

**King Philip Regional School Committee
Minutes of February 25, 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 7:01 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, Ms. Grace Lochhead
Plainville:	Mr. Greg Wehmeyer, Mr. Bruce Cates, Ms. Michele Sharpe
Wrentham:	Ms. Cait Lanza, Ms. Erin Greaney

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Mr. Eric Harmon
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Mr. Joseph Cronin

DELEGATIONS and VISITORS

Dr. Rich Drolet, Ms. Jill Brilhante, Ms. Kyle Santos, Mr. Michael Bois, Ms. Ashley Cleverdon, Ms. Nicole Bottomley, Ms. Michelle Kreuzer, Ms. Venessa Petit, Mr. Jeff Johnson

FY27 KING PHILIP REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. Lehan asked for a motion to open the Budget Public Hearing.

- **Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Ms. Sharpe, to open the Budget Public Hearing. A roll call vote was taken.**

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Mr. Jim Lehan, Ms. Grace Lochhead,
Plainville:	Mr. Greg Wehmeyer, Mr. Bruce Cates, Ms. Michele Sharpe
Wrentham:	Ms. Cait Lanza, Ms. Erin Greaney

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Mr. Eric Harmon
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Mr. Joseph Cronin

- Mr. Lehan opened the Budget Public Hearing at 7:02 PM.
- Presentation/Discussion/Request for Comments

Dr. Drolet reviewed the updates to the FY27 Draft Budget Narrative since the previous meeting (see highlighted revisions). He reported a slight adjustment to the overall financial picture for King Philip, bringing the total proposed budget to \$33,010,184 (page 2). Dr. Drolet also clarified that the third position identified for reduction or elimination in the District is the Licensed Practical Nurse position.

Dr. Drolet pointed out that about \$950,000, or half, of the \$1,909,810 in E&D should be expended next year.

For the FY27 operating budget, Dr. Drolet stated that the administration is now proposing to utilize \$500,000 from Excess and Deficiency (E&D) reserves to support the budget. At the February 9, 2026 School Committee meeting, the original proposal had been to apply \$400,000 from E&D.

Mr. Wehmeyer noted that this revised proposal was not consistent with the direction previously provided by the Committee and expressed concern that the increase in the use of E&D funds had not been requested by the Committee.

Dr. Drolet explained that the revised recommendation resulted from a subsequent meeting with the town managers, during which they requested that additional E&D funds be used to offset the assessment increases. He stated that he believes the District is in a position to increase the E&D appropriation to \$500,000 and recommended adjusting the E&D usage to provide additional assessment relief and improve the likelihood of securing the necessary approval from the towns.

Ms. Brilhante reviewed correspondence from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) from February 12th regarding adjustments to the Chapter 70 foundation enrollment figures for certain districts, King Philip being one of them, following the release of the Governor's budget. She explained that these revisions had minor impacts on the required local contributions for some of the member towns. As a result, the revised total Required Local Contribution is \$21,903,941. The previous total was \$21,924,818.

Mr. Harmon arrived at 7:18 PM

Mr. Lehan then opened the Budget Public Hearing to the public. There were no comments from the public. Mr. Lehan asked for a motion to close the Budget Public Hearing.

- **Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Harmon, to close the Budget Public Hearing. A roll call was taken.**

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, Ms. Erin Greaney

Members Absent:

Norfolk: All Present
Plainville: All Present
Wrentham: Mr. Joseph Cronin

Mr. Lehan, Chair, closed the Budget Public Hearing at 7:20 PM. A copy of the Budget Narrative, DESE's email regarding the Chapter 70 adjustment, and a copy of the FY2027 Proposed Budget are attached to these minutes.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Mr. Lehan opened the meeting at 7:21 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jeff Johnson, a resident of Plainville, addressed the Committee regarding the proposed budget. Mr. Johnson expressed his views and concerns related to budget and the potential impact to the community. He encouraged the Committee to carefully consider fiscal responsibility and transparency during the budget approval process. Mr. Johnson requested that Ms. Brilhante send him a copy of the growth factor information that DESE is using for Plainville.

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.

-Payment of Bills/Warrants
-Communication

- **A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All in favor: Yes (8) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 8-0-0.**

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

The February 25, 2026 KPHS Student Council Report was submitted by Ms. Ashley Cleverdon. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

- NEASC Decennial Accreditation Report-Ms. Bottomley provided an overview of the key strengths and recommendations identified by NEASC and answered questions from committee members. A link to the 48 page report can be found included in the Superintendent's Update.
- KPHS Model UN
- February 15th National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day

- Healthy KP Coalition
- Superintendent Evaluation
- Unit B Collective Bargaining

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Committee members expressed differing views regarding the balance between maintaining funds in reserves and exercising caution about establishing a precedent for future budget decisions, particularly with respect to reducing the Excess and Deficiency (E&D) balance. Ms. Brillhante explained that the E&D Fund (Excess and Deficiency Fund) functions as a "rainy day" reserve, consisting of unexpended funds remaining in the district's accounts at the close of the fiscal year. Committee members also expressed interest in reviewing the current status of special education expenditures and insurance costs.

Mr. Lehan noted that further discussions about the budget will continue to be discussed at the March 9th School Committee meeting. The final vote on the budget is scheduled for March 23rd, requiring a two-thirds majority for approval.

2026-2027 School Calendar (Second Reading)

Dr. Drolet stated that he would return to the Committee at a later date to request a revision to the 2026–2027 school year calendar to include a parent-teacher conference night. He also indicated that, for the current 2025–2026 school year, the use of three snow days would result in the last day of school being Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

Seeing no further comments, Mr. Lehan asked for a motion to approve.

- **A motion was made by Mr. Cates and seconded by Mr. Harmon, to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar as presented. All in favor: Yes (8) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 8-0-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kreuzer provided a summary of the changes to the King Philip Middle School Program of Studies for the 2026–2027 school year. The changes are highlighted in yellow. A copy of the program is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Lehan asked for a motion to approve.

- **A motion was made by Mr. Harmon and seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the King Philip Middle School Program of Studies for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. All in favor: Yes (8) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Wehmeyer, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 9-0-0.**

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norfolk School Committee Representative:

Ms. Lochhead informed the Committee that the public budget meeting is scheduled for mid-March. They also discussed the timing of the MSBA project and the establishment of a new building committee.

Plainville School Committee Representative:

Ms. Sharpe informed the Committee that the next meeting would be on March 5th. Budget conversations will be continued.

Wrentham School Committee Representative:

Ms. Greaney said their next meeting is March 10th.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Cates recognized the groundskeeping and facilities staff for their efforts in managing the recent snowstorms. Dr. Drolet noted that the crew worked more than 72 hours continuously, going above and beyond to ensure the schools were able to open today when many surrounding districts were unable to do so.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **At 8:23 pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Cates to adjourn the meeting. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Lehan, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cates, Mr. Wehmeyer, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Mr. Lehan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Venessa Petit

Secretary to the School Committee

Documents presented on February 25, 2026:

Budget Narrative-FY27 *DRAFT* Budget

Chapter 70 Adjustments

FY 2027 Proposed Budget Hearing

FY 2027 Member Town Assessments

Agenda

Bills/Warrants

Stuco Report February 25, 2026

Superintendent's Update

2026-2027 School Calendar-Second Read

Proposed Changes to the KPMS Program of Studies 2026-2027

