



King Philip REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: King Philip Regional School District School Committee

From: Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent of Schools

Date: June 9, 2025

Re: Superintendent's Update

Norfolk Temporary Respite Shelter Update

As you know, on May 19th the state announced the Norfolk Temporary Respite Center would be closing as of July 31, 2025. This past month we saw a significant decrease in students residing at the Norfolk shelter, as most families from the Norfolk shelter with students in our schools have secured housing in other locations. Most of these students' families have understandably decided to keep their children in our schools to close out this 2024-2025 school year. We expect most of these students to be unenrolled from our King Philip Regional School District by the start of the 2025-2026 school year, because most of these students' families have secured more permanent housing located outside of our tri-town area. Any students remaining at the shelter as of July 31st will most likely be moved to a shelter in Lowell - these students would still be considered homeless (McKinney-Vento) and would have the right to attend our schools in the fall; however, they would most likely switch schools to Lowell, as the commute from Lowell to Norfolk or Wrentham is too long.

Spring Tri-Town Meetings

On May 14th I presented an overview of our King Philip Regional School District FY26 budget at the Norfolk Spring Town Meeting and their FY26 town budget was unanimously approved. On May 19th I attended the Plainville Spring Town Meeting and their budget was passed by a large majority (just two in opposition). And on June 2nd I attended the Wrentham Spring Town Meeting and their FY26 budget was unanimously passed.

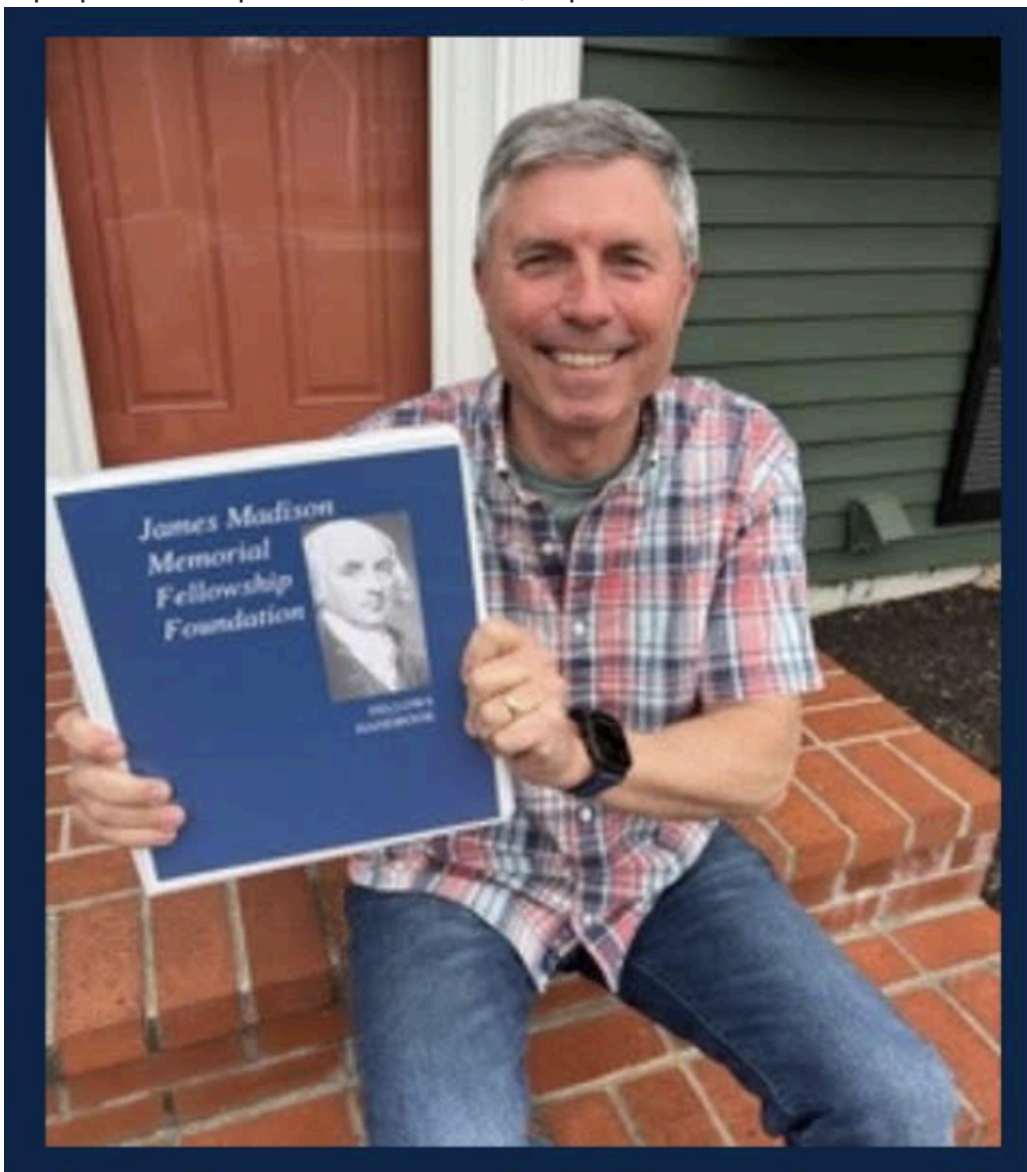
Dot Pearl YMCA Award

Congratulations to Ms. Dot Pearl (here tonight), Wrentham/Plainville/Norfolk/KP's Wellness Director, for earning the 2025 YMCA Tony Calcia Child Protection Award. Ms. Pearl received the award at the Hockomock Area YMCA Annual Meeting, which was held at Lake Pearl on May 14th. On behalf of KP and our tri-town districts, I can wholeheartedly say that Dot Pearl is a true hero who is often unsung. Dot has helped countless numbers of students and families in need in our tri-town area. Pictured below is Ms. Pearl receiving the award from Hockomock Area YMCA Executive Director Patrick Murphy.



KPHS Teacher Bauer Evans Earns James Madison Fellowship Award

Congratulations to Mr. Bauer Evans (here tonight), KPHS history and social studies teacher, for being chosen as this year's Massachusetts James Madison Graduate Fellowship award winner. The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation offers Graduate Fellowships to secondary school teachers in American History and Government who desire to more closely examine the origins and development of the U.S. Constitution, the evolution of political theory and constitutional law, the effects of the Constitution on society and culture in the United States, or other topics directly related to the Constitution. The fellowship includes the foundation's month-long Summer Institute at Georgetown and Marymount University in Washington, D.C. This is the 39th year of the Graduate Fellowship's existence. Its mission is to improve the teaching of the U.S. Constitution in secondary schools throughout the nation. Mr. Evans, who is also here tonight to propose the trip to Greece in 2027, is pictured below.



Active Minds Mental Health Awareness Event

On May 22nd KPHS hosted a memorable [Active Minds Mental Health Awareness event](#). A few of the Patriots players and a couple Patriots cheerleaders came together with our students to bring patches of personal significance, and openly address and discuss the important topic of mental health. Thanks again go to our Wellness Director, Dot Pearl, for coordinating the event along with Project 351, as well as all of our students who attended. And great job to Taliah, Madigan, Aiden, and Nakshatra, who were all featured in the linked WBZ video!

Senior Stroll

I want to thank Ms. Bottomley for coordinating, and everyone else who participated in and supported, our inaugural “**Senior Stroll**” on Friday morning, May 30th. It was an event filled with joy, happy tears, and appreciation for our preK-12+ educators and our senior students’ time throughout KP, Wrentham, Norfolk, and Plainville. Below are some pictures from this special event, which we plan to continue for all graduating senior students for many years to come.









Senior Awards Night

On June 5th I presented the Superintendent's Award (sponsored by M.A.S.S.) to four students who demonstrated kindness, perseverance, leadership, and distinguished academic performance and personal contributions to their high school. Congratulations go to Melyssa Botelho-Godoi, Addison Lewis, Sophia Collins, and Tony Sylvain!



KPHS Graduation June 8th

As you know, yesterday was King Philip Regional High School's Graduation. It was an honor and privilege to speak at the ceremony along with Mr. Lehan. I spoke about learning and joy in my introduction. Ms. Bottomley did a great job facilitating the graduation. Senior student Davonte Johnson was honored and his mom was awarded his diploma, which he had earned before he passed. Congratulations to all of our 2025 graduates! Next, we set our sights this summer toward preparing for the 2025-2026 school year.

