

King Philip Regional School Committee Meeting
Remote Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2020– 7PM

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Michele Sharpe
Wrentham:	Present

Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer, Dr. Mobley, Ms. Kreuzer, Ms. Moy, Mr. Alves, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Knapp, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Brown, Ms. Pearl, Mr. Bois, Ms. James

Mr. Zinni will be recording and live streaming this meeting. NorthTV will be recording this meeting for Plainville residents to view.

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the meeting at 7:10pm 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. The meeting is also being live streamed by NorthTV.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Zinni reported that there were three (3) public comments received and read into the Minutes from:

1. Ms. Jill Hindley Lawrence – Transition to full-time classroom learning. Submitting a KP parent letter with 101 parent signatures on behalf of parent advocates for KP Regional Schools.
2. Ms. Tracy Malloy – Attendance protocols
3. Ms. Andrea Laplante – Students returning back to school full time.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the Minutes of October 5, 2020, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Ms. Ward; No (0); Abstain: (0). Motion carried.
- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the Minutes of October 19, 2020, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain: (1) - Ms. Ward. Motion carried.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

The approval of executive session minutes dated October 19, 2020 was tabled to November 16, 2020.

Payment of Bills, Financial Report:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to approve the following Warrants: 30 and 33 Payroll and 31a, 31b, 32 Accounts Payable. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Ms. Ward; No (0); Abstain: (0). Motion carried.



Communication:

- HS Student Council Report: The HS Student Council Report dated November 2, 2020 was presented by Miss Ahunna James.
- *US News & World Report*. Mr. Zinni reported that the HS ranked 75/378 in Massachusetts or in the top 20% of high schools in the state. The HS ranked 1735 in the nation or in the top 10% nationally. These statistics should be celebrated along with the administration, as well as the middle school and elementary levels, for providing a great foundation for our students' education.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Recognition of KP Administration:

The School Committee and Mr. Zinni invited the district administration team to the meeting to publicly recognize and thank them for working 24/7 behind the scenes since the pandemic began. This includes building maintenance personnel, finance, technology, and all of the details that were observed by the School Committee during their walk throughs of the buildings and how we educate our students to maximize learning.

Recently during the cafeteria workers quarantine situation, the administration coordinated with the Hockomock YMCA, the elementary districts, and a private vendor to provide meals to our students. This group also prepared meals for families in need to pick up at the schools to provide nourishment to their families.

The School Committee gave their thanks and gratitude to all involved.

District Reopening Update:

Technology:

The 1200 Chromebooks have arrived and are being prepared by the Technology Department for distribution. This will allow each student to have their own device that will be maintained by KP throughout their grade 7-12 education.

Hybrid Model Overview:

Since mid-October, Mr. Zinni noted that the teachers of the District have embraced the hybrid model and have supported KP students by working toward the right balance of creative learning strategies in the classroom. Some teachers are live streaming to include remote students as reported previously. Mr. Zinni discussed the remote academy at the MS in which some adjustments are being made to accommodate students.

Mr. Zinni gave a brief update on lunches being served and prepared; arrivals and dismissals at both the HS and the MS; and transportation.

Attendance:

Mr. Zinni explained the district's attendance policies as they relate to COVID-19 and when and how students can access remote learning when they are absent due to an illness.

Discussion ensued on the state's color-coded map of cities/towns as it pertains to cases of COVID-19. Currently Wrentham is in a "red zone" status. Mr. Zinni indicated that the DOE has indicated that being categorized in the "red zone" does not equal remote and the district can evaluate at their own discretion in consultation with the Board of Health, town administrators, elementary superintendents and school nurses.

Snow Days/Remote Days Determination:

Mr. Zinni indicated that the DESE Commissioner has decided that for an inclement weather day, the superintendent of the district can decide if it is going to be a remote day or a snow day. Due to the fact that the tri-town area is notorious for losing power, in which remote learners will not be able to log on effectively, Mr. Zinni will make a determination on the type of day on a case by case scenario.

Communication:

Discussion ensued on the type of notification announcement that the district will use for this type of scenario. Mr. Zinni indicated that notification will be communicated in the same manner as it has been done in the past via Infinite Campus to all families.

Discussion ensued on how to communicate to KP families what the trigger is for the district to shut down and go into a remote phase. Mr. Zinni indicated that there are a lot of factors to consider and this decision would not be made lightly. He will work with the District's PR company to help to address this communication to families.

Contact Tracing:

Discussion ensued on contact tracing should a student become infected with COVID-19. Mr. Zinni reviewed the procedure for contact tracing and quarantine restrictions based upon the guidelines provided by the state.

Classroom coverage:

Mr. Zinni indicated that there is a concern about not having enough classroom coverage after Thanksgiving break as there may be some staff attendance issues related to “red zone” traveling leading to a 14-day quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19. Mr. Zinni noted that substitute coverage is very limited as well. To be proactive, Mr. Zinni proposed planning to have Monday, November 30 and Tuesday, December 1, as remote days, with Wednesday, December 2, already being a remote day, allowing for three full days remote. This would allow for testing for staff to occur on November 30.

Following discussion, Mr. Gee recommended postponing any consideration until the next meeting on November 16, 2020. Mr Zinni will have obtained data and assessed the situation on any need for coverage and providing a safe environment and will present a recommendation.

Healthy KP:

Mr. Zinni thanked Ms. Dot Pearl, Wellness Director and Mr. Kip Lewis, HS Assistant Principal, for forming the Community Coalition to keep students safe and substance free. They have applied for a federal grant that will be announced in December. KP Wellness have provided free resources, sticker campaigns and promoted monthly programs for families. An upcoming parent night event will be held on Monday, November 9 at 7pm, about critical conversations.

Unfinished Business:

Timeline for District Strategic Plan School Committee Goals Review and Update:

Mr. Zinni explained that the District Strategic Plan is the first step in the process of goal setting for the school committee, the superintendent, and the administration. Normally the strategic plan is discussed over the summer months with the administration and presented to the school committee early on in the school year. This year, due to Covid-19, those meetings did not occur. Mr. Zinni hopes to present updated action steps to the school committee at the first meeting in December.

The School Committee has received a copy of their current goals that will also be reviewed at the first meeting in December.

NEW BUSINESS:

Policy Review: Section G – Personnel (1st reading):

The School Committee received and reviewed Section G – Personnel policies, and to rescind Policy GDE, as a 1st reading. Hearing no questions or comments from Committee members, Mr. Gee will present these policies as a 2nd reading and approval at the next meeting to be held on November 16, 2020.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ms. Ward – Norfolk School Committee: Topics included:

- 2 flu clinics held for teaches, staff and families on 10/14 and 10/21
- 11/2 was the projected date for the roll out of the school dismissal software
- 101 students are learning remotely/831 enrolled in the hybrid model
- Additional recess equipment is being purchased that will be disinfected nightly

- Will not be replacing a 0.5 Math specialist and will instead hire a remote learning support teacher

Ms. Sharpe – Plainville School Committee: No Report.

Mrs. DeStefano – Wrentham School Committee: Topics included:

- Review of a survey conducted on 10/20/2020 in which over 400 families responded. Based upon the feedback areas of improvement were discussed, such as:
- Keeping student focused on remote days
- Increased technology support – created technology office hours
- Looking at students with unique learning needs
- Hired 2 remote teachers with grant money

Other topics of discussion included:

- Receipt of a grant from WEST (Wrentham Elem. School Trust) for online programming curriculum
- Restructured professional development
- Hosted a Google Classroom Night
- New playground fundraising for the Roderick School
- Presentation on transportation

Discussion ensued on the feedback from the Wrentham survey. Mr. Zinni indicated that in order to obtain an accurate read from families, KP will be sending out a survey later this week as the hybrid model did not start until mid-October. This would allow for three full weeks of students being educated under the hybrid model.

ADOURNMENT:

- At 9:07pm, A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mr. Cates, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Ms. Ward; No (0); Abstain: (0). Motion carried.**

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on November 2, 2020:

Agenda
Draft Minutes of October 5, 2020
Draft Minutes of October 19, 2020
Draft Executive Session Minutes of October 19, 2020
HS Student Council Report
US News & World Report – Top high schools
District Strategic Plan and School Committee Goals
Policy Review: Section G – Personnel
Rescind: Policy GCD