

King Philip Regional School Committee Meeting
Remote Meeting
Wednesday, September 30, 2020 – 7:15PM
Minutes

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Present

Visitors:

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

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the meeting at 7:15pm 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 five public comments received. Each public comment was read into the Minutes from:

1. Eric Harmon, Norfolk

2. Kellie Derfler-Murphy – Plainville
3. Julie Redlitz – Norfolk
4. Daniel Campbell – Plainville
5. Jill Hindley Lawrence, Kendra Kannally and Tracey Molloy – Submitting a KP parent letter with parent signatures on behalf of a community parent group.

New Business:

Consider the Superintendent’s recommendation to move straight to Phase 3 hybrid model at the scheduled end of Phase 1.

Mr. Zinni brought forward his recommendation to move straight to Phase 3 hybrid model at the scheduled end of Phase 1 beginning on October 15. As the district was originally scheduled to begin Phase 2 hybrid learning model on Thursday, October 15 with students in-person for half-day sessions twice per week. After careful consideration, the Administration has determined that the District can safely bring our students and staff back into our schools for Phase 3 full-day, in-person learning twice per week in lieu of the Phase 2 hybrid model.

Mr. Zinni explained that this decision is based upon weeks of closely monitoring public health data, tracking positive cases within our communities and ongoing dialogue with state and local health officials. During this time, we observed that the case numbers for our school-aged population remain consistently low. Based on these case numbers and the corresponding public health guidance, the Administration has determined that the district is positioned to safely allow our students back for full-day curriculum on a limited, rotating basis.

Mr. Zinni reviewed the structure of Phase 3, in which Cohorts A and B will be returning to school buildings for full-day in-person sessions for approximately 40% of their learning. Cohort A will be in-person Mondays and Thursdays and will be learning at home on Tuesdays and Fridays. Cohort B will be learning at home Mondays and Thursdays with in-person learning on Tuesdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, all students will engage in online learning with live instruction on Zoom.

Following discussion, Mr. Zinni explained that the full-day hybrid model will allow us to provide a sequential learning experience for all of our students. Any parent who does not wish for their student to participate in in-person hybrid learning will still have the opportunity to continue participating in full remote learning at this time.

To ensure everyone’s health and safety within our schools, we will ensure physical distancing, as well as a series of other critical health and safety measures, including wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, cleaning and sanitizing facilities, screening regularly for symptoms of illness, and staying home from school when sick, among other measures. Mr. Zinni indicated that custodial staff schedules have been modified to provide cleaning services throughout the day and into the evening.

Mr. Zinni will be presenting further and more detailed information at the next scheduled School Committee meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020, regarding Phase 3. Additionally, each school will be hosting a parent meeting next week. The high school will host their meeting on October 6th at 8 p.m. and the middle school will host their meeting on October 7th at 6 p.m.

Discussion ensued on live streaming from the classroom.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Gee, Chair asked for a Motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation.

✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to move straight to Phase 3 – Hybrid Model at the scheduled end of Phase 1 beginning on Thursday, October 15, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:35pm, a Motion was made to Adjourn by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Killion. A roll call vote of members was taken: Yes (8) – Mr. Gee, Mr. Cates, Mrs. Sharpe, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on September 30, 2020:

Agenda