

**King Philip Regional School Committee
Minutes of February 9, 2026-Approved
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lehan opened the meeting at 7:04 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, Ms. Grace Lochhead
Plainville: Mr. Greg Wehmeyer, Mr. Bruce Cates, Ms. Michele Sharpe
Wrentham: Ms. Cait Lanza, Mr. Joe Cronin, Ms. Erin Greaney

Members Absent:

Norfolk: Present
Plainville: Present
Wrentham: Present

DELEGATIONS and VISITORS

Dr. Rich Drolet, Ms. Jill Brilhante, Ms. Colleen Terrill, Ms. Kyle Santos, Mr. Michael Bois, Mr. Aiden Shaughnessy, Ms. Lisa McIntyre, Mr. Sean Jones, Ms. Ashley Cleverdon, Coach Lauren Farkash, Assistant Coach Jill Hinley Lawrence, Girls Cross Country Team, Ms. Olivia Dempsey, Ms. Caitlyn Johnson, Mr. Jesse Ferreira, Ms. Nicole Bottomley, Ms. Michelle Kreuzer, Ms. Venessa Petit

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Lisa McIntyre, KPMS History Teacher and KPMS Students recognized school committee members for School Committee Appreciation month with thank you notes. On behalf of all the school committee members, Mr Lehan thanked Ms. McIntyre and the KPRSD students for their recognition this evening.

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Drolet recognized the KP Girls Cross Country Team and their coaches for an outstanding season, as the team won the Hockomock League Championship for the first time since 1999. Players and coaches were presented with certificates of recognition.

Dr. Drolet also recognized Project 351 Ambassadors Olivia Dempsey (Norfolk), Caitlyn Johnson (Wrentham), and Jesse Ferreira (Plainville) for their work with Project 351, a youth service nonprofit organization that develops leadership skills through training and participation in community service experiences. Mr. Jones and Ms. McIntyre presented the Ambassadors with certificates of recognition, and the students shared highlights of their experiences from launch day with the Committee.

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.

- Approval of Draft Minutes dated January 12, 2026
- 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 January 12, 2026 as presented. All in favor: Yes (9) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (taken out of order)

Coalition for Political Responsibility (CPR) Overnight Field Trip Request (Revision)

Dr. Drolet informed the Committee that there have been changes to the trip, including flying to Washington, D.C., instead of driving. The group will stay at the Courtyard by Marriott Fairfax Fair Oaks in Fairfax, Virginia. The total cost has increased slightly due to airfare.

Seeing no further discussion, Mr. Lehan asked the Committee for a motion to approve the revised request.

- **A motion was made by Mr. Harmon and seconded by Mr. Cronin to approve the revised overnight field trip request for the CPR student group to attend Washington, D.C., March 22-25, 2026, as presented. All in favor: Yes (9) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

KP DECA-State Level Competition Overnight Field Trip Request (Updated 2-2-26)

Dr. Drolet informed the Committee that additional information is now available regarding the DECA State Level Competition overnight field trip request. Mr. Dow said that 160 students will attend the trip, staying at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. The group will depart on March 12 and return on March 14.

Ms. Greaney asked Mr. Dow to clarify the dates, noting that the request should be amended to reflect March 12–March 14. Mr. Lehan then asked the Committee for a motion to approve the updated request.

- **A motion was made by Mr. Harmon and seconded by Mr. Cronin to approve the updated overnight field trip request for the KP DECA student group to attend the DECA State Level Competition in Boston, MA, from March 12–14, 2026, as presented. All in favor: Yes (9) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Ashley Cleverdon, on behalf of the entire student body, thanked the School Committee members for the leadership, guidance, and care they bring to every decision that is made. Ms. Cleverdon then read the February 9, 2026 KPHS Student Council Report.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- KP Girls Cross Country Recognition (taken out of order)
- Project 351 Ambassadors (taken out of order)
- Screenagers-Under the Influence: Addressing Vaping, Drugs, & Alcohol
- Superintendent Evaluation (a discussion was held later in the meeting)
- Unit B Collective Bargaining (a discussion was held later in the meeting)

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

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Credit for Life Fair
- ELPAC Meeting
- Tri-Town PD Afternoon
- Tri-Town Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Dinner Series

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

FY26 BUDGET UPDATE-QUARTER 2

Ms. Brilhante provided an overview of the FY26 Budget Update (Q2) to the Committee, summarizing financial activity through February 6, 2026. This point in the year marks the midpoint of the FY26 school year. When compared to the same time last year, spending patterns remain similar. Year-to-date expenses and commitments account for approximately 93% of the total budget, which is consistent with prior years. The district will continue to monitor expenditures closely while also identifying opportunities for the strategic use of funds should any potential turnback occur as the year progresses. A detailed breakdown of salary and expense line items, encompassing the 1000 through 9000 series, is included in Ms. Brilhante's report, which is attached to these minutes.

REQUEST FOR BUDGET TRANSFERS

Ms. Brilhante noted that, as part of the ongoing review of budget activity, areas where adjustments to allocations are expected to result in unexpended funds. Specifically, savings have been identified within the 9000 series due to School Choice and Charter School tuition costs coming in below the originally budgeted amounts, as well as in the 2000 series related to salary expenditures.

These available funds may be strategically repurposed to address emerging district needs and priorities. Such reallocation would enable the district to advance certain capital projects originally planned for FY27 and to support accounts associated with previously approved expenses, including facility assessments and the restoration of a high school custodian position.

The proposed reallocation includes the following items:

- Replacement of aging music instruments
- Theatre improvements (KPMS & KPHS)
- Facilities Conditions Assessment
- High school custodian half-year salary
- Athletic budget shortfall

- Middle & high school custodian salaries

A copy of this report is included in these minutes.

Following a brief discussion with Committee members, Dr. Drolet stated that the district increased the athletics budget by \$227,000 last year and is proposing an additional \$100,000 increase for FY27. He explained that the goal is to achieve a true 70/30 cost split, with the district covering 70% of expenses and parents contributing 30% through user fees. He noted that the district will review the funding structure again next year, and if the 70/30 balance is not achieved, additional increases to user fees may be necessary. Without corrective action, the current model would not be sustainable. The district is working to address and correct athletics funding practices.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Lehan asked the Committee for a motion.

- **A motion was made by Mr. Cates and seconded by Mr. Cronin to approve the transfer of funds as outlined below: All in favor: Yes (9) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

DECREASE-Total \$460,500

Salary Series

Decrease budget 2000 Series by: \$288,233

Non-Salary Series

Decrease budget 9000 Series by: \$172,267

INCREASE-Total \$460,500

Salary Series

Increase budget 3000 Series by: \$98,500

Non-Salary Series

Increase budget 2000 Series by: \$77,000

Increase budget 3000 Series by: \$110,000

Increase budget 4000 Series by: \$175,000

FY27 BUDGET PLANNING

SUPERINTENDENT'S FY27 DRAFT BUDGET UPDATE:

The Superintendent presented a budget narrative on the FY27 draft budget to the Committee.

- Introduction
- Chapter 70 State Funding for our King Philip Regional School District
- Overall Financial Picture for King Philip
- Positions Being Reduced/Eliminated in FY27
- Positions Being Restored/Added in FY27

- Continued Cost Increases for Athletics
- Excess & Deficiency
- Looking Forward to FY28 and Beyond
- Gratitude for King Philip School Committee and Tri-Town Support

A copy of the Superintendent's FY27 draft budget narrative is attached to these minutes and will also be posted on the website.

FY 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

Ms. Brilhante presented the FY27 Proposed Budget to the Committee. These enrollment percentages are used to allocate costs above the required local contribution.

Ms. Brilhante provided an update on enrollment trends and the FY2027 budget projections.

Enrollment Update:

The total enrollment for the King Philip Regional School District as of October 1, 2025 was:

- Norfolk: 660 students (36.85% of total enrollment)
- Plainville: 458 students (25.57% of total enrollment)
- Wrentham: 673 students (37.58% of total enrollment)

Current enrollment data indicates that Norfolk's student population is now nearly equal to that of Wrentham. A five-year comparison reflects a steady overall decrease in district enrollment, declining from 1,906 students in 2022 to 1,791 students at present.

Dr. Drolet noted that King Philip's Foundation enrollment for this year is 1,855 students, compared to the actual enrollment of 1,791. Foundation enrollment includes charter schools, school choice out, and virtual choice out.

Revenue Projections:

- **District Revenue (FY27):**
The projected district revenue totals \$350,000, reflecting a \$50,000 decrease from the prior year's budget due to declining interest rates.
- **State Aid (FY27):**
The projected State Aid total is \$9,324,240, reflecting a \$91,391 variance from the prior year budget. These projections are based on the Governor's budget released on January 28, 2026. Chapter 70 funding includes a minimum increase of \$75 per pupil. Transportation reimbursement is projected at 87%.
- **Total Revenue (FY27):**
The total FY27 revenue projection is \$43,184,423, representing a (\$7,933) variance from the prior year budget.

State Aid dropped from 25.6% of total revenue in FY2018 to only 21.6% in FY2027, a shift of more than \$1.7 million largely being absorbed by Member Town Assessments.

Proposed FY2027 Budget:

The proposed FY2027 budget totals \$43,184,424, reflecting a decrease of (\$144,271) from the FY2026 budget of \$43,328,695.

Ms. Brilhante provided the Committee with an overview of the FY2027 budget drivers and strategic offsets. The FY 2027 Member Town Assessments are:

Norfolk	\$12,041,299
Plainville	\$ 8,068,912
Wrentham	\$12,382,943

A copy of the FY 2027 Proposed Budget presentation, along with the breakdown of the FY2027 Member Town Assessments, is attached to these minutes for reference.

Dr. Drolet requested that the Committee engage in a discussion and provide direction regarding the potential use of additional Excess and Deficiency (E&D) funds in this year’s budget. Three options were presented for consideration: utilizing \$400,000, \$450,000, or \$500,000 in E&D funds.

Under the third proposal, which would allocate \$500,000 in E&D, the resulting impact would be a savings of approximately \$25,000 for Plainville and approximately \$37,000 each for Norfolk and Wrentham from the remaining \$100,000.

After discussions among Committee members, it was determined that the Committee would move forward at this time with the proposal to use \$400,000 in E&D funds.

The public budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation to accept quote from Custom Computer Specialist Inc. for computer equipment

Ms. Brilhante stated that the district solicited bids for computer equipment. A total of four companies submitted proposals, and a bid tabulation outlining the submissions was included in the packet for members’ review.

The lowest bid was received in the amount of **\$117,392.40**. Based on the evaluation of the bids, her recommendation is to award the contract to **Custom Computer Specialist, Inc.**

The purchase includes replacement of Galaxy devices, Chromebooks, HP Chromebooks, and ASUS Chromebooks.

- **A motion was made by Mr. Cates and seconded by Mr. Harmon, to approve the quote from Custom Computer Specialist Inc. in the amount of \$117,392.40 for computer equipment as presented. All in favor: Yes (9) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

Ms. Brillhante informed the Committee that new scoreboards for the football field and the wood gym at the high school have been ordered and are expected to arrive in approximately 12 weeks. The Committee had previously approved this purchase.

KPHS Proposed Program of Studies 2026-2027

Ms. Bottomley provided a summary of the proposed Program of Studies. She explained that the review process includes examining the overall procedures outlined in the document, as well as considering any newly proposed courses.

She noted that there are minimal changes to the overall procedures described in the opening pages. Updated visuals reflecting the district's Vision of a Graduate have been incorporated. Additionally, a description of the district's collaboration with The Education Collaborative (TEC) and the online courses offered through that partnership has been added. Information regarding Innovative Career Pathways (ICP) has also been included.

Ms. Bottomley stated that there are minor revisions throughout the Program of Studies, including some course title changes and the addition of a few new courses.

She further explained that the district is continuing its focus on expanding quarter- and semester-long course offerings. Increasing these shorter-term options will provide greater flexibility in students' schedules, allowing them to enroll in elective courses that may not have previously fit into a full-year schedule. This shift is expected to expand opportunities for students moving forward.

- **A motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cronin, to approve the high school program of studies for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. All in favor: Yes (9) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

2026-2027 School Calendar-Draft (First Read)

Dr. Drolet reported that he worked closely with the elementary school districts in developing the school calendar. He noted that all four districts will share a full-day professional development session on November 4 and a half-day professional development day on January 27.

Dr. Drolet also informed the Committee that he will return to request an amendment to the calendar once a date has been finalized for parent-teacher conferences, which will be scheduled for one evening.

Mr. Cates stated that he would prefer to vote on the calendar at the next meeting to allow parents an opportunity to provide feedback. The Committee agreed to table the item until the next meeting.

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Superintendent Evaluation

Dr. Drolet returned to his Superintendent's Update to continue with this agenda item.

Collective Bargaining

Dr. Drolet returned to his Superintendent's Update to continue with this agenda item. A collective bargaining session with Unit B will take place on Wednesday, March 4th from 4-7 PM in the Superintendent's Office.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norfolk School Committee Representative:

Ms. Lochhead informed the Committee that their meeting is tomorrow.

Plainville School Committee Representative:

Ms. Sharpe, who was unable to attend the previous meeting, referenced discussion from the meeting prior, during which the Committee worked extensively on the budget. She noted that the process was particularly challenging, as many positions are likely being reduced for the upcoming year.

Wrentham School Committee Representative:

Ms. Greaney reported that the School Committee ratified the agreement with Units A and B.

The Committee also reviewed the FY26 budget pressures related to transportation and the out-of-district special education clause. As a result of these concerns, a temporary pause on spending for the current fiscal year was implemented.

Additionally, the Committee received updates on its goals and on the Roderick School's building project.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- **At 8:56pm, a motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cronin, to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Sec. 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. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Lehan, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cates, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0.**

Mr. Lehan said the committee will reconvene in Open Session if a vote is necessary.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

- **At 9:03 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cronin to reconvene in Open Session. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Lehan, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cates, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0.**

Mr. Lehan asked the committee for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreements between the King Philip Regional School Committee and the King Philip Teachers Association Units A,B,C & D regarding early retirement incentives as presented..

A motion was made by Mr. Harmon and seconded by Mr. Cronin to approve the Memorandum of Agreements between the King Philip Regional School Committee and the King Philip Teachers Association Units A,B, C & D regarding early retirement incentives as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Lehan, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cates, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **At 9:04pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cronin to adjourn the meeting. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Lehan, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cates, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0.**

Mr. Lehan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mrs. Venessa Petit
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents presented on February 9, 2026:

Agenda
Draft Minutes from January 12, 2026
Bills/Warrants
Stuco Report February 9, 2026
Superintendent's Update
Assistant Superintendent's Update
FY26 Budget Update-Quarter 2
Budget Transfers
FY27 Budget Planning
CPR Overnight Field Trip Request-Revision
DECA State Level Competition Overnight Field Trip Request
Accept Quote from Custom Computer Specialist Inc.
KPHS Proposed Program of Studies 2026-2027
2026-2027 School Calendar-Draft
MOA between KPRSC and KPTA (Units A,B,C & D)-ERI