

King Philip Regional School Committee
Remote Meeting - Approved
Monday, December 7, 2020 – 7PM

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Sarah Ward
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, John Faraca, Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Jim Killion, Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Jim Lehan (arrived at 7:50pm)
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Present

HS Student Council Representative: Miss James

Visitors:

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

Mr. Zinni will be recording and live streaming this meeting.

OPENING OF MEETING:

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

This meeting is being recorded and live streamed by King Philip.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Gee reviewed the process for public comment and indicated that all comments will be taken under consideration. Mr. Zinni read into the Minutes the following four (4) emails received as public comment:

1. Bill and Andrea LaPlante of Plainville – Covid-19/Keeping students in school
2. Katie and Chad Campbell of Wrentham – Covid-19/In-person learning
3. Sue Danson of Wrentham – Covid-19/Keeping students in school
4. Andrew Laberge of Plainville (Student at KPRHS) - Agrees with hybrid model

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes dated November 16, 2020 will be tabled to the next meeting.

Payment of Bills, Financial Report:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the following Warrants: 39 Payroll and 40, 41a, 41b and 41c Accounts Payable. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Faraca, 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:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Knott, to approve and retain the Executive Session minutes dated November 16, 2020, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (6): Mr. Gee, Ms. Ward, Mr. Khan, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain: (2 – Mr. Cates and Mrs. DeStefano) Motion carried.

Communication:

- HS Student Council Report: The HS Student Council Report dated December 7, 2020, was presented by Miss Ahunna James

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

District Update

Dr. Gilson provided the Committee with information from Mr. Keough, Music Director and the KPMA on the presentation of “The Alumni Series” offering a virtual performance on Monday, December 14 at 5:30pm. Dr. Gilson also recognized 24 students in the music program who participated in the Southeast District Music Festival. These students are eligible to participate in the All-States in January which will be a virtual event.

Reopening after Thanksgiving Update:

Mr. Zinni provided the Committee with an update on the recent decision to close the district and go to full remote learning following the Thanksgiving Holiday. This decision was made along with input from the Public Health Nurses of the Towns of Norfolk, Plainville, and Wrentham; the high positivity rates in the district towns; and a direct impact this would have to students and staff of King Philip. Mr. Zinni also reviewed how contact tracing is determined and conducted.

Discussion ensued on the decision-making process used to go into full remote learning during the period following Thanksgiving break. Mr. Zinni explained the difference between the KPRHS and KPMS classroom set up and scheduling compared with the elementary classrooms and learning environment. Discussion ensued that when there are positive cases within the elementary schools, because of the structure and containment of the students, they are able to close an individual classroom. Whereas due to the complexity of the HS and MS structure and the fact that students move within the building from classroom to classroom, the entire building needs to be closed for the safety of students and staff members. Mr. Zinni explained that he responded to the situation presented at the time; closed for 2 days and reopened the buildings on Monday, December 7. Mr. Zinni reviewed several factors, along with the variables present that are taken into consideration, when making this complicated, situational decision.

(Mr. Lehan arrived at 7:50pm)

Discussion ensued that school committee members are being contacted by constituents who are frustrated and want their children back in school; while others want more to be done while their children are being taught remotely. Discussion continued on the format of a full day of remote learning structure on Wednesdays and the possibility of improving this format to become a robust learning day. Mr. Zinni referred to the 3 options that were provided to DESE for reopening the district. He also indicated that a survey will be sent out to students from Dr. Gilson.

Following discussion, the School Committee, with reasonable directionality, has asked Mr. Zinni to discuss with his Administrative Team and report back in two weeks on the following 2 topics:

1. Provide feedback from students
2. Focus on Wednesday's schedule to improve it. And to keep students in school with safety as a priority.

Athletics:

Mr. Zinni reported that Mr. Brown, Athletic Director, held a Town Hall for parents of student/athletes last week. The District will continue to look at sports very carefully while following the MIAA Guidelines for each sport.

Public Health Statement:

Mr. Zinni presented a Public Health Statement from the Public Health Nurses, of Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham dated December 7, 2020. This statement indicated the necessity to maintain the 14-day quarantine period for all students and faculty in the stated towns who have had an exposure to a confirmed case. Discussion followed.

(Sarah Ward left the meeting at 9pm.)

DESE report on Special Education

Mr. Zinni shared the District's report from DESE on Significant Disproportionality in Special Education dated 11/23/20, based upon data from three prior school years. The report indicated that the District has not identified significant disproportionality by race or ethnicity in special education identification, placement, or discipline in LEA. Mr. Zinni indicated this is good news for three straight years for the District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Review of District Strategic Plan:

Mr. Zinni, along with Dr. Gilson, presented the 2019-2023 District Strategic Plan that the Administrative Team has reviewed. Accomplishments to-date have been listed based upon the Goals and Action Steps. There were no further comments from the Committee.

Review of FY21 Budget:

Mr. Azer presented an update of the FY21 Budget. There were no further comments from the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Policy Review of Section G - File GBD; Section H – Files HA, HB, HF; and Section I - Files IB, IC/ICA, ID, IGA, IGB, IHAM, IHAMB, IHB, IHBAA, IHBEA, IHBF, IHBH, IHBHE, IHCA, IJ, IJ-R, IJL, IJLA, IJOB, IJOC, IK, IL, ILD, IMD will be presented for a 2nd reading at the next meeting to be held on December 21, 2020. A 2nd reading to rescind the following policy files will also be held on December 21, 2020: Files IHAE, IJJ, IJK.

Review of Superintendent's Goals:

Mr. Zinni's 2020/2021 Goals were presented and reviewed by the Committee. Mr. Zinni noted that these goals are specific to his evaluation and other goals that are being worked on. There were no additional comments.

January Administration of MCAS to Class of 2022:

Mr. Zinni presented a memorandum dated December 7, 2020, from Jeff Riley, DESE Commissioner, indicating that due to scheduling and logistical challenges that schools are experiencing due to the pandemic, it is anticipated that MCAS will be taken later in the calendar year. The memo included the adjusted schedules and expectations for MCAS testing and ACCESS for ELLS.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Norfolk School Committee Representative: Ms. Ward - None
- Plainville School Committee Representative: Mr. Faraca - Topics discussed included: Remote teaching and in-person, along with Zoom instruction are going well. Wednesdays are full remote days. Survey results data are to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano – There is a definite uptick from parents wanting more in-person learning. Kindergarten students are now in person unless they have opted for remote learning. The arrival time has changed to 8:10am; snow days were discussed as to whether they will be traditional or remote learning days. The superintendent will make that decision on a day-to-day basis due to a concern of possible power outages in the town.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mr. Knott reviewed the expectation from the Committee that at the next meeting, an update will be provided to the School Committee on the following topics:

1. The student’s perspective and feedback relative to the hybrid model and remote learning in general
2. Thought and exploratory work on what changes could be made to the Wednesday remote day learning schedule to a full day of instruction and to get students back in school.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:30pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Cates, to adjourn into Executive Session for the following purpose of Executive Session:

No. 2: To discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and not to return to open session. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8) - Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Mrs. DeStefano; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

ADOURNMENT:

🚩 At 10:05pm, a Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Cates, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8) - Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Mrs. DeStefano; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on December 7, 2020:

Agenda
Draft Executive Session Minutes dated November 16, 2020

HS Student Council Report
DESE Report on Special Education
District Strategic Plan 2019-2023
Budget Review for FY21
Policy Review:
File GBD
Section H-Negotiations
Section I – Instructional
Review of Superintendent Goals