

KING PHILIP REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AGENDA
REGULAR & EXECUTIVE SESSION
November 18, 2024
KING PHILIP REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER
201 FRANKLIN STREET WRENTHAM MA 02093
7:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** -Pledge of Allegiance
-Recorded by Wrentham Cable 8

2. **ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

3. **DELEGATIONS and VISITORS**

Dr. Rich Drolet, Mr. Larry Azer, Ms. Lisa Moy, Mr. Michael Bois,
Ms. Barbara Snead, Ms. Venessa Petit, Mr. Aiden Shaughnessy

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anyone interested in commenting on an agenda item during the meeting or making a statement during the public comment period is asked to complete an information card and hand it to Ms. Venessa Petit, School Committee Secretary.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:** *All items listed below are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion if action is required. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:*

-Draft November 4, 2024 Minutes **A.R.**
-Payment of Bills/Warrants
-Communications

6. **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Student Council Report - Mr. Aiden Shaughnessy **I.O.**

7. **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

School Committee Chair's Update **I.O.**
Superintendent's Update **I.O.**

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

Policy Revision IHAMA- Sex Education Notification (2nd Reading) **A.R.**
Policy Revision IMG - Animals in Schools (2nd Reading) **A.R.**

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

11. REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | |
|--|------|
| Norfolk School Committee Representative: Ms. Sheldon | I.O. |
| Plainville School Committee Representative: Ms. Sharpe | I.O. |
| Wrentham School Committee Representative: Ms. Greaney | I.O. |

12. ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee seeks to convene into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 30A, §21(a)
(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting
may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and
the chair so declares;

| | |
|---|-------------|
| -Approval of June 10, 2024 draft executive session minutes | A.R. |
| -Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Unit D-Teacher Assistant | I.O. |

13. LATE COMMUNICATIONS

14. RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

15. ADJOURNMENT **A.R.**

The items listed on this agenda are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be
discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not
listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

**King Philip Regional School Committee
Minutes of Monday, November 4, 2024 –Draft
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093**

OPENING OF MEETING

Mr. Lehan, Chair opened the meeting at 7:01pm.
Pledge of Allegiance.

RECORDING OF MEETING

This meeting was recorded by Wrentham Cable 8 and North TV

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Norfolk: | Mr. Jim Lehan, Mr. Eric Harmon, Ms. Lisa Sheldon |
| Plainville: | Mr. Bruce Cates, Mr. Greg Wehmeyer, Ms. Michele Sharpe |
| Wrentham: | Mr. Joseph Cronin, Ms. Erin Greaney, Ms. Cait Lanza |

MEMBERS ABSENT

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Norfolk: | Present |
| Plainville: | Present |
| Wrentham: | Present |

VISITORS

Dr. Rich Drolet, Ms. Colleen Terrill, Mr. Larry Azer, Mr. Michael Bois, Ms. Carolyn Collins, Ms. Barbara Snead, Mr. Aiden Shaughnessy, Mr. Joshua Wolloff, Mr. Birch Duggins-Warf, Ms. Michelle Kruzer, Ms. Nicole Bottomley

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Birch Duggins-Warf, Norfolk MA-Topic: IHAMA Sex Education Notification Policy (a copy of these comments are attached to these minutes)

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Draft October 16, 2024 Minutes
- Payment of Bills/Warrants
- Communications

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Ms. Sharpe, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, including the draft minutes of October 16, 2024. All in favor: Yes (9): Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Sheldon; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

The October 16, 2024 KPHS Student Council Report was read into the minutes by Mr. Aiden Shaughnessy. This report was submitted by Ms. Ashley Cleverdon and Mr. Aiden Shaughnessy. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent's Update

- DECA Ceremony and Breakfast on December 4th
- Norfolk Temporary Respite Shelter Update
- KPHS Superintendent Residency Week
- KP Marching Band National Champs

The Superintendent's Update can always be found on the district's webpage. A copy of this update is also attached to these minutes.

Assistant Superintendent's Update

- Home School Students
- Local Staff Development Opportunities (LSDO)
- November 5 Full PD Day
- Innovation Career Pathways
- MCAS Scores and 2023-2024 School/District Accountability
- MassCue
- MASS/MASC
- Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

Mr. Lehan requested a comparison be done between King Philip's MCAS results to other schools in the surrounding areas. Ms. Terrill will facilitate this information to Mr. Lehan. A copy of the Assistant Superintendent's update is also attached to these minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2025 Winter Music Fees

Mr. Joshua Wolloff gave a summary of changes for the FY 2025 winter music program fees to the committee. Mr. Azer submitted a memo of changes to the FY 2025 winter music program fees. A copy is attached to these minutes. A motion was brought forward:

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Cronin, to approve the FY 2025 winter music program fees as presented. All in favor: Yes (9): Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Sheldon; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

School Improvement Plans 2024-2025

High School:

Student representatives Mr. Jason Silva and Mr. Talia Westbrook along with Ms. Bottomley presented an overview of the high school improvement plan for 2024-2025. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes.

After a brief discussion a motion was brought forward.

- **A Motion was made by Ms. Sharpe, seconded by Mr. Cronin, to approve the 2024-2025 School Improvement Plan for King Philip High School as presented. All in favor: Yes (9): Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Sheldon; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

Middle School:

Ms. Kreuzer presented an overview of the middle school improvement plan for 2024-2025. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes.

After a brief discussion a motion was brought forward.

- **A Motion was made by Ms. Sharpe, seconded by Mr. Cronin, to approve the 2024-2025 School Improvement Plan for King Philip Middle School as presented. All in favor: Yes (9): Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Sheldon; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

Policy Revision IHAMA-Sex Education Notification

Mr. Harmon informed the committee that the policy subcommittee met to review modifications for two existing policies and that both policies are a first read.

This policy had changes in the third paragraph and in item #2. It was discussed what should be identified in the notification. Topics of abortion, birth control and laws regarding minors' access to reproductive healthcare was new language added to the policy. Item #2: The idea is to streamline the opt in or opt out process by the notification being sent home with the child, if the parent wants to opt out they sign the notification and check an opt out box.

Dr. Drolet shared with the committee that he as well as the principals and the Director of Wellness do not support this change but would respectfully implement whatever the committee decides. Legal advised against imposing more requirements than what the law requires (adding "topics of abortion, birth control and laws regarding minors' access to reproductive healthcare" to the notification). Dr. Drolet feared a parent might inadvertently check a box to opt out and unknowingly restrict students to important information.

Currently the parent would contact the principal through the teacher to opt out. Ms. Sharpe expressed her concern with a check off box. She shared that she knows of only four districts in the state that included a check off or sign off regarding health education. This revised policy does not require for the parent to return the notification form. This would be a notification to opt out only. Ms. Sharpe said it is important to have the parent know exactly what is being taught. If nothing was returned with this new procedure, then the student would still be in the health class.

Mr. Harmon recommended to the committee that this be taken as a first read tonight and do a second reading at the next meeting. Committee members agreed to take up a second reading.

Ms. Sharpe recommended that the committee also have a copy of the MASC's recommendation of the IHAMA-Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education which was updated in 2023. Ms. Sharpe will provide Dr. Drolet with a copy of the MASC's recommendation. Mr. Lehan recommended that if anyone else had any changes that you get these to Mr. Harmon who chairs the policy subcommittee, who could then get this to the subcommittee members for review.

Policy Revision IMG-Animals in Schools

Mr. Harmon said this is a substantial update to the previous policy. This policy specifies procedures for if a staff member or other community member wants to bring in a comfort dog or animal. The individual has to get permission from the superintendent or building principal. The dog has to be trained and licensed/registered. This has to go through a whole process. Health considerations, such as allergies with staff and all students' needs, would also be followed.

Mr. Harmon recommended members of the committee read it. Dr. Drolet said he brought forward these policy revisions and concurred with the policy subcommittee on changing the policy. This policy differentiates between service animals and comfort dogs. Especially since Covid, there have been more benefits (social-emotional) of comfort dogs in school. Dr. Drolet said he has seen this to be a positive experience with kids and staff. This policy outlines procedures. This policy will be discussed at the next meeting.

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Policy Subcommittee-See policies above.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norfolk School Committee Representative:

Ms. Sheldon reported that the shelter is at manageable levels of enrollment. The school committee will be asking the town, at the next town meeting, for \$4 million dollars to fund the schematic design for the proposed school expansion. There will be an informational session on November 6th.

Plainville School Committee Representative:

Ms. Sharpe reported that the committee talked about having a career day at the school, fire safety, Grade 2 Learning Lunch, Lite box Learning for Grade 5 (interactive ebooks). Haunted house and Trunk or Treat were held. Educator Induction Program and town professional development. Ms. Sharpe is the MASC/MASS delegate for the assembly. They did go over the district strategic plan as well.

Wrentham School Committee Representative:

Ms. Greaney reported that the committee had not met since the last meeting.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Drolet informed the committee that there will be a Finance Subcommittee meeting on Monday, November 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. The Collective Bargaining Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Sharpe pointed out that the DECA Breakfast invitation states Wednesday December 4, 2024. At the top it states December 14th, 2024. The actual date is Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **At 9:00 pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Cronin, seconded by Mr. Cates, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Cates, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Sheldon; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0.**

Mr. Lehan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mrs. Venessa Petit
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents presented on November 4, 2024:

Agenda
Bills/Warrants
Draft Minutes from October 16, 2024
Stuco Report 11/4/24
Superintendent's Update
Assistant Superintendent's Update
FY 2025 Winter Music Fees
School Improvement Plans KPHS/KPMS 2024-2025
Policy Revision-IHAMA Sexual Education Notification
Policy Revision-IMG Animals in Schools

King Philip High School

School Committee Report

Submitted by Ashley Cleverdon & Aiden Shaughnessy

Monday, November 18, 2024

School-Wide

Teachers participated in a district wide professional development day on November 6. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees were able to hear best practices and learn new technology from their peers.

Bystander Intervention Training was provided by Ms. Monnell, the advisor, and her students to almost the entire 9th grade. They were actively taught students ways they can intervene when bullying/harassment is taking place.

Sports

Cheerleading competed in the Hockomock Championships and qualified for Regionals on Sunday, November 17 at Franklin HS.

2. Football won the MIAA Division II Round of 16 and hosted Barnstable this past Friday in the Elite Eight.
3. Girls Soccer advanced to the MIAA DI Elite Eight and competed in Brookline on Thursday, November 14th
4. Field Hockey advanced to the MIAA D1 Elite Eight where they lost a great game to Wellesley
5. Boys and Girls Cross Country competed in the MIAA DI Divisionals.
6. Lastly, our unified basketball team just completed an awesome season.

Performing Arts

Music

The Prism Concert was a great success, thank you to everyone who showed up. Jazz Night is on November 21st at 7pm in the KPHS auditorium and they are hoping for a great turnout from the community!

Drama

Drama and GAPS are entering the final month of rehearsals for the Fall Musical, MATILDA! The directors are very excited by the progress achieved both onstage and technical crews. Please come and see the talent and creativity that every student brings to this program. Tickets are now on sale -- Please use the QR code to purchase on the posters around the building or go to this website--

<https://search.seatyourself.biz/webstore/accounts/kingphiliphsdrama/buy-tix?d=0> and select your seats. Performances are December 6th and 7th at 7:00pm and December 8th at 2pm.

GAPS has had quite a busy Fall Semester providing technical theater support to a variety of events in both the high school's Grady Theater as well as the KPMS Auditorium. In addition to the bi-weekly School Committee meetings, GAPS Senior Technicians Nick Mandel, Aeryn Masterson, and Brady Collins, along with Technical Supervisor (and KP graduate) Nicholas Sorel, provided lighting and audio support to the October 20th national book launch extravaganza of Mr. Jeff Kinney's latest Diary of a Wimpy Kid volume, Hot Mess, which was performed in the Grady Theater. The day after Mr. Kinney's book launch, the GAPS staff provided lighting and audio support for Wrentham's Special Fall Town Meeting on Monday, Oct. 21st, also in the Grady Theater. In spite of the abrupt shift in events, the GAPS staff provided their customary excellent technical support for the town meeting.

Clubs

Health Club

The health club is hosting meetings and looking for more members interested in healthcare. The next meeting is November 21st in the library after school.

Debate Club

Next Debate Club meeting will be on Monday, November 18th in Room 205! All are welcome to join!

Class of 2025

The Class of 2025 is hosting a Cookie Dough/Cake Roll fundraiser to support their plans for senior year activities like Senior Supper, prom, senior trip, etc. These make great holiday gifts or treats! Paper orders forms need to be returned by 12/1 and digital sales are available through 12/3. Items that must be refrigerated will be delivered on 12/16 and sent home with students to distribute.

Business National Honors Society

The King Philip Business Honor Society's 30 members will be led this school year by juniors Mya McCormick and Jett Tucker. The leadership roles of President and Vice President were awarded based on a merit system considering contributions made to King Philip throughout high school. Congratulations to Mya and Jett!

KP Cares

KP Cares is hosting multiple events to give back to the community currently, and especially for the holiday season! On November 14 they sorted donations for the women's shelter for delivery and raked leaves for the Norfolk Senior Center on the 15th. KP Cares is also getting ready to put up their annual giving tree. The tree will hold "ornaments" with the wishes of KP families needing some assistance during the holiday season. Keep a look out for announcements.

Student Council

StuCo partnered with DECA in hosting a sock drive benefiting Cradles to Crayons. . During the Norfolk Town Meeting last week, students watched over children while their parents attended the meeting. Several students also attended an MASC project management workshop this past weekend at the MASC headquarters. Additional

events are in the works for late November and early December planning such as a S'mores & Game Night and Babysitting Night coming soon.

Follow the following social media accounts--@kpcare, @kpstuco, @kphighschool, @kphsathletics and Arbiter Live for sports schedules.



King Philip REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: King Philip Regional School District School Committee

From: Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent of Schools

Date: November 18, 2024

Re: Superintendent's Update

Norfolk Temporary Respite Shelter Update

Last week of November 12th we had 1 student from the Norfolk shelter leave our school system (net -1 student that week). Then for this week of November 18th we had 3 new students from the Norfolk shelter enroll in our school district and 1 student leave (net +2 students that week). So as of now, we have a total of 8 students from the Norfolk Temporary Respite Shelter being educated in our school district (4 high school students and 4 middle school students). As you know, we update our enrollment of students from the shelter once a week and any new students start with us once a week on a Monday.

MCAS

As a reminder, I sent this [letter](#) to families (and staff) last Tuesday, Nov, 12th, as it relates to Ballot Question 2 and the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exam. The question asked voters whether students should be able to graduate high school without achieving a certain competency on the MCAS exam. Since the question passed, MCAS testing competency will no longer be a requirement for students to graduate high school. According to guidance provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the earliest the law will take effect is Dec. 5, 2024. Unless the State legislature takes a different course of action, students in Massachusetts public high schools will now be required to meet only local requirements to earn a diploma, beginning with this Class of 2025. We will await guidance from the state about the implementation of this change in the law. Although MCAS testing competency will no longer be a requirement for students to graduate high school, high school students will still need to earn a Competency Determination (CD) in order to graduate. Since 2003, the CD has been based on achieving qualifying scores on relevant MCAS tests. When

the new law takes effect, the Competency Determination (CD) will be based on "satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district," as written in the ballot question. Guidance on "certification" by districts will be forthcoming from DESE. The passing of this ballot question does not eliminate MCAS testing. State testing is federally mandated, so all King Philip students will continue to take the MCAS exams on the current state schedule, including in grades 7, 8, and 10. The standard for high school graduation is now determined by individual districts rather than by the state. Students must still complete all district graduation requirements. The district will review current graduation requirements and may modify its plan to ensure all students are prepared for success post-graduation.

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to Visit KP Schools Soon

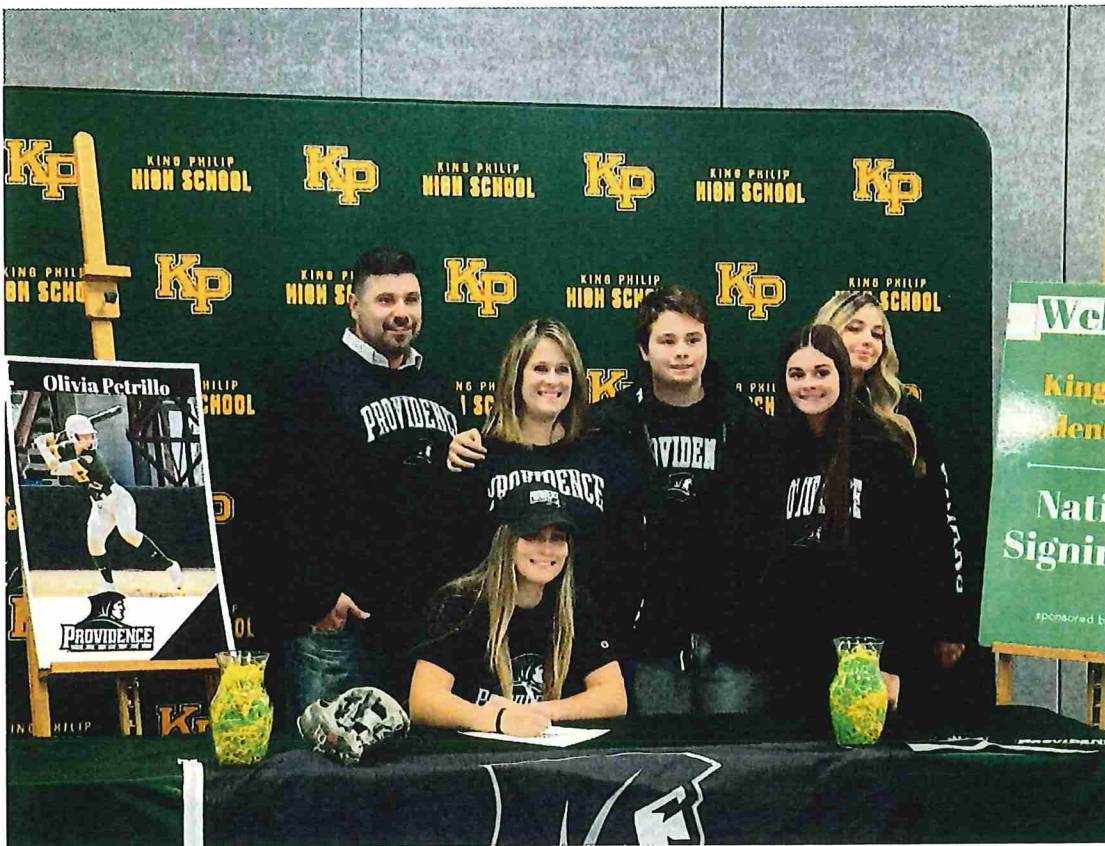
[MSBA](#) will be doing King Philip's "School Survey" and site visits in the coming weeks, which was originally scheduled for Nov. 19th at KPHS and Nov. 20th at KPMS (they postponed last week). The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) conducts a periodic "School Survey" to assess the condition of public schools in Massachusetts, typically occurring every few years, with the most recent surveys happening in 2005, 2010, and 2016; meaning they do not assess each school every year, but rather perform a comprehensive evaluation on a cyclical basis to inform their grant program. I will meet with MSBA's assessors they have contracted with from [STV Inc.](#), as will Principal Bottomley at KPHS and Principal Kreuzer at KPMS, Mr. Azer, Facilities Manager Joe Zahner, and also our head custodian at each building. Here is a [list of questions](#) that the assessor will ask, which were made available in advance to help our staff prepare for a successful and efficient assessment. When Mr. Azer and Mr. Zahner meet with the assessors, the assessors will review the survey responses with our team and input the data at that time. After completion of the assessments in our district, MSBA and STV Inc. should be reaching back out to us to request our assistance to confirm that the collected data is accurate and reflects our proper information.

Fall Athletic Signing Day for KPHS Seniors

Last Thursday, Nov. 14th, at KPHS our King Philip Athletic Department recognized 14 student athletes who will be competing at the collegiate level. These student athletes will be playing baseball, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball across Division I, II and III next year. The student athletes honored at the ceremony are Cameron Hassenfus (Wheaton College), Olivia Petrillo (Providence College), Dani Lomuscio (Stonehill College), Rhianna Mason (Virginia Wesleyan University), Addyson Lamothe-Vaughn (Iona College), Mikayla Thompson (Iona College), Makenzie McDevitt (Boston University), Emily Heslin (Westfield State University), Abby MacDonald (Endicott College), Sammy Cloutier (Southern New Hampshire University), Ally Pochay (Hartwick

College), Fiona Bailey (Plymouth State University), Sierra King (Stonehill College) and Allie Cecere (Plymouth State University). Thanks for all the support of our KP Sports Boosters and Wrentham Cable 8 for making this a special event for our amazing student athletes. I would also like to acknowledge our Athletic Director Gary Brown and KPHS Principal Nicole Bottomley for helping to organize such a wonderful event and celebrate our top-notch student athletes. Below are some photos from the event.





final

File: IHAMA - SEX EDUCATION NOTIFICATION

In accordance with General Laws [Chapter 71, Section 32A](#), the King Philip Regional School Committee has adopted this policy on the rights of parents and guardians of our students in relation to curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues.

At the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians of students in our schools will be notified in writing via U.S. mail, email or written notification of the courses and curriculum, or whichever portion thereof, we offer that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. Each building principal will be responsible for sending the notice(s). Parents/guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the written notice at the time of enrollment. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each such notice to parents/guardians will provide a brief description of the curriculum covered by this policy and explicitly identify the topics of abortion, birth control, and laws regarding minors' access to reproductive healthcare when these topics are included in the curriculum, including class presentations and instructional school assemblies. The notice shall inform parents/guardians that they may:

1. Inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable. Parents/guardians may arrange with the Principal to review the materials at the school, and may also review them at other locations that may be determined by the Superintendent of Schools.
2. Exempt their child from the portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by signing and returning the notification to the principal and specifying that they "opt-out" of said portion of the curriculum (for example by checking off an "opt-out" check box).
3. Exempt their child from any portion (subset) of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a letter to the school Principal requesting such an exemption.

Any student who is exempted by the request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the principal concerning notice or access to instructional materials for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue. The Superintendent or designee will review the issue and give the parent/guardian a timely written decision within two weeks of the request. A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision may send a written request to the School Committee for review of the issue. The School Committee will review the issue and give the parent/guardian a timely written decision within four weeks of the request. A parent/guardian who is still dissatisfied after this process may send a written request to the Commissioner of Education for review of the issue in the dispute.

Approved by King Philip Regional School Committee: November 18, 2024

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1. Inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable. Parents/guardians may arrange with the Principal to review the materials at the school, and may also review them at other locations that may be determined by the Superintendent of Schools.
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1. Inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable. Parents/guardians may arrange with the Principal to review the materials at the school, and may also review them at other locations that may be determined by the Superintendent of Schools.
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PENDING Approval by King Philip Regional School Committee: November 4, 2024

File: IHAMA - SEX EDUCATION NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the law, the King Philip Regional School Committee has adopted this policy on the rights of parents and guardians of our students in relation to curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues.

At the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians of students in our schools will be notified in writing of the courses and curriculum we offer that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. The Superintendent of Schools will determine the administrator(s) responsible for sending the notice(s). Parents/guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the written notice at the time of enrollment. If the planned curricula change during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each such notice to parents/guardians will include a brief description of the curriculum covered by this policy, and will inform parents/guardians that they may:

1. Exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a letter to the school Principal requesting an exemption. Any student who is exempted by the request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment.
2. Inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable. Parents/guardians may arrange with the Principal to review the materials at the school, and may also review them at other locations that may be determined by the Superintendent of Schools.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, or exemption for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue. The Superintendent or designee will review the issue and give the parent/guardian a timely written decision, preferably within two weeks of the request. A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision may send a written request to the School Committee for review of the issue. The School Committee will review the issue and give the parent/guardian a timely written decision, preferably within four weeks of the request. A parent/guardian who is still dissatisfied after this process may send a written request to the Commissioner of Education for review of the issue in dispute.

The Superintendent of Schools will distribute a copy of this policy to each Principal by September 1 of each year.

SOURCE: MASC October 2016

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. [71:32A](#)

Reviewed: November 16, 2020

File: IMG - SERVICE AND THERAPY ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

The King Philip Regional School District acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a "service animal" in its school buildings, in classrooms, and at school functions, as required by the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its implementing regulations found at 28 CFR Part 35. The King Philip Regional School District also permits and supports the use of therapy dogs (henceforth referred to as comfort dogs) for the benefit of students, subject to the conditions of this Policy. The benefits of using a comfort dog in an educational setting include improved social skills, decreased anxiety, promotion of positive behavior, increased student engagement, and improved attendance.

Service Animals

A Service Animal is an animal that has been trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of an individual student with a disability. Only a dog may qualify as a service animal pursuant to Title II of the ADA. No other species of animal, whether wild or domestic, will be permitted in schools as a "service animal."

Requirements for a Service Animal:

1. The animal must be "required" by the individual with a disability.
2. The animal must be individually trained to do work or a task for the individual with a disability. The task performed by the service animal must address the following needs for the disabled individual: physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual and other mental disability.
3. Liability: Owners of service animals are liable for any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students, staff, visitors, and/or property. The student's parent or legal guardian will be required to sign a waiver of liability prior to the service animal coming to the school or to the school sponsored activity.
4. Ownership: The family/student is the sole owner of the service animal and is solely responsible for the animal.

Comfort Dogs

A Comfort Dog is a dog who has been trained to provide companionship, comfort and affection to help students improve their physical, social, emotional and/or cognitive functioning.

Procedure for Approval of a Comfort Dog:

1. Request/Approval: The Superintendent or building principal may approve at her/his sole discretion any request to have a comfort dog on school district property. Such approval may be rescinded at any time at the sole discretion of the Superintendent or building principal. Once approved, a plan for dog visits will be developed and implemented with the building principal.
2. Training and Registration: The handler shall submit proof of registration as a comfort dog handler for each comfort dog he/she intends to bring to the school district. Such

registration shall be from a therapy dog registering organization as determined by the building principal.

3. The Handler(s) must have an active CORI on file with the district.
4. Insurance: The handler will maintain insurance that covers the dog while it is acting as a comfort animal in the King Philip Regional School District.
5. License: The handler shall properly license the comfort dog with the appropriate municipality.
6. Ownership: The handler is the sole owner of the comfort dog and is solely responsible for the dog.

Health Considerations for Service and Comfort Animals:

1. Health and Vaccination: The family or handler of any service animal or comfort dog must provide annual proof that the animal is up to date on all its required vaccinations as determined by the animal's veterinarian, or, if such proof is not available, then as determined by the school district's veterinarian of choice. To provide the required proof, the animal's veterinarian must certify in writing, signed by him/her, that all vaccinations are current.
2. All animals must be spayed or neutered.
3. All animals must be treated for, and kept free of, fleas and ticks.
4. All animals must be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander.
5. The school district is responsible for providing a safe learning environment for students, teachers, and staff. If the presence of a service or comfort animal poses a health or safety risk to another member of the school community, as documented by a physician, the school will weigh the needs of all parties and will put forth a plan to provide reasonable accommodation. This scenario is most likely to be raised in the context of a severe, life-threatening allergy. The school district will assess each situation on a case-by-case basis and may exclude the service/comfort animal if the animal's presence poses a threat to the health, safety, and well-being of anyone who will potentially encounter the service or comfort animal.

To support positive and safe interactions while a service or comfort animal is in the King Philip Regional Schools, the following procedures must be adhered to:

1. Identification: While on King Philip Regional School District property, the service or comfort animal will be clearly distinguished as a service or comfort animal and will wear appropriate identification issued by the registering organization or handler identifying them as a service or comfort animal/registered handler.
2. Control: Service and comfort animals are required to remain with the student (service animal) or handler (comfort dog) and must always be on a harness or leash. The student/handler must always have control of the service/comfort animal while on school district property.

- a. Leash must be standard, non-retracting, and 6-foot or less in length.
 - b. Prong, choke, pinch, static, shock, or other correction collars are prohibited.
3. Supervision and Care: The student/handler shall be solely responsible for the supervision and humane care of the service/comfort animal, including feeding, exercising, and cleaning up after the service/comfort animal while on School District property. The School District is not responsible for providing any care or supervision to the service/comfort animal.
 - a. The school district is not responsible for providing an alternate staff member to walk a service or comfort animal or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
 - b. Students with service animals are expected to care for and supervise their animal. In the case of a young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to care for or supervise their service animal, the parent is responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal. Issues related to the care and supervision of service or comfort animals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the building administrator.
4. Authorized Area(s): The handler shall ensure that the comfort dog has access to only such areas of the school buildings or property that have been authorized by the Superintendent.
 - a. Therapy Animals are not allowed on school buses or any other district transportation without explicit approval of the Superintendent.
5. Dogs are the only Therapy Animal currently permitted. Any other Therapy Animal must be approved explicitly by the Superintendent prior to each visit.
6. Animal Waste
 - a. The Handler is responsible for the proper handling of any waste
 - b. All solid waste must be collected and removed from school property unless the building administration provides for proper onsite disposal
 - c. The custodial staff should be contacted if an animal creates waste in a school building or on external surfaces where additional remediation is necessary
 - d. The building principal, in conjunction with custodial/facilities staff, will provide procedures for proper disposal of any animal waste
 - e. The building principal, in conjunction with custodial/facilities staff, will designate a location on the property for the animal to defecate and urinate
 - f. All solid waste must be immediately collected and disposed of
7. Allergies and Aversions: The handler will remove the comfort dog to a separate area in such instances where a student or school employee who has allergies or an aversion to dogs is present.

8. Complaints or Issues: Issues or concerns related to animals in schools, including service animals, should be taken seriously and dealt with promptly to maintain a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Below are guidelines for addressing complaints or issues related to animals in school or school related settings.

- a. All issues or concerns should be reported immediately
- b. Students should report issues or concerns to a faculty or staff member
- c. Faculty or staff should report issues or concerns, including those reported to them, to the principal, or designee
- d. The building principal should be informed of all reported issues or concerns
- e. If any report involves the safety or wellbeing of students or staff:
 - If the report involves a Therapy Team, the team may be removed or asked to leave
 - If the report involves a service animal, the principal should be contacted to advise
- f. All issues or concerns must be reported to, and documented by, the building principal, Superintendent, or designee
- g. It is the responsibility of the building principal to ensure appropriate actions are taken to address substantiated issues or concerns
- h. Decisions or actions by the building principal may be appealed to the Superintendent

9. Exclusion and Removal: A service animal or comfort dog may be excluded or removed from School District property if a building principal determines any of the following:

- a. The animal is out of control and the animal's student/handler does not take effective action to control it.
- b. The animal is not housebroken.

References:

- ADA Service Animal Factsheet: <https://adata.org/factsheet/service-animals>
- Federal ADA Regulations and Standards: <https://adata.org/ada-law-regulations-and-design-standards>

Approved by King Philip Regional School Committee: November 18, 2024

Service and Therapy Animals in Schools

The King Philip Regional School District acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a “service animal” in its school buildings, in classrooms, and at school functions, as required by the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its implementing regulations found at 28 CFR Part 35. The King Philip Regional School District also permits and supports the use of therapy dogs (henceforth referred to as comfort dogs) for the benefit of students, subject to the conditions of this Policy. The benefits of using a comfort dog in an educational setting include improved social skills, decreased anxiety, promotion of positive behavior, increased student engagement, and improved attendance.

Service Animals

A Service Animal is an animal that has been trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of an individual student with a disability. Only a dog may qualify as a service animal pursuant to Title II of the ADA. No other species of animal, whether wild or domestic, will be permitted in schools as a “service animal.”

Requirements for a Service Animal:

1. The animal must be “required” by the individual with a disability.
2. The animal must be individually trained to do work or a task for the individual with a disability. The task performed by the service animal must address the following needs for the disabled individual: physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual and other mental disability.
3. Liability: Owners of service animals are liable for any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students, staff, visitors, and/or property. The student’s parent or legal guardian will be required to sign a waiver of liability prior to the service animal coming to the school or to the school sponsored activity.
4. Ownership: The family/student is the sole owner of the service animal and is solely responsible for the animal.

Comfort Dogs

A Comfort Dog is a dog who has been trained to provide companionship, comfort and affection to help students improve their physical, social, emotional and/or cognitive functioning.

Procedure for Approval of a Comfort Dog:

1. Request/Approval: The Superintendent or building principal may approve at her/his sole discretion any request to have a comfort dog on school district property. Such approval may be rescinded at any time at the sole discretion of the Superintendent or building principal. Once approved, a plan for dog visits will be developed and implemented with the building principal.
2. Training and Registration: The handler shall submit proof of registration as a comfort dog handler for each comfort dog he/she intends to bring to the school district. Such registration shall be from a therapy dog registering organization as determined by the building principal.
3. The Handler(s) must have an active CORI on file with the district.
4. Insurance: The handler will maintain insurance that covers the dog while it is acting as a comfort animal in the Seekonk Public Schools.
5. License: The handler shall properly license the comfort dog with the appropriate municipality.
6. Ownership: The handler is the sole owner of the comfort dog and is solely responsible for the dog.

Health Considerations for Service and Comfort Animals:

1. Health and Vaccination: The family or handler of any service animal or comfort dog must provide annual proof that the animal is up to date on all its required vaccinations as determined by the animal's veterinarian, or, if such proof is not available, then as determined by the school district's veterinarian of choice. To provide the required proof, the animal's veterinarian must certify in writing, signed by him/her, that all vaccinations are current.
2. All animals must be spayed or neutered.
3. All animals must be treated for, and kept free of, fleas and ticks.
4. All animals must be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander.
5. The school district is responsible for providing a safe learning environment for students, teachers, and staff. If the presence of a service or comfort animal poses a health or safety risk to another member of the school community, as documented by a physician, the school will weigh the needs of all parties and will put forth a plan to provide reasonable accommodation. This scenario is most likely to be raised in the context of a severe, life-threatening allergy. The school district will assess each situation on a case-by-case basis and may exclude the service/comfort animal if the animal's presence poses a threat to the health, safety, and well-being of anyone who will potentially encounter the service or comfort animal.

To support positive and safe interactions while a service or comfort animal is in the King Philip Regional Schools, the following procedures must be adhered to:

1. Identification: While on King Philip Regional School District property, the service or comfort animal will be clearly distinguished as a service or comfort animal and will wear appropriate identification issued by the registering organization or handler identifying them as a service or comfort animal/registered handler.
2. Control: Service and comfort animals are required to remain with the student (service animal) or handler (comfort dog) and must always be on a harness or leash. The student/handler must always have control of the service/comfort animal while on school district property.
 - a. Leash must be standard, non-retracting, and 6-foot or less in length.
 - b. Prong, choke, pinch, static, shock, or other correction collars are prohibited.
3. Supervision and Care: The student/handler shall be solely responsible for the supervision and humane care of the service/comfort animal, including feeding, exercising, and cleaning up after the service/comfort animal while on School District property. The School District is not responsible for providing any care or supervision to the service/comfort animal.
 - a. The school district is not responsible for providing an alternate staff member to walk a service or comfort animal or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
 - b. Students with service animals are expected to care for and supervise their animal. In the case of a young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to care for or supervise their service animal, the parent is responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal. Issues related to the care and supervision of service or comfort animals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the building administrator.
4. Authorized Area(s): The handler shall ensure that the comfort dog has access to only such areas of the school buildings or property that have been authorized by the Superintendent.
 - a. Therapy Animals are not allowed on school buses or any other district transportation without explicit approval of the Superintendent.
5. Dogs are the only Therapy Animal currently permitted. Any other Therapy Animal must be approved explicitly by the Superintendent prior to each visit.
6. Animal Waste
 - a. The Handler is responsible for the proper handling of any waste
 - b. All solid waste must be collected and removed from school property unless the building administration provides for proper onsite disposal
 - c. The custodial staff should be contacted if an animal creates waste in a school building or on external surfaces where additional remediation is necessary

- d. The building principal, in conjunction with custodial/facilities staff, will provide procedures for proper disposal of any animal waste
 - e. The building principal, in conjunction with custodial/facilities staff, will designate a location on the property for the animal to defecate and urinate
 - f. All solid waste must be immediately collected and disposed of
7. **Allergies and Aversions:** The handler will remove the comfort dog to a separate area in such instances where a student or school employee who has allergies or an aversion to dogs is present.
8. **Complaints or Issues:** Issues or concerns related to animals in schools, including service animals, should be taken seriously and dealt with promptly to maintain a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Below are guidelines for addressing complaints or issues related to animals in school or school related settings.
- a. All issues or concerns should be reported immediately
 - b. Students should report issues or concerns to a faculty or staff member
 - c. Faculty or staff should report issues or concerns, including those reported to them, to the principal, or designee
 - d. The building principal should be informed of all reported issues or concerns
 - e. If any report involves the safety or wellbeing of students or staff:
 - If the report involves a Therapy Team, the team may be removed or asked to leave
 - If the report involves a service animal, the principal should be contacted to advise
 - f. All issues or concerns must be reported to, and documented by, the building principal, Superintendent, or designee
 - g. It is the responsibility of the building principal to ensure appropriate actions are taken to address substantiated issues or concerns
 - h. Decisions or actions by the building principal may be appealed to the Superintendent
9. **Exclusion and Removal:** A service animal or comfort dog may be excluded or removed from School District property if a building principal determines any of the following:
- a. The animal is out of control and the animal's student/handler does not take effective action to control it.
 - b. The animal is not housebroken.

References:

- ADA Service Animal Factsheet: <https://adata.org/factsheet/service-animals>
- Federal ADA Regulations and Standards: <https://adata.org/ada-law-regulations-and-design-standards>

PENDING Approval by King Philip Regional School Committee: November 4, 2024

File: IMG - ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

No animal shall be brought to school without prior permission of the building Principal.

The King Philip Regional School District is committed to providing a high-quality educational program to all students in a safe and healthy environment.

School Principals, in consultation with the Health Services Providers in each building, shall utilize the Department of Public Health publication "Guidelines for Animals in Schools or on School Grounds" and review student health records to determine which animals may be allowed in the school building. The decision of the Principal shall be final.

Educational Program

Use of animals to achieve specific curriculum objectives may be allowed by the building Principal provided student health and safety is not jeopardized and the individual requesting that the animal be brought to school is responsible for adhering to the "Guidelines for Animals in Schools or on School Grounds" and any other conditions established by the Principal to protect the health and well-being of students.

Student Health

The health and well-being of students is the District's highest priority. Animals may cause an allergic reaction or otherwise impair the health of students. No animals may be brought to school or kept in the school, classroom, office or common area that may negatively impact the health of any student who must utilize that area. Animals that cause an allergic reaction or impair the health of students shall be removed from the school immediately so that no student shall have their health impaired and each student shall have full access to available educational opportunities.

Animals Prohibited from School

Rabies is a growing problem and any fur-bearing animal is susceptible to this very serious fatal disease. Infected animals can transmit this disease to students and staff. Based on the Massachusetts Departments of Health and Education recommendations the following animals are prohibited from schools within the King Philip Regional School District.

Wild Animals and Domestic Stray Animals - Because of the high incidence of rabies in bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes and other wild carnivores, these animals should not be permitted in school buildings under any circumstances (including dead animals).

Fur-Bearing Animals (pet dogs,* cats, wolf-hybrids, ferrets, etc.) - These animals may pose a risk for transmitting rabies, as well as parasites, fleas, other diseases and injuries.

Bats - Bats pose a high risk for transmitting rabies. Bat houses should not be installed on school grounds and bats should not be brought into the school building.

Poisonous Animals - Spiders, venomous insects and poisonous snakes, reptiles and lizards are prohibited for safety reasons.

***Exception: Guide, Hearing and Other Service Dogs or Law Enforcement Dogs** - These animals may be allowed in school or on school grounds with proof of current rabies vaccination.

Exceptions may be made with the prior approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

Service Animals (Guide or Assistance Dogs)

The King Philip Regional School Committee does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. The District will comply with Massachusetts law concerning the rights of persons with guide or assistance dogs and with federal law and will permit such animals on school premises and on school transportation.

For purposes of this policy, a "service animal includes any dog that has been individually trained to do the work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability." The regulations further state that "a public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with the disability."

Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that individuals with disabilities cannot perform themselves. Service animals are not pets. There are several kinds of service animals that assist individuals with disabilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, animals that:

- assist individuals who are blind or have severe sight impairments as "seeing eye dogs" or "guide dogs;"
- alert individuals with hearing impairments to sounds;
- pull wheelchairs or carry and pick-up items for individuals with mobility impairments; and
- assist mobility-impaired individuals with balance.

The District shall not assume or take custody or control of, or responsibility for, any service animal or the care or feeding thereof. The owner or person having custody and control of the animal shall be liable for any damage to persons, premises, property, or facilities caused by the service animal, including, but not limited to, clean up, stain removal, etc.

If, in the opinion of the School Principal or authorized designee, any service animal is not in the control of its handler, or if it is not housebroken, the service animal may be excluded from the school or program. The service animal can also be excluded if it presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school. The parent or guardian of the student having custody and control of the animal will be required to remove the service animal from District premises immediately.

If any student or staff member assigned to the classroom in which a service animal is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the animal, the person having custody and control of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by the Building Principal or designee and an alternative plan will be developed with appropriate District staff. Such plan could include the reassignment of the person having custody and control of the animal to a different classroom. This will also apply if an individual on school transportation suffers an allergic reaction. In this case, an alternate plan will be developed in coordination with appropriate school, District, and transportation staff including the involvement of the parents/guardian of the student.

When a student will be accompanied by a service animal at school or in other District facilities on a regular basis, such staff member, or such student's parent or guardian, as well as the animal's owner and any other person who will have custody and control of the animal will be required to sign a document stating that they have read and understood the foregoing.

The Superintendent of Schools or their designee shall be responsible for developing procedures to accommodate a student's use of an assistance animal in District facilities and on school transportation vehicles.

LEGAL REF.: 28 CFR, PART 35

SOURCE: MASC October 2016

Reviewed: November 16, 2020