

King Philip Regional School Committee
Minutes of April 24, 2023 – Approved
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093

OPENING OF MEETING

Mr. Cates, Acting Chair, opened the meeting at 7:03pm

RECORDING OF MEETING

This meeting was recorded by Wrentham Cable 8

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk: Mr. Jim Lehan, Mr. Eric Harmon, Ms. Jennifer Wynn
Plainville: Mr. Bruce Cates, Mr. Christopher Brenneis, Mr. Greg Wehmeyer
Wrentham: Mr. Marc Waxman, Mr. Joe Cronin, Ms. Erin Greaney

MEMBERS ABSENT

Norfolk: Present
Plainville: Present
Wrentham: Present

VISITORS

Mr. Paul Zinni, Mr. Larry Azer, Mrs. Venessa Petit, Mrs. Barbara Snead, Mr. Aidan Shaughnessy

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Cates read the policy on public participation at school committee meetings. There was one public comment given.

1. 1. Mr. Luis Sousa, Seekonk MA-Mr. Sousa works in Plainville. Topic: Performance of superintendent-elect.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed in the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion if action is required.

- April 3, 2023 Draft Minutes
- April 10, 2023 Draft Minutes (Remote meeting)
- Payment of Bills/Warrants
- Communications

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Harmon, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, including the Minutes of April 3, 2023 and April 10, 2023. All in favor: Yes (8); No (0); Abstain (1)-Mr Brenneis abstained from the warrants and the April 10, 2023 minutes. Motion carried 8-0-1.**

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

None

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

The April 24, 2023 HS Student Council Report was read into the minutes by Mr. Aiden Shaughnessy.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

District Update

Mr. Zinni thanked Mr. Shaughnessy and Ms. Lewis for always doing a great job with the Student Council Reports. Mr. Zinni said that if there was something that our students want to do there is a club/activity for it. Mr. Zinni thanked all of the advisors and staff who make this happen and also students who are welcoming their peers and encouraging them to be a part of these organizations. Mr. Zinni also thanked Mr. Shaughnessy for participating in the high school principal search committee.

High School Principal Search Update

Mr. Zinni said a search committee was created to review applications for the high school principal position. Dr. Mobley will be leaving us at the end of this school year to take on the executive director role at a charter school. Mr. Zinni said Dr. Mobley has done a phenomenal job over the last eleven years of moving the high school forward. Mr. Zinni wished Dr. Mobley all the best as she moves on to this new endeavor.

The search committee consisted of 12 members: Mr. Aidan Shaughnessy (student representative), Ms. Barbara Snead (community representative), Ms. Dawn Martin (parent representative), Ms. Michelle Kreuzer (middle school principal), Ms. Heather Lutfy (special education chair/teacher), Mr. Matt Anderson (health and pe chair/teacher), Ms. Tara Leblanc (hs history teacher), Mr. Larry Azer (director of finance & operations), Mr. Kip Lewis (hs assistant principal), Ms. April Sloan (principal's secretary), Dr. Rich Drolet (superintendent elect), and Mr. Paul Zinni (superintendent).

Mr. Zinni chaired the committee. Dr. Drolet was a participant so he could hear responses to all the interview questions to help him get additional information moving forward. Once the committee was done interviewing all of the candidates, Dr. Drolet left so he was not part of the conversation that the committee had with who they wanted to move forward. Ms. Carolyn Collins (human resources director) greeted all applicants and made them feel welcome and led them through a writing prompt in which candidates were asked to provide an entry plan of their first 90 days.

There were twenty-two applicants which were narrowed down to six applicants that the committee felt they would like to interview and get to know better. From that the committee unanimously moved forward two candidates to Dr. Drolet. Dr. Drolet re-interviewed both of these candidates personally having conversations with them and did extensive reference checks. At the end of these interviews Dr. Drolet contacted Mr. Zinni as Dr. Drolet cannot issue the contract yet since he is not an employee until 7/1/23. Superintendent Zinni and Superintendent-Elect Dr. Rich Drolet are excited to announce Ms. Nicole Bottomley as the next King Philip Regional High School principal.

Mr. Zinni said Ms. Bottomley comes extremely well credentialed with a great deal of experience. She is very knowledgeable about what it takes to move a high school forward. Mr. Zinni is hoping to have the school committee meet Mr. Bottomley this summer. She will transition to King Philip July 1, 2023. Mr. Cates informed the committee and the public that this was a collaboration between Superintendent Zinni and Superintendent-Elect Dr. Drolet. A press release is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Zinni shared the news feed links with committee members and the public.

Newsblog:

Kingphilipnews.org

Twitter:

[@kpschooldist](https://twitter.com/kpschooldist)

Facebook:

[KingPhilipRegionalSchoolDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/KingPhilipRegionalSchoolDistrict)

District Update Continued:

There will be a free Family Meals Matter & Trivia event in partnership with the Healthy King Philip Substance Use Prevention Coalition on Thursday April 27th from 5-7:30pm at the middle school. This will be a three course meal & trivia event. There will be prizes and this event is an opportunity to connect with the young people in your life, your family and your students, through food and fun, while building valuable substance use prevention strategies.

Mr. Zinni said the high school has moved to authentic learning experiences rather than midterms. The art class undertook murals as their authentic learning project. These are great activities the students are working on.

Mr. Zinni said over the next couple of weeks, students who have participated in the graduation with distinction projects are presenting their projects. Students are encouraged to pick a project they are passionate about. There have been several incredible projects over the years. These students research the project and publish it in some way. It then is presented to a panel who approve their project. If their project gets final approval, they get to wear a special cord during graduation and get recognized as graduating with distinction in the particular project area of either STEM or Humanities. There will be about a dozen students this year who will be participating.

Mr. Zinni said on April 26, 2023 there will be a career fair being held at the high school. This will focus on careers that students can exit high school and walk into. We want to help them to be career ready and to embark on the next phase of their lives. There will be about fourteen companies coming to talk about internships and job opportunities.

Mr. Zinni said the AP exams will be happening throughout the month of May. There are many students that will be participating in the AP exams. Administrative staff will be helping out with the proctoring of these exams.

Mr. Zinni said we are piloting the rest of this school year with full implementation this fall with “E-Hall Pass”.

Ms. Greaney reminded the committee that there will be an online event “Promoting Safe and Healthy Tech Use” at 7:00 pm will be presented by Ms. Elizabeth Englander from Bridgewater State.

Mr. Zinni said there is a school committee scheduled for June 5, 2023. This is also the same night as the Wrentham and Plainville town meetings. Mr. Azer and Mr. Zinni will be at the town meetings representing the school district's budget. June 26, 2023 would be the last meeting of the year. Mr. Zinni suggested that due to the Juneteenth holiday and the last week of school he suggested keeping with a Monday schedule, that the June 5th and June 26th meetings be canceled and schedule the meeting for June 12, 2023. This would allow one meeting to wrap up the year.

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Waxman, seconded by Mr. Brenneis, to cancel the June 5th and June 26th meetings and instead meet on June 12th. All in favor: Yes (9); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0.**

Mr. Zinni said there is no reason for the finance subcommittee to meet on May 1, 2023. This meeting has been canceled.

Mr. Zinni reminded the committee that graduation will be on Sunday June 4, 2023 at 3pm at Stonehill College. All school committee members are welcome to attend.

Mr Zinni reminded members that the Norfolk Town Meeting will be held on May 17, 2023 at the middle school. This is the meeting in which the budget will be voted upon.

High School Memory Project

Mr. Zinni shared a video of The Memory Project in which King Philip’s National Art Honor Society students participated again this year. Fourteen of our students, along with other students from across the world, created portraits for vulnerable youth in India, focusing on those living in orphanages. This is always a powerful experience for all involved. These portraits can be found at

<https://www.memoryproject.org/>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

August 2023 School Committee Retreat/Location

Mr. Cates asked members if there is something they would like discussed during the retreat in August to please let him know. Input is welcome and invited.

NEW BUSINESS

Reappointment of Regional Treasurer:

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Harmon, to reappoint Mr. Joseph Meichelbeck to serve as District Regional Treasurer from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.**

All in favor: Yes(9) Mr. Harmon, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Brenneis, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Wynn; No(0); Abstain(0). 9-0-0 Motion carried.

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Brenneis, to reappoint Ms. Lynn Chapin as Crossing Guard from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. All in favor: Yes(9) Mr. Harmon, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Brenneis, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Wynn; No(0); Abstain(0). 9-0-0 Motion carried.**
- **A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Brenneis, to reappoint Ms. Venessa Petit as Secretary to the School Committee from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. All in favor: Yes(9) Mr. Harmon, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Brenneis, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Wynn; No(0); Abstain(0). 9-0-0 Motion carried.**

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norfolk School Committee Representative: Ms. Wynn-The PTO gave a presentation on the wonderful things they are doing. The committee came to a better place with the town so there will be no significant reductions as originally thought. The budget was put forth and approved. Mr. Caleb Encarnacion-Rivera, DEI Director, presented his goals for the Norfolk schools.

Plainville School Committee Representative: Mr. Brenneis-The local girl scout troop came in and gave a presentation on a clean up activity at the Wood School. They presented their quilt which they put together on stereotypes. A new curriculum "Wit & Wisdom" was voted in. There was a grant that was received on this curriculum as well as a town contribution. The committee voted on the operations budget and a number of articles as well.

Wrentham School Committee Representative: Ms. Greaney-the committee welcomed Mrs. Sheena Clutterbuck as new school committee member. The committee had a long discussion about school safety. They plan on putting additional film on the glass at the entrances to the school as added safety and working more with the Wrentham Police Department. The committee did some reorganizing.

Late Communications

None

Reports of Special Committees

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Wynn asked that since Norfolk has not had their town elections yet and they have not reorganized, will she be staying on as a King Philip school committee representative? Mr. Cates said the King Philip School committee will not be reorganizing until Norfolk votes and then the elementary schools have to appoint their positions. Once we have a full committee from all the elections and appointments then we reorganize and choose a chair, vice-chair, etc.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- At 8:03 pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Waxman, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and to return to open session for the purpose of a public vote. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Cates, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Brenneis, Ms. Wynn, Mr. Waxman; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

- At 8:17 pm, A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Harmon, to return to open session. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Waxman, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Brenneis, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Wynn, Mr. Wehmeyer; No(0); Abstain (0); Motion carried. 9-0-0.
- A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Harmon, to approve the MOU on Unit B as discussed. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Waxman, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Brenneis, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Wynn, Mr. Wehmeyer; No(0); Abstain (0); Motion carried. 9-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

- At 8:19 pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Harmon to adjourn the meeting. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Cates, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Wynn; Mr. Brenneis; Mr. Wehmeyer; Mr. Cronin; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0.

Mr. Cates, Acting Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mrs. Venessa Petit
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents presented on April 24, 2023:

Agenda
Bills/Warrants
Draft Minutes from April 3, 2023
Draft Minutes from April 10, 2023 (remote)
Stuco Report April 24, 2023
Press release-Nicole Bottomley KPRHS Next Principal
Reappointment Memos (Treasurer, Crossing Guard, Secretary to School Committee)