

**King Philip Regional School Committee
Minutes of March 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 7:00 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, Mr. Joe Cronin, Ms. Erin Greaney

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	All Present
Plainville:	Mr. Greg Wehmeyer
Wrentham:	All Present

DELEGATIONS and VISITORS

Dr. Rich Drolet, Ms. Jill Brilhante, Ms. Colleen Terrill, Ms. Kyle Santos, Mr. Michael Bois, Ms. Ashley Cleverdon, Mr. Josh Wolloff, Ms. Barbara Snead, 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.

- Approval of Draft Minutes dated February 9, 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 February 9, 2026 as presented. All in favor: Yes (8) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Cronin, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 8-0-0.**

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

The March 9, 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

- M.A.S.S. Tri-County Superintendents Legislative Breakfast
- March 3rd Plainville FinCom Meeting
- 8th Graders Preparing for 2026-2027 at KPHS
- KPHS Girls Hockey D2 Final Four/Upcoming Championship Game (next game on Sunday at 9:00 AM at the TD Garden in Boston)

Dr. Drolet also congratulated the KP Cheer Team as they competed in the State Championship this past weekend and finished in 6th place overall.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- PLTW Grant
- AI Working Group
- Professional Learning Afternoon
- Open SciEd
- KPMS Student Ambassadors

NEW BUSINESS

KPRHS Jazz Ensemble Overnight Field Trip Request May 16, 2026-May 17, 2026 New York, NY/ Weehawken, NJ

Mr. Josh Wolloff provided a brief overview of the KPRHS Jazz Ensemble overnight field trip request scheduled for May 16–17, 2026, to New York City, NY and Weehawken, NJ. He explained that this would be an abbreviated trip, as there would be no competitions or performances but instead, students will get to work with members of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra for a few hours of clinics. The group also plans to schedule a boat tour around the Statue of Liberty and some sightseeing.

Mr. Cates asked whether the student-to-chaperone ratio was sufficient. Dr. Drolet and Committee members indicated they were comfortable with the proposed 21:2 ratio. Seeing no further comments, a motion was brought forward.

- **A motion was made by Mr. Harmon and seconded by Mr. Cates to approve the KP Regional High School Jazz Ensemble Overnight Field Trip request to New York, NY and Weehawken, NJ, May 16, 2026-May 17, 2026, as presented. All in favor: Yes (8) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 8-0-0.**

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Mr. Lehan provided an overview of the Superintendent's performance evaluation. The evaluation focuses on four key areas:

- Instructional Leadership
- Management and Operations
- Family and Community Engagement

- Professional Culture

Seven evaluations were submitted by members of the Committee. Each member rated the Superintendent using the established scale: Unsatisfactory (1), Needs Improvement (2), Proficient (3), or Exemplary (4).

The combined overall rating for the Superintendent for the 2025–2026 school year is 3.425, reflecting a rating between Proficient and Exemplary.

Dr. Drolet thanked the Committee for the feedback provided. Mr. Cronin also shared his comments with the Committee and publicly expressed his appreciation to Dr. Drolet for the work he does. Ms. Sharpe stated that, with regard to the fiscal overhaul that has taken place, it was apparent that the process had not been an easy task. She noted the importance of ensuring that the right personnel, systems, policies, and procedures are in place.

- **A motion was made by Mr. Harmon and seconded by Mr. Cates to approve the Superintendent's evaluation for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. All in favor: Yes (8) Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Greaney; No (0); Abstain (0); Motion carried 8-0-0.**

A copy of Mr. Lehan's report, along with comments submitted by Committee members, is attached to these minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY27 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Lehan reported that the Finance Subcommittee met and had a discussion regarding the difference between utilizing \$400,000 versus \$500,000 from Excess and Deficiency (E&D) and the potential impact on the member towns. He clarified that Dr. Drolet had been asked to meet with representatives from Plainville and Norfolk, and during that meeting both towns expressed a strong preference to increase the use of E&D from \$400,000 to \$500,000.

Mr. Lehan noted that Dr. Drolet did not propose this change independently. Instead, he contacted Mr. Cates and Mr. Lehan to seek their input, since both of their towns had raised the request. Based on those discussions, it was their recommendation that the administration present the \$500,000 option to the School Committee so the impact on the budget could be reviewed.

Mr. Lehan also asked Ms. Brilhante to prepare a six-year recap of the district's E&D balance. Based on those figures, even with the use of \$500,000, the district would still retain approximately 3.3% in E&D, which is nearly the highest balance the district has had. He added that after accounting for an anticipated future \$375,000 transfer from E&D designated for schematic design for potential roof replacements at KPMS and KPHS, the district would still maintain over \$1 million in E&D.

Ms. Brilhante reported that the health insurance rate has not yet been finalized; however, she has consulted with the district's brokers, who indicated that the increase is not expected to exceed the 10% budgeted for FY2027. Based on this information, she expressed confidence in the FY2027 budget projection, including the proposed use of \$500,000 from Excess and Deficiency (E&D).

Dr. Drolet also reviewed the historical E&D data with the Committee and indicated that he would be recommending the Committee to vote on the proposal to utilize \$500,000 from E&D. Mr. Lehan noted that the final adoption of the FY2027 budget is scheduled for March 23, 2026, at 7:00 PM, and will require a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote for approval. A copy of the historical data is attached to these minutes.

REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Collective Bargaining

Mr. Lehan said the Collective Bargaining Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 4:00 pm in the Superintendent's office.

Finance Subcommittee

See FY 27 Budget Discussion.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Norfolk School Committee Representative:

Ms. Lochhead said the next meeting will be held tomorrow, March 10th, and will be the public budget hearing.

Plainville School Committee Representative:

Ms. Sharpe reported that updates were provided by the Business Manager. She noted that there has been an increase in special education expenditures and that these costs remain very fluid.

Wrentham School Committee Representative:

Ms. Greaney said their meeting will be held tomorrow, March 10th.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

- **At 7:38 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, Ms. Greaney, Mr. Cates, Ms. Sharpe, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Harmon, Ms. Lanza, Ms. Lochhead; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 8-0-0.**

Mr. Lehan, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Venessa Petit

Secretary to the School Committee

Documents presented on March 9, 2026:

Agenda

Draft Minutes from February 9, 2026

Bills/Warrants

Stuco Report March 9, 2026

Superintendent's Update

Assistant Superintendent's Update

KPRSH Jazz Ensemble Overnight Field Trip Request

Superintendent Evaluation

