



# King Philip REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: King Philip Regional School District School Committee

From: Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent of Schools

Date: February 26, 2024

Re: Superintendent's Update

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## **Recognition of Band Director Michael Keough**

The [Commonwealth Wind Symphony](#) recently recognized King Philip High School Band Director Michael Keough for his visionary leadership, positive impact, and selfless work on behalf of fellow educators, our students, and the entire field of music education. In addition, under Mr. Keough's guidance, it was recently announced that [King Philip's Jazz Ensemble](#) was named a top 15 finalist in the national "Essentially Ellington" High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival. KP's Jazz Ensemble was the only high school selected from New England and our twenty students will play (pending your approval) in New York City at the Lincoln Center in May.

## **Recognition of Dr. Susan Hall**

Congratulations to KPMS teacher Dr. Susan Hall for being named [Boston Bruins February Teacher of the Month](#). Dr. Hall is a 7th grade STEM teacher at our middle school. She is a lifelong learner who uses a hands-on approach to help students enjoy what they are learning, as well as increase their understanding of content. In addition, it was announced last week that Dr. Hall received the "Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award" from National Energy Education Development (NEED). As part of this award, she will receive \$1,000 to spend as she sees fit in her classroom and a free trip to NEED's National Energy Conference for Educators this summer in Philadelphia.

## **Fine and Performing Arts Wing/Tennis Courts Dedications**

Following the [School Committee Policy](#) related to dedications, on February 6th I announced through a [Press Release](#) to local news outlets the intent to name the fine and performing arts wing/tennis courts after the individuals proposed, and to invite

members of the community to comment to me in writing or appear before the School Committee. Tonight one of the petitioners, Mr. Woloff, is here to explain his proposed dedication request. As School Committee members, you will listen to Mr. Woloff and can ask him any questions you may want tonight. You will then take his request under advisement. Then at the next School Committee meeting in March (or later if you need more time), you would make a determination and take a vote on the naming of the fine and performing arts wing (or hear other petitions for naming the fine and performing arts wing if they have been submitted).

### **Addressing Hate in School Sports Training**

Next Friday and Saturday, March 8th and 9th, KPHS Principal Bottomley and myself will attend and participate in a two-day training titled “Addressing Hate in School Sports.” Athletic Director Gary Brown already participated in this training last year. This initiative is sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, DESE, MIAA, MSAA, and Northeastern University’s Center for the Study of Sport in Society. This is a regional training designed for school administrators and athletic directors to help prevent and address hate and bias in school sports.

### **Strategic Planning Update**

On February 16th our Executive Leadership Team had an introductory meeting with TLA (Teaching & Learning Alliance) representatives to discuss the first steps to begin to facilitate our next 2024-2029 District Strategic Plan. In the coming weeks we will be announcing Focus Group sessions with students, staff, administrators, town officials, and parents/guardians. On March 18th we would like to host a focus group for School Committee members here from 6-7 PM before the School Committee Meeting. I am also looking for up to three School Committee members (one from each town) to serve on our Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet from 4-7 PM (dinner provided) on March 26th (Tues), April 11th (Thurs), April 30th (Tues), May 8th (Wed), May 21st (Tues), and June 11th (Tues). Here is a [link](#) to a list of all scheduled Focus Group sessions as well as Strategic Planning Committee Meetings.