



# King Philip REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: King Philip Regional School District School Committee

From: Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent of Schools

Date: April 8, 2024

Re: Superintendent's Update

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## **M.A.S.S. Tri-County Superintendents Legislative Breakfast**

On Thursday, March 28th, from 9-11 AM the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) Tri-County Roundtable group, which I am a member of, along with The Education Cooperative (TEC), hosted a Legislative Breakfast at the Norwood Senior Center. There were discussions regarding current needs and priorities in our public schools. Costs have risen and remain high. Here is a [link](#) to some slides I thought were helpful in understanding how our M.A.S.S. and local leaders can continue to advocate for additional state funding. Some things we will continue to advocate for in FY25 are increasing Chapter 70 state funding, addressing the inflation gap, supporting additional funding for special education, and supporting funding to support homeless students.

## **Strategic Planning Update**

As you know, our District Strategic Planning Committee met for the first time on March 26th. School Committee Chair Jim Lehan and Vice Chair Bruce Cates have volunteered to serve as KP School Committee representatives on this committee. Our next District Strategic Planning Committee meeting will be a "Data Review" Meeting this Thursday, April 11th, in which we will analyze the strategic planning survey data (almost 1,000 people completed the survey), as well as a plethora of other data and information related to KP to inform our work. Here is an overview of a brief "[superintendent's vision](#)" presentation I shared at the March 26th meeting, which includes my core values, goals, entry plan, and vision for the future of KP. After the Data Review Meeting on April 11th, we will spend the next 4-5 meetings developing the actual 5-year Strategic Plan.

## **Bone Marrow Drive for DJ**

On Saturday, April 27th here at the high school from 10 AM to 1 PM, we will be hosting an event for our KP student in need, as well as for others who may be in need of a bone marrow transplant. We would like to thank one of our high school nurses, Ms. Exposito, and also KPHS teacher Mr. Walsh, who are going to make this an uplifting, community event to raise awareness for patients like DJ who are fighting this terrible disease.



### **HELP PATIENTS LIKE DJ FIND THEIR CURE**

Join NMDP<sup>SM</sup> at our registry recruitment event to find out more

All are welcome for a day filled with food trucks, Touch-a-Truck, and much more!

DJ,  
Searching Patient

For patients with life-threatening blood disorders like leukemia, lymphoma or sickle cell, a cure exists through a blood stem cell donation.

17-year-old DJ and his family had their whole world flipped upside down when he was diagnosed with AML earlier this year. He is now battling blood cancer as he awaits a matching donor for a bone marrow transplant.

**Join the NMDP Registry<sup>SM</sup> at our upcoming registry recruitment event.**

**Date** April 27, 2024  
**Time** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
**Location** King Phillip Regional High School  
201 Franklin Street  
Wrentham, MA

Can't attend the event?  
Scan the QR code to join  
the NMDP Registry today!



#FightLikeDJ  
#TeamDJTheUltimateWarrior

**To learn more, contact  
Jamie Robenhymer at [jrobenhy@nmdp.org](mailto:jrobenhy@nmdp.org)**

To join the registry, you must: Be between the ages of 18 - 40 • Be in good general health • Be committed to donating to anyone in need

### **NCTV Show**

Mr. Lehan and I recorded our second “Conversation Corner” Norfolk Community Television (NCTV - Channel 25) show on March 19th. Here is a [link](#) to that program.

### **TEC Board Meeting**

At a March 22nd virtual meeting, Mr. Lehan and I made our case to formally request to join [TEC](#) (The Education Cooperative). School committee chairs and superintendents alike serve as TEC board members. After asking us some questions, the TEC Board voted unanimously to allow King Philip to join TEC for FY26 (*not* FY25). Over the course of the next 6-10 months, all 19 of TEC’s member districts will vote whether or not to allow KP to become a TEC member, in which I would serve on the Board. As long as at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of these districts vote to accept KP into TEC (which we anticipate), our King Philip Regional School District would officially become a TEC member for the 2025-2026 school year pending DESE approval. We anticipate this will save us approximately \$100,000 annually in out-of-district tuition costs beginning in FY26.

### **King Philip Middle School STEM “Project Lead the Way” Grant Award**

Congratulations to King Philip Middle School for receiving a 3-year \$17,000 grant award for [Project Lead the Way](#) (PLTW) middle school courses. Over 300 schools in Massachusetts have PLTW programming and courses, which empower teachers to implement innovative student-centered curricula related to STEM. I would like to acknowledge Ms. Kreuzer for taking the lead and applying for this grant as the school champion, as well as Dr. Gilson as the district champion, and Dr. Hall as the teacher champion behind this initiative. If all goes according to plan, beginning next school year 8th grade students will take an “App Creators” STEM class, and 7th graders will take a “Design & Modeling” STEM class.

### **KPHS Speed Feedback School Zone Signs**

After a few years of design and engineering, Wrentham Selectboard meetings, and attaining proper Mass DOT permitting, we can now begin to install the flashing School Zone signs as part of a federal grant Mr. Zahner applied for. We are now officially approved to be deemed a “School Zone” on Franklin Street along Rt. 140 before and after King Philip Regional High School and on William Daniels Way towards Shears Street. I would like to thank the Wrentham Selectboard, Town Administrator Sweet, Chief McGrath and Deputy Chief Labonte, and the Wrentham PD who have been supportive of this work. Lastly, I would like to thank Mr. Joe Zahner, KP’s beloved Facilities Manager,

who has been instrumental in getting this work done, which will improve the safety for our high school students, staff, and nearby residents.