



King Philip REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: King Philip Regional School District School Committee

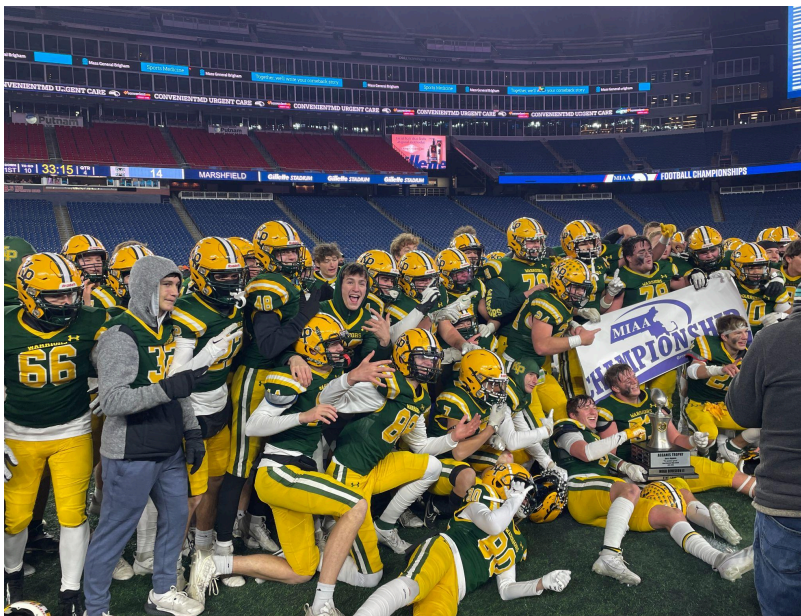
From: Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent of Schools

Date: January 8, 2024

Re: Superintendent's Update

KP Football - Undefeated Season and D2 Super Bowl Champions

As you know, our football team completed their remarkable undefeated season and won the D2 Super Bowl. This is our 3rd Super Bowl win and first since we won back-to-back Super Bowls in 2016 and 2017. I would like to now acknowledge Coach Lee and the entire KP football coaching staff, as well as all of our student-athletes on our King Philip football team, to be properly recognized. It's clear to me from following the team closely, speaking to Coach Lee, and watching all the KPSN videos that teacher Jodi Greenleaf produces with her students, that this team was special. They are coached to work hard, not complain, and not give up. They are also humble, and stick together like a family. Our program has become one of the best, if not THE best football program in the state.



Internal FY25 Budget Preparation Meetings

On December 5th we met with our KP Regional High School department heads and Principal Bottomley, and on December 8th we met with KP Regional Middle School curriculum team leaders and Principal Kreuzer. At these meetings we were able to hear about the department and student service needs for the 2024-2025 school year. Then on two subsequent meetings later in December, our Central Office District Leadership Team met with Ms. Bottomley and Ms. Kreuzer to review each school and our overall district-based FY25 budget proposals. With a sharp increase in out-of-district placements this FY24 school year projected to carry into for FY25, we are now in the process of whittling down the FY25 budget proposal to be fiscally responsible, yet also meet the needs of our students. At the next January 22nd School Committee meeting, we will review with you a first draft of the school department's FY25 proposed budget proposal. Our proposal will include a 4-5 page FY25 Superintendent's "Budget Narrative" that I am currently in the process of composing.

Healthy KP Youth Coalition & Superintendent-Student Advisory Council

On December 5th I attended a Healthy KP Youth Coalition meeting here in the KPHS library, which was facilitated by Oomiya Kawas, our Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator and Healthy KP Coalition leader. Pictured below is a photo of myself along with Oomiya with our group of KPHS student leaders, who are all in Healthy KP's Youth Coalition. Students in this group shared their "why," which ranged from preventing substance abuse among peers, helping others in need, and bringing awareness to the dangers associated with substance use.



Besides meeting with the Healthy KP Youth Coalition again in the future, I will also be starting up a Superintendent-Student KPHS Advisory Council with another group of students beginning in February, which Principal Bottomley is helping me put together.

Meeting with SAFE Coalition CEO

On Dec. 7th. I met with the SAFE Coalition CEO and co-founder, Jennifer Knight-Levine. SAFE Coalition is the parent organization of Healthy KP and provides services to some of our students and many others in the community. Here is a link to [SAFE Coalition's website](#).

Pictures with Mitch

Our middle school was happy to continue the KPMS holiday tradition of providing the opportunity to have pictures taken with Mitch, Norfolk PD's service dog. Pictures with Mitch took place during lunches on December 13th in the Band Room. Whoever had a picture taken donated money to go towards supporting local families in need with gift cards to help them shop during the holiday season. I would like to thank KPMS counselor Leah Barry, KPMS School Psychologist Morayo Sayles, KPMS Food Services Cafeteria Manager Karyn McCue, and also Norfolk School Resource Officer Katie Appel for helping to make this happen. Below is a photo I took with Mitch and KPMS' top-notch food service providers.



Hockomock YMCA Meeting

Also on December 13th I met with Hurley Family Branch (North Attleboro) Hockomock YMCA Executive Director Mike Mahoney and Caitlin Gibbs, YMCA's Senior Director of Health Innovation, along with our Wellness Director Dot Pearl and KPMS Principal Michelle Kreuzer. We discussed ideas for future after-school programs to hopefully be implemented late winter/early spring for our middle schoolers.

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

On December 14th I was privileged, along with Mr. Lehan, to attend and also say a few words at KPMS' annual National Honor Society Induction Ceremony. Here is a [link to the speech](#) I gave at the ceremony and below are some photos of this special event. I would like to thank this year's NHS co-advisors, teachers Amy Remy and Kim Bertram, as well as English teacher and Model UN Advisor Tim O'Connor, who gave this year's keynote speech and spoke about how much he has learned from overcoming failure and obstacles in life.





KP Cares Giving Tree

On behalf of KP Cares, I would like to thank Cheryl Rowe and the entire KP community for their help with donating to this year's "Giving Tree" (see photo of the Giving Tree on the next page). This year we received approximately 550 gift requests from 130 children in 49 families. Due to the generosity of our amazing KP students, faculty, and families we were able to fulfill every single request. The gift drive takes a lot of coordination and on behalf of Ms. Rowe, I would like to thank the KP Cares board members for their support and especially thank our Giving Tree coordinator Ryan Mahoney for checking in every single gift and making sure that each item went to the proper family. In addition, a huge thank you goes out to those individuals who stepped in at the last minute to go out and purchase the items we were missing and donate gift cards so that every child received gifts. Here are a few messages we received from some of our families: *"Thank you for helping make our Christmas wonderful. Our family is able to have a memorable Christmas thanks to your selflessness."* *"I just wanted to reach out again just to say thank you so much. This was way more than I expected. The children will be so happy I am just beyond grateful. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday."* *"I just want to say*

thank you again! I've never had to do this before and was so nervous to come yesterday and tried to hold back tears. I'm so grateful for all the gifts donated to my kids and I hope you have a very Merry Christmas!"



DECA Awards Session

Last Friday on January 5th in Mansfield I attended a DECA Awards Session at the Envision Hotel in Mansfield. Many of our KPHS students received awards during this conference and I would like to thank Mr. Dow for inviting me to this ceremony. Pictured on the next page are photos of two of our award-winners with their moms (you may recognize one of our School Committee Student Council representatives Addison Lewis). Not pictured is School Committee member Eric Harmon's daughter, who also won an award!

