



To: King Philip Regional School District School Committee

From: Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent of Schools

Re: Superintendent's Update

Date: February 9, 2026

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### **KP Girls Cross Country Recognition**

This past fall our girls cross country squad had a remarkable season. I would like to commend our Head Coach Lauren Farkash and Assistant Coach Jill Hindley Lawrence, as well as all of our standout student athletes. This is the first time our girls cross country team has won the Hockomock League since 1999. Many of our student-athletes, and our two coaches, have also moved on to have a successful winter track season, and we want to commend them this evening.





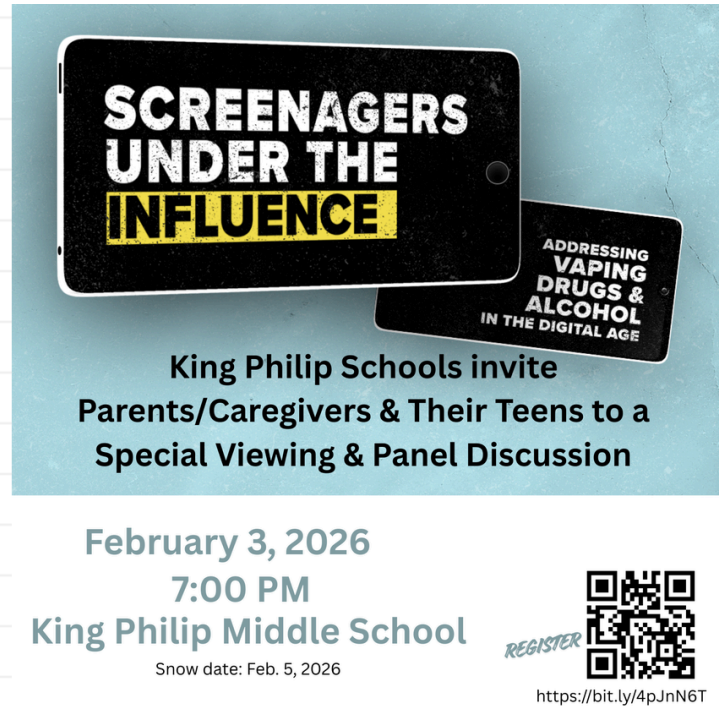
KPMS Project 351 Ambassadors Caitlyn Johnson, Olivia Dempsey, and Jesse Ferreira (left to right)

### **Project 351 Ambassadors**

This year's three Project 351 Ambassadors, who recently participated in their "Launch Day" over MLK Weekend, are Olivia Dempsey from Norfolk, Caitlyn Johnson from Wrentham, and Jesse Ferreira from Plainville. We have a large and incredibly supportive Project 351 alumni group at the high school that has continued to support and participate in Project 351. A few of them recently came down to speak with our 8th graders about the opportunity to be an ambassador. The founder and director of Project 351, Carolyn Casey, also reached out to us to share her personal excitement about this year's selection. She said, "KP has a legacy of transformational, grace-filled leadership at Project 351, and I am so grateful that Olivia, Caitlyn, and Jesse continue that legacy." As a reminder, Project 351 is a youth service nonprofit organization that develops youth leadership skills through leadership training and participation in service experiences. Thank you to Ms. McIntyre and Mr. Jones, who are both here tonight to support our students, again for taking the lead on the student selection process and for co-advising our Student Ambassadors group.

### **Screenagers - Under the Influence: Addressing Vaping, Drugs, & Alcohol**

Last week on the evening of February 3rd, our King Philip Middle School hosted a special screening of [\*Screenagers Under the Influence: Addressing Vaping, Drugs and Alcohol in the Digital Age\*](#).



The screening of the film was in the KPMS auditorium followed by a 30-minute panel discussion, facilitated by Dot Pearl, our Director of Wellness for Norfolk, Plainville, Wrentham, and King Philip Schools. I was able to be on the panel along with KPMS Assistant Principal Jay Donovan, Jen Knight-Levine from the SAFE Coalition, and a local children's clinical psychologist. About 20 parents and a handful of middle school students attended.

*Screenagers Under The Influence: Addressing Vaping, Drugs, and Alcohol in the Digital Age*, is the third feature documentary in the *Screenagers* trilogy, delving into how the tech revolution has reshaped adolescence and its effects on substance use. The film debunked myths and depicted strategies parents and schools can use to encourage healthy decision-making, support teen mental health, set limits, and create healthy home environments. The film includes many ways young people are using their wisdom and strength to help each other and themselves through this complicated terrain around substance use. The film is also grounded in teens' current reality of being flooded by images on social media, movies, and TV shows about vaping, drugs, and alcohol. Like the first two *Screenagers* films, *Screenagers Under The Influence* interweaves cutting-edge science with personal stories to create an informative and entertaining film experience for young people and adults alike. *Screenagers Under The Influence* focuses on practical solutions for keeping our teens safe in a changing world.



## **Superintendent Evaluation**

In starting to reflect on progress working toward my 2025-2026 superintendent goals this year, this is just a reminder that the School Committee completes my annual evaluation in February or March each year (prior to School Committee elections/any School Committee member changes). I emailed the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee (Mr. Cates, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Harmon) on January 15th to see if they wanted to meet to revisit the process we've used since I've been the superintendent, or see if they were amenable with us completing the process as we have in the past two years. As a result of their feedback, we will continue with the process we have recently utilized:

- I will submit self-reflections on progress towards my 2025-2026 superintendent goals to you by next Friday, February 13th
- I also submit self-reflections (and evidence) on my work toward certain "focus indicators" related to my goals and the four standards (Instructional Leadership, Management & Operations, Family and Community Engagement, Professional Culture) to you by next Friday, February 13th
- Here is a blank [Superintendent Evaluation Form](#) for you to individually complete electronically or written by hand, and then you can submit that form to Ms. Petit as the School Committee secretary (let Ms. Petit know if you would like a hard copy)
- Please complete and submit your individual School Committee member [Superintendent Evaluation Form](#) to Ms. Petit by Monday, March 2nd. She will then share the individual forms with School Committee Chair Lehan. Mr. Lehan as the Chair will then compile the individual forms gathered by Ms. Petit, and he will complete an overall rating (Exemplary, Proficient, Needs Improvement, or Unsatisfactory) with a summary for the full School Committee to vote on at the March 9th School Committee meeting

## **Unit B Collective Bargaining**

A collective bargaining session with Unit B (custodians and groundskeepers) will take place on Wednesday, March 4th from 4-7 PM in my office. I have already informed our Collective Bargaining Subcommittee (Mr. Lehan, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Greaney) of this date and time. Tonight will have an Executive Session for the School Committee to set parameters for these contract negotiations.