

King Philip Regional School Committee
Minutes of April 3, 2023 – Approved
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093

OPENING OF MEETING

Mr. Knott, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:05p.m. Mr. Knott asked for a moment of silence due to the recent tragedy in Nashville and all of those that have lost their lives due to gun violence.

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
Wrentham: Mr. Trevor Knott, Mr. Marc Waxman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Norfolk: Present
Plainville: Mr. Greg Wehymeyer
Wrentham: Ms. Erin Greaney

VISITORS

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Susan Gilson, Mr. Larry Azer, Mrs. Venessa Petit

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Knott read the policy on public participation at school committee meetings. There were four public comments.

1. 1. Mr. Luis Sousa, Seekonk MA-Mr. Sousa works in Plainville. Topic: Performance of superintendent-elect.
2. 2. Ms. Krista Andberg, Wrentham MA -Ms. Andberg is a resident and parent of Wrentham. Topic: Support of new superintendent and welcoming the committee's decision.
3. 3. Ms. Laura Beltis, Wrentham MA-Ms. Beltis is a resident and parent of Wrentham. Topic: Support of new superintendent.
4. 4. Ms. Stephanie Bird-Wrentham MA-Ms. Bird is a resident of Wrentham. Topic: Welcome new superintendent.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- March 20, 2023 Draft Minutes
- Payment of Bills/Warrants
- Communications

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (5): Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Cates, Mr. Knott; Mr. Brenneis (minutes); Mr. Waxman (warrants); No (0); Abstain (3)-Mr. Brenneis abstained from the warrants. Ms. Wynn and Mr. Waxman abstained from the minutes. Motion carried 5-0-3.**

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

-March 20, 2023 Draft Executive Minutes

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to approve and hold the Executive Session minutes as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (4): Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Cates, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (3)-Ms. Wynn, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Brenneis. Motion carried 4-0-3.**

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Addison Lewis was excused from tonight's meeting. A copy of the April 3, 2023 HS Student Council Report is included in the packet.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

District Update

Mr. Zinni thanked Dr. Gilson who has used some of the diversity grant money that we received to diversify the workforce. Dr. Gilson has been working with Diversity and Ed and they will be having a virtual fair on Saturday 4/15/23. We are one of nine communities in Massachusetts that have availed ourselves to this national search program. Dr. Gilson and Ms. Collins will be attending this virtual event. Mr. Zinni informed the committee we will have additional job fairs that King Philip will be participating in.

High School Principal Search Process

Mr. Zinni informed members that a search committee for the high school principal position has been established. Mr. Zinni is the chair of this search committee. The committee consists of twelve members. There have been 21 candidate submissions. The screening committee went through the submissions, and spoke about the characteristics and qualities they are looking for in a new principal. They also talked about the questions they would like to ask the candidates. The committee has chosen 6 candidates out of the initial 21 candidates and interviews will be set up for later this week. Dr. Drolet has been participating up to this point and he is getting to know the search committee, staff, and has had a chance to see the packets early on. He will participate in the interviews but will not be staying for the processing of them. Once the committee has decided on three finalists, then these finalists will be sent to Dr. Drolet who will continue the process at that point with an interview, and references. The search committee is confident that a final decision will be made by school vacation week.

School Safety Update

Mr. Zinni said King Philip received a \$55, 300 federal grant through the Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant Program. The grant is managed and administered by the Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research. King Philip is one of 14 grant recipients announced by the state on March 30th. Ms. Dot Pearl applied for the grant on behalf of King Philip, Norfolk, Wrentham

and Plainville school districts. All four districts work collaboratively on school safety alongside their local law enforcement agencies. This grant will allow the four districts to focus on threat assessment and crisis intervention teams at all levels. Mental health and counseling teams, building administrators and school staff will be trained along local law enforcement in Comprehensive Threat Assessment Guidelines. Mr. Zinni thanked Ms. Pearl for writing for this grant. Ms. Wynn also gave kudos to Ms. Pearl for all of her hard work.

Recent Swatting Incidents

Mr. Zinni gave an update to the committee regarding several area districts receiving “swatting” calls. “Swatting” is a hoax in which a caller seeks to bring about a significant police response by making a non-credible threat of violence. Out of an abundance of caution, KP school officials were in contact with the Wrentham and Norfolk Police Departments and there was an increased police presence at the schools. There was no threat made toward any KP schools. In the event that any schools were to receive a threat, we would immediately initiate our established safety procedures to ensure the well-being of students and staff. Mr. Zinni thanked Dr. Gilson, the local law enforcements, building principals and staff for keeping everyone safe. Mr. Lehan recommended that this topic be placed on the agenda for the school committee’s retreat.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

August 2023 School Committee Retreat

Mr. Knott will reach out to Dr. Drolet regarding dates for the August retreat. If committee members would like to see any key topics on the agenda please contact Mr. Knott.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Zinni informed the committee that the Finance Subcommittee which was scheduled to meet on April 10, 2023 would not be needed but would like to hold a fifteen minute “virtual” school committee meeting instead to vote and award the bid for the high school library renovation project. The committee agreed to cancel the finance subcommittee meeting and have a “virtual” school committee meeting on April 10, 2023 at 7:00pm instead.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norfolk School Committee Representative: Ms. Wynn-there was a budget vote for level service funded budget. On Tuesday 4/4/23, they will take another vote on the budget due to a finance budget issue.

Plainville School Committee Representative: Mr. Brenneis-No report

Wrentham School Committee Representative: Ms. Greaney-No report

Late Communications

Mr. Knott congratulated the KP softball and baseball teams today on their season openers.

Reports of Special Committees

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Knott informed members that elections are taking place today in Wrentham and Plainville. Mr. Knott and Mr. Wehmeyer are up for re-election. Mr. Knott said that if he is re-elected he will be unable to attend the school committee meeting scheduled for Monday, April 24, 2023. Mr. Cates has agreed to chair the meeting. Mr. Knott reminded members of the negotiations subcommittee that the meeting is still on for Tuesday, April 4, 2023. If one of the two committee members gets re-elected tonight there will be a quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

- **At 7:55 pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Brennis to adjourn the meeting. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Cates, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Knott, Ms. Wynn; Mr. Brenneis No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 7-0-0.**

Mr. Knott, Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Venessa Petit

Secretary to the School Committee

Documents presented on April 3, 2023:

Agenda

Bills/Warrants

Draft Minutes from March 20, 2023

Draft Executive Session Minutes from March 20, 2023

Stuco Report April 3, 2023