

**King Philip Regional School Committee
Minutes of April 27, 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 7:00 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, Ms. Grace Lochhead
Plainville:	Mr. Bruce Cates, Ms. Michele Sharpe
Wrentham:	Ms. Cait Lanza, Ms. Veronica Gonzalez

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	All Present
Plainville:	All Present
Wrentham:	Ms. Erin Greaney

DELEGATIONS and VISITORS

Dr. Rich Drolet, Ms. Jill Brilhante, Ms. Colleen Terrill, Ms. Kyle Santos, Mr. Michael Bois, Ms. Katie Harlow, Ms. Barbara Snead, Ms. Venessa Petit

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Drolet and Mr. Lehan recognized Ms. Grace Lochhead for her service to the King Philip School Committee over the past year as the Norfolk Representative. Ms. Lochhead was presented with a plaque in appreciation of her contributions.

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 March 23, 2026
- Draft Minutes from April 6, 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 March 23, 2026 and April 6, 2026 as presented. All in favor: Yes (7) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Cates, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Sharpe; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 7-0-0.**

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

The April 6, 2026 KPHS Student Council Report was submitted by Ms. Ashley Cleverdon and read into the minutes by Ms. Katie Harlow. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Dr. Drolet expressed his appreciation to Ms. Katie Harlow for her efforts in organizing Field Day, one of the year's most anticipated events.

Mr. Lehan welcomed Ms. Veronica Gonzalez to the KP School Committee as a member from Wrentham. He also welcomed Ms. Michele Sharpe back to the KP School Committee as an official KP School Committee member from Plainville.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Facilities Condition Assessment Update
- New KPMS Assistant Principal for 2026-2027
- MSBA Roof Replacement Projects for KPRMS and KPRHS
- KPHS Head Football Coach Brian Lee
- TEC and BI-Co Quarterly Updates (Q3)

Dr. Drolet shared that at the next meeting he will bring forward a recommendation for the Committee to approve June 16th as an early release day. Due to a World Cup game at Gillette Stadium, and in consultation with local elementary school superintendents and police chiefs, an early release is recommended to help avoid traffic congestion and prevent buses and other drivers from experiencing possible significant delays.

Mr. Harmon asked whether half of the \$375,000 design cost would be reimbursed. Dr. Drolet indicated he believed it would be and that he would double-check with MSBA. Mr. Harmon also inquired about the budget year in which the roof replacement would take effect if it were voted through, noting Norfolk's discussions regarding Tri-County debt exclusions. Dr. Drolet explained that the project would be brought forward for a vote at the spring town meetings next year in 2027 for roof replacements at both schools. If approved, the towns would likely be assessed for the roof replacement projects in FY29 and not in time for the FY28 assessment; however, Dr. Drolet said he would find out from MSBA.

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

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Career Fair
- ICP (Innovation Career Pathway) Update
- Professional Learning Afternoon
- Learning Walks
- ELPAC Meeting

Dr. Drolet recognized Ms. Terrill for her work in writing and collaborating on several grants that provided funding for both equipment and part-time personnel.

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

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS UPDATE

- FY26 Budget Update

Ms. Brilhante reported that the budget continues to trend positively, with no significant concerns at this time. With the completion of the third quarter, she is in the process of preparing the quarterly financial reports. As the district enters the fourth quarter, she noted that the standard practice of closely monitoring and analyzing expenditures will continue. This includes benchmarking current spending against prior fiscal years to identify any variances or areas that may require attention. Based on a review of monthly reports, expenditures are generally in line with expectations across most budget categories. The district anticipates a favorable turnback of funds in select areas and will evaluate opportunities to reallocate those funds toward priority capital projects. These potential allocations will be presented for discussion at the KP Finance Subcommittee meeting on May 14. Revenue projections also remain consistent with expectations at this time.

- FY27 State Budget

Ms. Brilhante reported that on April 15, the House Ways and Means Committee released its budget proposal, marking the next step in the state budget process following the Governor's initial proposal in January. She noted that updated cherry sheet figures are expected in the near future. The next phase will involve review and approval by the joint legislative committee, with the final state budget anticipated in June. She added that if there are any increases in funding, recommendations for the use of those funds will be brought forward to the Committee, consistent with the approach taken last year for FY26.

- Business Office Staff Update

Ms. Brilhante reported that the Business Office is now fully staffed. Ms. Ann King has transitioned into the Staff Accountant position following her promotion from Finance Coordinator. Ms. Kristen Valorie has joined the team as Finance Coordinator and is performing very well in her role. Ms. Brilhante has begun working with Ms. King on her expanded responsibilities. She noted that this transition is expected to strengthen internal controls, improve oversight, and allow her to focus more fully on broader strategic and operational responsibilities related to finance and operations. Ms. Brilhante expressed appreciation for the Committee's continued support of the team.

- Paypal to My School Bucks

Ms. Brilhante reported that the transition from PayPal to MySchoolBucks for most online payments has been successfully completed, and PayPal is now closed. She will continue working with the vendor to fully implement and optimize the platform's capabilities. The goal is to develop MySchoolBucks into a comprehensive, user-friendly solution for both families and staff, with full implementation of online payments planned for the new school year. This transition is expected to improve efficiency for student advisors and streamline the reconciliation of the district's various programs. Ms. Brilhante will continue to keep the Committee informed as functionality is expanded and additional features are rolled out.

Dr. Drolet recognized Ms. Brilhante, Ms. Rowe, and others for their collaborative efforts in transitioning accounts from PayPal to MySchoolBucks. He also commended Ms. Brilhante for her proactive approach in identifying and reducing additional costs and fees the district was incurring when issuing refunds with PayPal.

National School Lunch Hero Day

Ms. Brilhante shared that on Friday, May 1, the district will recognize the outstanding School Nutrition team for their hard work and dedication in preparing healthy meals and fostering a welcoming cafeteria environment for students. She noted that both schools do an exceptional job in supporting students each day and encouraged everyone to take a moment to thank the lunch staff for their continued commitment to student health and well-being.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

FY27 The Education Cooperative Appointment (TEC)-Annual Vote

Dr. Drolet informed the committee that an annual vote is needed to appoint a representative to the TEC Board of Directors. This representative may either be the Superintendent or Chair of the school committee. Dr. Drolet asked for a motion for this appointment. Seeing no further comments, a recommendation was brought forward.

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Harmon, to appoint Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent, to serve as the King Philip Regional School District's representative to The Education Cooperative Board (TEC) for the 2026-2027 school year. All in favor: Yes (7) Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lochhead, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Gonzalez; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 7-0-0.**

FY27 Bi-County Collaborative Appointment (BICO)-Annual Vote

Dr. Drolet informed the committee that an annual vote is needed to appoint the superintendent as the designated representative to the Bi-County Collaborative Board for the 2026-2027 school year. Seeing no further comments, a motion was brought forward.

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Leahn, seconded by Mr. Harmon, to appoint Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent, to serve as the King Philip Regional School District's representative to the Board of Directors of Bi-County Collaborative (BICO) for the 2026-2027 school year. All in favor: Yes (7) Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lochhead, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Gonzalez; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 7-0-0.**

New Student Activities Club/Activity Request (Horticulture Club)

Ms. Brilhante informed the Committee that, as discussed at a previous School Committee meeting, all new student activity clubs require Committee approval. She noted that the Horticultural Club, which

raises funds through plant sales, has been very well received in the district. A vote is needed to formally approve this new student activity club. Seeing no further comments, a motion was made.

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the Horticultural Club Student Activities Account. All in favor: Yes (7) Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lochhead, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Gonzalez; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 7-0-0.**

DECA Donation (\$5,000)

Dr. Drolet requested a motion and approval from the Committee to accept a \$5,000 donation to the DECA program, given on behalf of the family and friends of Mr. Ronald Foster Ober, who passed away on March 10, 2026. Mr. Ober was instrumental in founding and advising the DECA program in 1971 and later served as Vice Principal at King Philip Regional High School.

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Ms. Gonsalves, to approve the \$5,000 donation to the DECA Program on behalf of the family and friends of Mr. Ronald Foster Ober. All in favor: Yes (7) Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lochhead, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Gonzalez; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 7-0-0.**

An acknowledgement of this donation will be sent to the family.

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norfolk School Committee Representative:

Ms. Lochhead shared that the Committee reviewed the budget year-to-date. She noted that a new building subcommittee will need to be established for the MSBA. She also provided a preview of the upcoming half-day on the second-to-last day of school due to the World Cup. The Committee will reorganize at the next meeting.

Plainville School Committee Representative:

Ms. Sharpe shared that the new Plainville School Committee representative should be determined within the next month. She also noted that Wood Elementary School students shared updates with the School Committee about their activities, including their experiences with tutoring and mentoring through the “Tutor Bar” program. The Committee also had their final vote on the budget.

Wrentham School Committee Representative:

No report.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Lehan mentioned that changes are needed to several upcoming School Committee meeting dates due to annual town meetings. The Committee agreed to update the schedule as follows: the meetings on May 4, May 18, and June 1 will be cancelled. Instead, meetings will be held on Thursday, May 14 and Tuesday, June 2. The final meeting of the year will take place on Monday, June 15.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **At 7:51pm, a motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cates to adjourn the meeting. All in favor: Yes (7) Mr. Cates, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lochhead, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Gonzalez; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 7-0-0.**

Mr. Lehan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Venessa Petit

Secretary to the School Committee

Documents presented on April 27, 2026:

Agenda

Draft Minutes from March 23, 2026

Draft Minutes from April 6, 2026

Bills/Warrants

Stuco Report April 27, 2026

Superintendent's Update

Assistant Superintendent's Update

FY27 The Education Collaborative Appointment (TEC)-Annual Vote

FY27 Bi-County Collaborative Appointment (BICO)-Annual Vote

Horticultural Club Student Activity Account

DECA Donation

