

King Philip Regional School Committee
Minutes
April 27, 2015
KING PHILIP REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Call to Order: Ann-marie Martin, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Roll Call of attendance-James Killion (Wrentham) Ann- marie Martin (Plainville), Danielle Schmitz (Wrentham), Jeff Chalmers (Norfolk),Charlene McEntee (Plainville), Noelle Tonelli (Norfolk) , and Pat Francomano (Plainville) (Francomano arrived @7:25 pm)

Absent: Michael Gee (Norfolk) and Lynn Desrochers(Wrentham)

AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Executive Session Minutes: April 6, 2015 – tabled until additional members in attendance

NEW BUSINESS (TAKEN OUT OF AGENDA ORDER):

Thank you to HS Student Council Representative: Edward Cullinane – Ann -marie Martin chair

I want to take a moment to thank Eddie Cullinane and present him with a small token of our appreciation. For the past 2 years, the King Philip School Committee has been so lucky to have such a committed and knowledgeable student representative. Eddie has been a valued school committee member who not only keeps us informed about what is going on with the student body, he participates in discussion about every facet of the district, bringing a concise, and thoughtful voice to all discussions. We are excited for Eddie as he leaves King Philip and enters this new and exciting chapter in his life. We wish him well at Salve Regina University and know he will be as treasured a member of that school community as he has been in ours. Please stay in touch as we look forward to hearing about all your successes in the future. Thank you again for all your hard work.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Gilson- Recap of PARCC testing

Dr. Gilson discussed the PARCC testing results. She indicated that the two major common college tests (SAT and ACT) are in alignment with PARCC. This past PARCC test was the first time at Middle School where we engaged in an online assessment and she noted that the first day login procedures had initial technical difficulties. The IT Techs at the Middle School had a central command set up and used Skype to communicate immediately to any areas having issues. After the first day of PARCC testing, everything flowed successfully. We learned that we can handle a large scale online initiative. Information was shared with students during morning announcements. Practice test information was sent to students and parents prior to the testing dates. Dr. Gilson noted that beginning 4/28, there will be a series of

forums open to public to discuss meetings related to PARCC. The first meeting is on 4/28 at Fitchburg State Univ. at 3pm Agenda: – test administration for non technical issues.

In November, a final decision from State board of Education will be made. Charlene McEntee asked if Dr Gilson has any input for this recommendation. Dr. Gilson noted that KP major initiatives were to have students and staff prepared for the online test taking. She indicated that many good conversations took place with staff and administration during this process and she feels that the student body had an overall positive experience. Charlene McEntee noted that Plainville response from students was very positive. Jim Killion asked additional questions related to the technical issues and Dr. Gilson responded the first day issue was related to incorrect login information on the student form versus the administration forms. Charlene McEntee noted that it will be interesting to see the results from the vetting of the two tests. Dr. Gilson indicated that regardless of the feedback from the state that we will need to move to update standard tests. Dr. Gilson gave kudos to IT tech team during this entire process and indicated the IT response time was excellent.

NEW BUSINESS (TAKEN OUT OF AGENDA ORDER):

New 2015/2016 Professional Development Calendar (1st Reading) -

Dr. Gilson gave kudos to Lisa Witkus and Marybeth Gioia for the initial creation of this calendar. She indicated that there are questions and issues related to snow days which may cause a shift in the timeline related to online release dates for progress reports and report cards. Dr. Gilson asked for feedback on the calendar and the committee suggested a footnote on the bottom of calendar related to possible time shifts related to snow days. Dr. Gilson said we would like to offer the Middle School only, a half day release to facilitate additional conference times due to excess demand. January 21st was suggested to have half day release in both buildings as this date coincides with high school midterm exams.

Communication: Dr. Zielinski

KP in the News:

Dr. Zielinski noted Sun Chronicle article related to Boston Red Sox spirit day at KP and background to previous article not painting KP in a favorable light. Dr. Zielinski indicated the Sun Chronicle did retract the previous article and printed article regarding KP Student body raising \$4700 for charity.

On April 10, Dr. Austin and a group of 7th grade students put together a baseball clinic for Tim Gemelli for fund raising. Mr. Quinn developed a model for interest based fund raising that is currently being student driven. Students are required to spearhead the fund raising initiatives and Dr. Zielinski indicated with the current success of this program that it shows great promise for the future student council at KP.

MIAA Correspondence: 2015 Boston Bruins/MIAA Sportsmanship Award

On March 24, 2015, the KP School district was notified by MIAA that Kathryn Jacobson was awarded the prestigious 2015 Boston Bruins- MIAA Sportsmanship Award.

Reports from School Committee Members:

Mr. Chalmers – Norfolk:

Norfolk Free tuition for full day Kindergarten is the main topic. Discussion related to regional meetings. Technology position hire is coming on board soon. Noelle Tonelli asked if Mr. Chalmers knew what the current tuition rate is for full day in Norfolk. Danielle Schmitz indicated that Wrentham offers full or half day Kindergarten and there is currently a big push for full day Kindergarten

Ms. McEntee – Plainville:

Ms. McEntee noted that she was re-elected by Plainville for her school committee member position and that Maggie Clarke was elected as new school committee member. Majority of meeting going over report card for the district and the Superintendent gave overview of the survey. There were also first readings on some policies.

Ms. Schmitz- Wrentham:

Tracey Murphy is the new school committee chair. Roderick School principal is a finalist for principal in Medfield.

HS Student Council Representative: Edward Cullinane

Eliza Sheehan will be replacing Edward as the representative to the KP School Committee. Strike Out Cancer – KP Cares held an event on Red Sox Opening Day to support two KP Students battling cancer. The Strike out Cancer activities raised \$4700. The Senior Class has 15 days left of school and the Senior Government is currently organizing some of the last senior activities. Senior Prom is being held May 22nd at the New England Aquarium. KP DECA is currently competing at their International Competition in Orlando, Florida. KP Drama and GAPS will be hosting their Spring Performance of “An Appointment with Death” on Friday May 8th and Saturday May 9th at 7PM each night.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FY 2016 BUDGET UPDATE:

Plainville budget presentation will be 4/29. Norfolk and Wrentham have already reviewed and currently Norfolk budget is coming in lower. Norfolk is currently proposing approximately \$291K decrease to proposed budget. Mr. Francomano noted that we are looking at possible savings against the adopted budget and we are hoping to use these savings to fill the potential budget gap. He noted that we are pursuing possible favorable savings in both special education and health care.

School Committee Self Evaluation : tabled until next meeting. Dr. Zielinski wanted to make sure all received email on Friday with Superintendent Evaluation and send her an email if you did not receive it.

Meeting of the Chairs Update: Ann-marie Martin

On April 7th I met with the School Committee Chairs of the 3 elementary districts (Thomas Doyle – Norfolk, Linn Caprarella – Plainville, Tracey Murphy – Wrentham). We continued to discuss the Special Education review. The decision was made to poll our admin teams to see what they would hope to get out of this process. I will be sending the memo Pat has already put together and we discussed back in October to Dr. Zielinski, Dr. Oliveira, Dr. Gilson, and Ms. Lacher to allow them to give me any more input they may have. I will also look to have Dr. Zielinski and Ms. Lacher to check with the special education professional organization for recommendations of firms that do across the board SPED reviews. I distributed the King Philip Special Education program descriptions as supplied by Ms. Lacher. We talked about the spreadsheet Plainville's special education director had put together. Wrentham and Norfolk will work to fill in further information on their programs. I also brought up our discussions about the February and April School vacations. We discussed the possibility of making changes in the future and agreed that it would have to be something we all did at once as we all serve the same families. We will discuss this further – the other chairs are checking their contracts to see if there is any collective bargaining implication. As with the last meeting – I thought things went well and I believe continued meetings will lead to better communication and open discussion among all the school committees in our district. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 22nd.

HS Artificial Turf Field Bid:

We have received two bids with an estimated cost at \$686,000. Currently the funds needed to fund this project are \$603,000. Mr. Schaefer is looking to lock in the figures by May 11, 2015. If additional pledges are received by that time frame, the number to fund could be reduced. Mr. Francomano asked if the fence removal replacement work is included in the scope of project and Mr. Schaefer acknowledged that the fence removal is included in the project scope.

Mr. Schaefer noted that additional contributions could be another \$70,000 which would change assessment to towns. He also noted that In Kind donations are included in the bid proposals.

Regarding the Engineering costs, Gale Associates was hired 3 years ago for \$30,000 and that money was paid using funds previously raised. Mr. Schaefer noted that the Community is looking for total project costs and bid specifications needed to be prepared and will cost approximately \$19,000. Norfolk advisory committee did approve their share of the expense and source of funding is a bond.

Charles Kennedy asked what the position is of the SC – do they support and have we made this \$600,000 request a formal vote? He noted it would be helpful to show the costs laid out and the formal position of the SC. Mrs. Martin noted that in the past the SC stated that we would not ask the towns for the money for this project. The towns are looking for position of SC related to the community based request.

Mr. Francomano indicated that some members did not feel comfortable asking for the money, but if the towns support this request from community that the SC would appreciate any efforts made by the towns for this issue. Mr. Francomano personally feels that we should note that we are not spending money on turf field at the expense of the operating budget. Charles Kennedy is looking for formal show of support for this project. Mr. Chalmers noted at various times several members of the SC have shown support for this project. Mr. Kennedy noted that the operating budget and turf field should be completely separate issues as turf field is a capital project. Dr. Oliviera noted that the SC has been very supportive of this project and demonstrated the support by attending events and allowing subcommittee to continue and communicate with KP as long as we are not cutting programs and teachers.

The question was raised if current warrant for the three towns is contingent on one another? Original intent was to fund with all private money and now scenarios have shifted creating the current warrant request – capital versus operations. Mr. Francomano feels they actually are tied together more than everyone thinks. Possible payments from capital expenditures could be used to offset gap in operations budgets. Mr. Kennedy feels that this is specifically a capital improvement project and should be governed separately. Mr. Francomano noted that this is not part of KP Capital plan.

Mrs. Tonelli asked what happens if all three towns do not approve? Do we have contingency plans? Dr. Oliviera answered the SC appreciated the efforts of the community members. She feels 90 % confident that we will receive additional \$70,000 funds. She noted the turf Committee will not stop looking for additional funds regardless of decisions from town meetings.

Mr. Francomano noted from Wrentham meeting that they are seeking legal counsel advice on issue in terms of language to require all three towns to approve. Mr. Schaefer noted in talking to district attorney that he feels since they are citizen petitions, each town's stand on its own and will be independent. Mr. Francomano asked if this is a Capital acquisition from the perspective of the KP District – does this require all three towns to approve per the regional agreement. Mr. Schaefer will follow up with attorney to understand the position and this perspective. Mr. Francomano noted that the three town administrators should be coordinating this effort to understand how the motion should be written for town meetings.

Third Quarter Financial Results- Mr. Schaefer:

Mr. Schaefer noted that the third quarter results have been shared with finance subcommittee. He noted that we are in good shape and can anticipate using available funds from this year for next year expenses.

Approval of revised pay rate for substitute school nurses:

Mr. Schaefer noted that the pool for substitute nurses is very small and finance sub- committee approved pay increase to \$120/day. The time of day required for substitute nurses is 7:30 am – 2:30 pm.

Upon a motion by Mr. Francomano to increase the substitute nurse pay daily rate to \$120, seconded by Mr. Killion. All In Favor – unanimously approved.

Award of School Bus Contract:

Mr. Schaefer received one bid for transportation contract and the increase came in at 2.7%. Request that SC award the bid to Holmes Transportation. Mr. Francomano questioned the wait time/hour increase. Mr. Schaefer noted that Holmes Transportation is looking for assistance in funding of earned sick time benefit that he has not had to fund in prior years.

Upon a Motion by Mr. Francomano to award transportation contract to Holmes transportation, seconded by Ms. McEntee – All in favor. Unanimous approval.

Refunding of General Obligation Debts:

Mr. Schaefer noted that if the general obligation debts are refunded that the potential savings to three member towns is approximately \$200,000 each year over the next 10 years. Mr. Schaefer recommends that we go ahead with this proposal and would begin in 2017. Mr. Francomano noted that this potential savings could assist and pay for turf fields.

Motion to approve by Mr. Francomano to process the refund bonds, seconded by Mr. Killion. All in Favor Unanimous approval.

Mr. Schaefer noted that the language must read as noted on memo dated April 15, 2015.

Mr. Francomano amended his motion to read:

That in order to reduce interest costs on outstanding debt, the District is authorized to issue bonds or notes for the purpose of refunding all or any portion of its (i) \$27,300,000 General Obligation School Bonds, dated December 15, 2005, and (ii) \$5,000,000 General Obligation Bonds dated December 15, 2006, including the payment of any premium and accrued interest associated therewith, and all other costs incidental and related thereto, under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21 A and Chapter 71, Section 16 (o) of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other enabling authority

Amended motion was seconded by Mr. Killion. All in Favor Unanimously Approved.

Mr. Kennedy indicated that currently bonds are not taxed and felt it would be prudent to stay on top of this issue since the possibility of taxing bonds is consistently raised at the federal level.

Human Resources Director Job Description (1st Reading)

Dr. Zielinski indicated that all feedback would be welcome. Ms. McEntee asked if the Accounts Payable person is titled as a financial secretary per job description. Ms. McEntee noted that the payroll

specialist position is not a union position, but financial secretary is a union position. Dr. Zielinski responded that the Payroll position deals with confidentiality issues. Mr. Francomano asked if the Accounts Payable position see health care bills. Mr. Schaefer noted that the position pays bills in aggregate and only is involved with making sure bills are correct and further noted the position is limited in scope.

Upon a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:30 pm by Mr. Killion, seconded by Ms. McEntee

Roll call vote: unanimously favorable

Karen Wolf
Recording Secretary