

**King Philip Regional School Committee
Minutes of October 15, 2025 –Approved
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lehan opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.
This meeting was recorded by Wrentham Cable 8.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk: Mr. Jim Lehan, Mr. Eric Harmon
Plainville: Mr. Greg Wehmeyer, Mr. Bruce Cates, Ms. Michele Sharpe
Wrentham: Mr. Joe Cronin, Ms. Erin Greaney, Cait Lanza (joined at 7:06 p.m.)

Members Absent:

Norfolk: Ms. Grace Lochhead
Plainville: Present
Wrentham: Present

STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Drolet and Ms. Bottomley recognized Ms. Rita Della Russo for 13 years of service to the King Philip District and presented her with a plaque.

DELEGATIONS and VISITORS

Dr. Rich Drolet, Ms. Jill Brilhante, Ms. Colleen Terrill, Ms. Nicole Bottomley, Ms. Ashley Cleverdon, Ms. Barbara Snead, Mr. Cody Michael, Ms. Rita DelloRusso, Ms. Mallory Flynn, Mr. Aarush Patlola, Mr. Logan Riley, Ms. Venessa Petit

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Draft Minutes from September 8, 2025
- Draft Minutes from September 22, 2025
- Payment of Bills/Warrants
- Communication

- A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the Consent Agenda, including the draft minutes from September 8, 2025, and September 22, 2025 as presented. All in favor: Yes (8) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Lanza; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 8-0-0.

AGENDA

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

The October 15, 2025 KPHS Student Council Report was read into the minutes by Ms. Ashley Cleverdon. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Drolet discussed the below topics:

- KPHS Superintendent Residency Week
- New Administrator Updates/Changes

A copy of the Superintendent's Update is attached to these minutes.

Dr. Drolet noted that The Education Cooperative (TEC) Quarterly Board of Directors update was included in tonight's packet; however, since it was not listed on the school committee agenda, it will be brought back to the committee on November 3rd to fulfill TEC's reporting requirement.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Ms. Terrill discussed the below topics

- Home School Students (see attachment)
- MassCUE
- Acushnet Visit
- MCAS Scores and 2024-2025 School/District Accountability Ratings (see attachment)
- Learning Walks
- Classroom Visit
- November 4 Full PD Day
- Competency Determination and Graduation Requirements

A copy of the Assistant Superintendent's Update is attached to these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

KP DECA State Level Competition Overnight Field Trip Request

Dr. Drolet explained that this field trip request was an oversight, as it was not included in the packet for the previous meeting when Mr. Dow presented the other DECA field trip requests. This request is for the KP DECA State Competition, scheduled to take place in the Boston Seaport District from March 10–12, 2026.

Dr. Drolet asked the committee for their approval. Mr. Cates noted that, since the trip is not until March, some information on the checklist is still incomplete—such as lodging arrangements, cost per student, and other details. The committee requested that the missing information be provided before approving the trip. Dr. Drolet will follow up with Mr. Dow to obtain the additional details and bring the request back to the committee at a future meeting. This item was tabled.

National Honor Society Overnight Field Trip Request

On behalf of Ms. Amy Remy, Mr. Cody Michael, middle school ELA teacher, provided a brief overview of the National Honor Society LEAD National Conference, which will be held from February 27–March 1, 2026, in Washington, D.C. Mr. Aarush Patlola and Mr. Logan Riley shared that they are developing a public speaking workshop to present at the national conference. They will first present their workshop at the state conference, gather feedback, and make adjustments before presenting at the national level. The students expressed their enthusiasm for the opportunity and hope to make the experience engaging and enjoyable, recognizing that public speaking can be intimidating for many students.

Seeing no further discussion from the Committee, Mr. Lehan called for a motion to approve.

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the National Honor Society Lead Conference/Overnight Field Trip Request from February 27, 2026-March 1, 2026 in Washington, DC. All in favor: Yes (8) Ms. Greaney, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Wehymeyer, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Cates, Mr. Cronin; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 8-0-0.**

MASC Annual State Leadership Conference-Student Council

Ms. Snead provided a brief overview of the Massachusetts Student Council Annual State Leadership Conference, which will be held from March 4–6, 2026, in Hyannis, MA. The conference features workshops and speakers from across the country. King Philip students have participated in this conference for many years.

Seeing no further discussion from the Committee, Mr. Lehan called for a motion to approve.

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cronin, to approve the MASC Annual State Leadership Conference/Overnight Field Trip Request from March 4, 2026-March 6, 2026 in Hyannis, MA. All in favor: Yes (8) Ms. Greaney, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Wehymeyer, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Cates, Mr. Cronin; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 8-0-0.**

IKFE-Competency Determination-First Read

Dr. Drolet explained that last year the School Committee voted on changes to the graduation requirements following the state's decision to eliminate MCAS as a graduation requirement. That change applied to the Class of 2025. The current update pertains to the Class of 2026 and potentially to future classes, depending on whether the state mandates additional revisions.

He noted that by December 31, 2025, every district in the state must adopt not only a graduation requirement policy (IKF) but also a new policy (IKFE), which separates the competency determination measure from the graduation requirements. The competency determination policy applies to all students by the end of 10th grade, while the graduation requirements policy applies to students by the end of 12th grade.

This new policy must be voted on by the School Committee in order to meet the December 31, 2025 deadline. If additional time is needed, the Committee may hold a second reading at the next meeting.

Ms. Bottomley reviewed policy (IKF) and a new policy (IKFE) with the committee. She said this is very similar to last year when MCAS was no longer a graduation requirement. The state is still holding

students accountable for demonstrating the skills and standards that would have been assessed on the 2023 MCAS. Schools are expected to ensure this through both coursework and assessments.

Last year, the district determined that students would need to pass English 9 and English 10, Algebra and Geometry, and one science course typically Biology, Chemistry, or Physics, since those subjects were traditionally assessed through MCAS. Those changes were implemented last year to ensure that all students who graduated in June met the necessary requirements.

Over the summer, however, the state adjusted its process and asked districts to review not only course completion but also the final assessments within those courses. This represents a slight shift from last year's approach.

The bulk of the requirements remain the same, but this year the state asked districts to separate global graduation requirements (such as the number of years required in science, math, and physical education) into a district policy. While the overall graduation requirements have not changed, the *competency determination* now stands as its own policy.

Ms. Bottomley explained that satisfactory completion and full credit in English 9, English 10, Algebra I (as clarified by the state), Geometry, and one science course Physics, Biology, or Chemistry are required to meet competency determination. Beginning with the Class of 2027, one year of U.S. History I or II will also be required. While the district continues to require multiple years of social studies, the state only requires demonstration of mastery in either U.S. I or U.S. II.

She noted that the state has added a new requirement: students must now pass both the course overall and the final assessment within that course. This change addresses cases in which students earned a passing grade for the year but did not perform well on the final assessment. The state expects districts to include this language in their competency determination policy and to outline how students who pass the course but not the final assessment can still demonstrate mastery.

Schools across the state are collaborating on this process, with most adopting a full-year review model. This approach considers a student's performance on unit assessments and overall course progress to determine mastery, even if the final assessment score was not passing.

Ms. Bottomley noted that the unexpected state update will affect the Class of 2026 and stressed the need to approve the updated policies promptly to meet state requirements.

After some discussions, the committee requested to have a second read, and this item will be placed on the November 3rd agenda for approval. This would give the public time to give feedback if they so chose.

IKF-Graduation Requirements

Dr. Drolet clarified that the graduation requirements do not require a vote, as they are not changing. However, the competency determination is a state requirement and will need to be updated.

In addition, Dr. Drolet informed the committee that the state will require an additional new policy this year regarding middle school career and technical education, also needing approval by the school committee by a December 31, 2025 deadline.

NEASC Visit Accreditation

Ms. Bottomley provided an overview of the upcoming NEASC (New England Association of Schools & Colleges) Decennial Accreditation Visit, scheduled for December 8–10, 2025. The NEASC visiting committee, composed of volunteer educators, will conduct a comprehensive review of the school's progress since the Collaborative Conference held in October 2023.

She noted that the school completed an extensive self-assessment report during the 2022–2023 school year, evaluating key standards such as the Vision of the Graduate, course documentation, school climate, sense of belonging, and resource allocation. The Collaborative Conference team identified five priority areas for improvement, which have guided ongoing efforts in preparation for the upcoming visit.

During the Decennial Visit, committee members will conduct classroom observations, meet with staff and administrators, and review evidence of progress toward the identified priorities. The visit will conclude with a presentation of initial findings and recommendations to the school administration and faculty.

A timeline for school committee members to meet with the NEASC team will be forthcoming. Mr. Lehan recommended that one school committee representative from each town be available for this meeting.

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norfolk School Committee Representative:

No report

Plainville School Committee Representative:

Ms. Sharpe reported that students did a presentation called “Text Feature Surgery,” using text evidence to solve a case. She also shared highlights from a Grade 2 math collaboration activity, a professional development session on school safety, and a Title I Family Information Night. Additional updates included SRS DEED writing, a MARC presentation on relationships and bullying, and the return of Snug Tail Pet Therapy. The Superintendent reviewed her goals. Upcoming events include Early Release Day (October 22), PTO Trunk or Treat (October 26), Wood School Pumpkin Day (October 31), and the Jackson School Vocabulary Parade.

Wrentham School Committee Representative:

Ms. Greaney reported that the committee met last night. The meeting included an MCAS presentation, a budget review update, and a discussion noting that negotiations with the union are still ongoing. The WPS School Committee and education association jointly filed for mediation. There will be two events coming up next week. The Roderick School Building project community forum will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd. On October 23rd there will be a softball game-Wrentham Police Department vs. Wrentham Staff at 6:00pm at McMorrow Field.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lehan reminded everyone that the next school committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 3rd at **6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Lehan said that there will be a very brief executive session meeting on November 3rd as this is a teacher negotiation year and parameters will need to be set forth.

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

- **At 8:19 PM, a Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cronin to adjourn the meeting. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Harmon; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Mr. Lehan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Venessa Petit

Secretary to the School Committee

Documents presented on October 15, 2025

Agenda

Bills/Warrants

Draft Minutes from September 8, 2025

Draft Minutes from September 22, 2025

Student Council Report October 15, 2025

Superintendent's Update

Assistant Superintendent's Update

KP DECA State Level Competition Overnight Field Trip Request

National Honor Society Overnight Field Trip Request

MASC Annual State Leadership Conference Overnight Field Trip Request

IKFE-Competency Determination Policy

IKF-Graduation Requirements