained the rationale why this change cannot occur on the actual day of the absence and based upon DESE guidelines. This also

poses a safety issue as the administration needs to know which students are in and out of the buildings. Discussion followed. Mrs. DeStefano indicated that she will research this further and will provide follow up to the Committee. Students are not being penalized for absences.

### **Review of District Surveys: Dr. Gilson**

Dr. Gilson presented a PowerPoint Presentation based upon survey results taken on KP learning models during the Pandemic. Survey participants included both MS and HS: Students-86%; Parents-36% and Teachers-85%. The administration will continue to look at the data provided from these surveys. Discussion ensued on curriculum and grade monitoring based upon the hybrid learning model transition.

Discussion ensued on keeping as many students as possible in school rather than remote while keeping the perspective that overall, this pandemic is a terrible situation. The schools must also accommodate for the maximum number of students in a classroom based upon guidelines. The need for addressing the social emotional issues is a priority and an on-going issue and students at-risk are being monitored closely according to Mr. Zinni.

(Mr. Khan arrived at 7:57pm)

Mr. Zinni recommended a proposal for students to come into school or remain remote especially at the secondary level. Based upon the district's reopening plan, the schools are holding slots if students are in remote to keep cohorts consistent. We would like to check in with families and ask that they commit to a model, either remote or hybrid, from January to June. Or a secondary option to be a term commitment, however, the administrative team has reviewed this timeline and a term may not be long enough. Then at that point, there would be slots open. Those open slots could then be offered to students who meet the criteria set forth and prioritize those students to be brought back in for 4 days a week. Those students with first priority would be for those that are most at risk, those who are failing the school year and those who have documented mental health issues.

A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Khan, to move the Superintendent's recommendation to require students who are choosing remote to commit to remote learning for the remainder of the school year, or when the state and DESE allow all students to come back without restriction.

Discussion followed that this recommendation would not affect students who are in a temporary quarantine situation.

Further discussion was held that hypothetically if a decision is made in February/March timeframe and everyone is vaccinated by April/May, students will then be able to return to a regular full-time school day. According to Mr. Zinni this transition could occur in one day once parents and transportation companies have been notified. Models have been designed for the district to transition back to full in-person learning in both buildings seamlessly. Further discussion was held on transportation. Mr. Azer indicated that there is no guarantee that busses would be able to accommodate all students as they are fairly full.

Discussion was held on the criteria for students to return once it is identified that there are open slots. Students identified and prioritized to first return are those students who are failing or have documented mental health issues, students who are at-risk. Then if there are open slots to open up a second tier and fill those available slots accordingly.

Discussion ensued on communicating this process to parents on the selection process. Mr. Zinni indicated that messaging is a major concern, and the District will continue to do its best to accommodate all of our students.

Mr. Gee moved the Motion. Mr. Khan would like to make an amendment to the Motion, to add: with the exception of students who are required to quarantine.

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Knott, to move the Superintendent's recommendation to require students who are choosing remote to commit to remote learning for the remainder of the school year, or when the state and DESE allow all students to come back without restriction; with the exception of those students who are required to temporarily quarantine. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (1-Mr. Cates); Abstain (0). Motion carried 7-1-0.

#### **MCAS Update:**

Mr. Zinni provided the School Committee with an MCAS update from DESE dated January 5, 2021.

#### **HS & MS Schedule Change:**

Mr. Zinni announced that the rotation for the week of January 19 has been changed: Tuesday, January 19, 2021, Cohort A will be an in-person day.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Revise FY22 Budget Public Hearing date to 2/8/21:**

Mr. Zinni explained that due to the Governor's budget coming out on January 27, 2021, it would be helpful for the FY22 Budget Public Hearing to be moved to February 8 rather than January 25, 2021, but to still hold the scheduled January 25 school committee meeting to discuss regular business.

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Knott, to approve the change in the date of the FY22 Budget Public Hearing from January 25, 2021 to February 8, 2021. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried. (8-0-0)

#### **Acceptance of Donation:**

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to accept and thank Mr. Michael Leuders for the donation of \$75.00 from Leuders Environmental, Inc. and for his support of King Philip. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried. (8-0-0)

A thank you letter will be sent to Mr. Leuders on behalf of the School Committee.

#### **REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Mr. Gee tabled this agenda item to the next meeting.

#### **LATE COMMUNICATIONS:**

#### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

- Mr. Knott asked that additional thought and a recommendation be made to the Wednesday remote day learning schedule to a full day of instruction and to get students back in school. Mr. Zinni responded that he is not recommending any changes to Wednesday's schedule at this time. He noted several reasons with the strongest being the recommendation from the public health nurses of the three towns as indicated in their letter reviewed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Zinni noted that while the structure of Wednesdays may seem light to parents, it is

used for a variety of reasons, meetings, planning purposes and services; students would suffer if all of this needed to occur on an alternate schedule. This has been reviewed with the COVID-19 Committee and any change would require a collective agreement.

- Mrs. DeStefano said that she feels encouraged that the District is moving forward with live instruction at both schools and to let Wednesdays be on hold for now and revisit. Mr. Zinni indicated that the administration continues to monitor and review all aspects.
- Mr. Cates asked for clarification on student lunches and study halls. Mr. Zinni explained open campus concept for upperclassman as a senior privilege if they decide to use it. Discussion followed.

#### **ADOURNMENT:**

- ✚ **At 9:05pm, a Motion was made by Ms. Ward, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Elisa Barrett Witkus  
Secretary to the School Committee*

#### **Documents Presented on January 11, 2021:**

Agenda  
Warrants: Payroll: 47, 48; Accounts Payable 49a, 49b; 49c and 49d  
HS Student Council Report  
District Survey Results PowerPoint  
MCAS Update  
Acceptance of Donation