

KING PHILIP REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 16, 2017
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Francomano, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Members Present:	Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Kenneth Dow, Jeff Chalmers
	Plainville:	Patrick Francomano, Samad Khan, Charlene McEntee
	Wrentham:	Erin DeStefano

Members Absent:	Norfolk:	Present
	Wrentham:	Jim Killion, Trevor Knott
	Plainville:	Present

HS Student Council Representative: Miss Linde

The meeting is being videotaped by Wrentham Cable. Mr. Francomano explained that the public may visit the district's website at www.kingphilip.org to review informational documents pertaining to each school committee meeting. Videotaped meetings may be viewed in their entirety at www.wrenthamcableaccess.com Mr. Francomano also explained the procedure for public comment.

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

Mr. Azer, Director of Finance, Dr. Mobley, HS Principal, Mr. Brown, Athletic Director
Mr. Koocher and Mr. Hardy, MASC

AGENDA


CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed with an asterisk () are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion if action is required. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following discussion, the following amendments were made to the October 2, 2017 minutes:

1. Page 5: amend motion to have chair sign a contract with MASC.
2. Page 6: Include elementary school committee comments.

 **A Motion was made by Mrs. McEntee, seconded by Mr. Gee, to approve the Consent Agenda including the Minutes of October 2, 2017, as amended. All in favor with Mrs. DeStefano abstaining. Motion carried (6-0-1)**

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

COMMUNICATION:

Appointments, Retirements, Resignations, etc.

In a memorandum dated October 16, 2017, Dr. Zielinski presented personnel changes.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

NEW BUSINESS: (Taken out of Order):

Alpine Ski Team:

Dr. Mobley and Mr. Brown presented program's budget estimates along with a memorandum outlining securing a league placement of an Alpine Ski Team for the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Mobley explained the cost of transportation to practices and meets has been included in the budget estimate. Dr. Mobley explained that there are several groups that do not utilize KP transportation for all practices and meets. The community group organizing the Alpine Ski Team is asking that parents be allowed to transport the athletes in order to keep the cost of the program down. They understand that if lack of transportation becomes an access issue, that transportation will need to be instituted and the cost will be split amongst the participants while the program is self-funded.

Dr. Mobley noted that she has secured a \$5000 donation to this program, but explained that it is a one-time donation. If the program is allowed to move forward and approved for the 2017/2018 school year, then Dr. Mobley will seek acceptance of this donation from the School Committee.

Discussion ensued that the High School is seeking approval of this program as a self-funded program for 3 years, at which time a decision will be made if the program has sustained interest and what tier it should be placed on. Currently there are 12 participants and the cost per participant could be \$500 with the removal of bussing and the one time donation.

Discussion ensued on any liability that the district could incur. Dr. Mobley indicated that currently there is no policy that is firm and all-encompassing and there may be consideration for a district policy on athletic transportation. Parents will be driving to all events in these circumstances and a permission form would be signed by the parents.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to approve Dr. Mobley's request to establish an Alpine Ski Team for the 2017/2018 school year. All in favor, motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

HS Overnight Field Trip: DECA

James Dow, DECA Advisor was present to answer any questions the Committee may have.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. McEntee, seconded by Mr. Chalmers, to approve the attendance of the HS DECA program members to attend the following overnight field trips, according to Policy JJH and IJOA:**
 - **DECA State Skills Marketing Competition to be held on March 8-10, 2018 in Boston, MA.**
 - **DECA Annual International Marketing Skills Competition to be held April 21-26, 2018 in Atlanta, GA with transportation (flights) and lodging accommodations to be determined and provided by Mr. James Dow as they become available.**
- All in favor, with Mr. Ken Dow abstaining. Motion carried (6-0-1).**

Winter Music Program Fees 2017/2018: Mr. Azer

In a memorandum dated October 11, 2017, Mr. Azer explained the changes in fees for the 2017/2018 music program as approved by the Finance Subcommittee on October 6, 2017. Discussion was held the use of the carry over.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Chalmers, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the adjustments for 2017/2018 music program fees of Jazz Ensemble at \$150 per student and the Winter Guard fee at \$750 per student. All in favor, motion carried unanimously (7-0)**

COMMUNICATION:

KP In the News:

- *DECA Opens 2017*

BICO Quarterly Information & Activities dated 10/3/17

Discussion ensued on the therapeutic pool at Mansion Drive and that BICO students from several communities have been using this pool since September. Dr. Zielinski will provide the PowerPoint presentation that was shown at the BICO Board of Directors Meeting at an upcoming meeting.

2017/2018 District Goals:

Upon review, the 2017/2018 district goals need to be updated with the dates on the goals, timeline and the content of the benchmarks and to be presented for approval at the next meeting to be held on November 6, 2017.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Superintendent Search Update:

Mr. Hardy and Mr. Koocher, MASC Representatives presented a draft timeline for the superintendent search which provides flexibility on start time depending on the needs of the district based upon discussion. The timeline suggests that an initial screening be done after the first of the year. Prior to which the Committee will need to develop the criteria, the brochure and get the notice out via an internet posting and/or paid advertisement.

Mr. Francomano noted that in terms of selection criteria, initial decisions on the timeline would be to leave at least a 90-day window for the new appointee in order to give notice and time to negotiate a contract. Discussion ensued that the Committee be proactive and to adhere to this schedule and to move forward as quickly as possible.

Mr. Hardy suggested that at the next 4 school committee meetings, that the superintendent search be placed on the agenda as action required. Discussion ensued on the criteria for the brochure and the advertisement (i.e., master's degree, advanced degree preferred, classroom experience, central office experience, building administrator) and to set up a baseline based upon the current job description for a superintendent.

Mr. Hardy noted that the Committee will follow the provisions of open meeting law and confidentiality needs to be maintained by members of the search committee. Mr. Hardy reviewed the interview process in which interviews are about 75 minutes long with an opening and closing statement and answering 11-12 questions. The search committee is comprised always with an odd number with 11-13 members. Depending on the number of committee members, this will determine the opening meeting laws that are followed. Discussion ensued on whether it would behoove the committee to limit the number of school committee members on the search committee as the full committee will determine which applicant is chosen.

Discussion ensued on the formation of the search committee and that the chosen members need to know that there is a time commitment of 40-60 hours over a ten day period and should be comprised of people who know how to run a school vs community members.

Suggestions included the following:

- 2 to 3 - school committee members – or one from each town.
- 2 - faculty members (one from each building or ask KPTA to nominate 2 reps)
- 1 - Director of special education
- 1 - Director of finance
- 2 - building principals
- 2 - parents
- 2 - students

Other: Community Members (have towns decide who to send depending on availability); PAC; Selectmen, town administrator, elementary superintendent. Discussion ensued on involving the elementary administrators in the process.

Mr. Hardy said that he will provide a draft of a press release for local media and to post on the website to give advance notice. Mr. Khan will discuss with the public relations community working group at their meeting on October 17. Mr. Francomano suggested that the Committee approve the advertising at the November 6 meeting which would be the internet posting and brochure. A comparison will be provided by Mr. Hardy on *Boston Globe* and *Education Week* and background materials for the advertisement for the November 6 meeting.

Discussion ensued on the selection criteria based upon the following qualifications:

1. Licensure as Superintendent or eligible (i.e. from out of state applicant);
2. Education level, Master's Degree, advanced degree preferred;
3. Job experience, classroom teacher, building administrator, and/or central office (special education director, director of curriculum, finance director). Is building management experience required or is central office experience sufficient.
4. Compensation.
5. Decide on criteria and skillset necessary, people management experience (business, curriculum and special education)

Discussion ensued on a more aggressive timeline, suggesting that the search closes on January 5, 2018 and applications are provided to the Search Committee for review. Discussion ensued on focus groups noting that the result of the focus group is different than the search committee and can run concurrent.

Mr. Hardy will schedule focus groups with MS staff and HS staff members which will take place right after student dismissal. He noted that this is a voluntary meeting or they can participate in a survey. He will also plan to conduct focus groups at town halls and will schedule meetings with individual town administrators, King Philip administrators and central office staff members. There will also be focus groups with parents in the evening. And a focus group with students.

Mr. Hardy will provide a survey that will be sent out via ConnectEd. Mr. Koocher indicated that he has spoken with Dr. Gilson about coordinating the surveys. Mr. Francomano stated that Dr. Gilson is working with the community working group involving strategic planning and hopes to be able to collaborate with them so that it is a single survey that is sent out. The goal is to coordinate with the other group and launch it within the next week. Mr. Koocher suggested a unified survey that can be left up and respondents can fill out the survey as they see fit. Mr. Hardy will send out a survey to individual school committee members prior to the November 6 meeting.

FY18 Budget Update:

In a memorandum dated October 11, 2017, Mr. Azer reviewed the major highlights of FY18 as presented to the Finance Subcommittee on October 6, 2017. Discussion ensued on the point of sale systems implemented in the district and the food service deficit of approximately \$141, 000 at the close of FY17.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2017 MASC Delegate Resolutions:

The following resolutions were moved forward by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the MASC Board of Directors at their meeting on July 12, 2017: Mr. Francomano is the official voting delegate and Mrs. McEntee is the alternate to vote on behalf of the School Committee in the spirit of what the SC is looking for. Mr. Francomano asked if there was discussion on any of the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 1: MOVEMENT OF THE CHAPTER 70 FUNDING ENROLLMENT DATE TO MARCH 15 Submitted by the Framingham School Committee

WHEREAS: District schools in Massachusetts Department of Education report peak enrollment in the months of January, February and March.

WHEREAS: House Bill 2846 would provide that a district may only receive reimbursement from the proposed Unfunded Student Reserve Fund if the district has a net enrollment of more than 100 new students between October 1 of the previous year and March 1 of the current year.

WHEREAS: Many districts must have their budgets completed prior to knowing what their Chapter 70 funds amount will be.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: The Massachusetts Association of School Committees file for and support legislation that will implement the movement of the Chapter 70 funding enrollment date to March 15th.

RATIONALE: Giving the districts the ability to base their budget on the enrollment rate after the peak enrollment time will allow districts to base their budget with increased accuracy to meet the needs of their student population.

Underfunding leaves students at risk to fall behind due to not having the appropriate staffing, technology or needed educational materials. Smaller districts will be more at risk as their admission rate may not reach the required 100 students proposed in House Bill 2846 (2017) and will be least able to absorb the additional cost of unfunded students. For larger districts the proposed Unfunded Student Re-serve Fund will still leave them underfunded as the amount proposed to be set aside will not meet the needs of the students across the state.

No Discussion.

RESOLUTION 2: REFORM OF CIRCUIT BREAKER FUNDING Submitted by the Framingham School Committee

WHEREAS: The Special Education Circuit Breaker program includes a provision that only allows districts to claim for extraordinary relief when claimable special education costs exceed 125% of the year's claimed costs.

WHEREAS: There are many districts that have a large special education population especially with regard to out-of-district placements that will never reach the special provision of 125%. Framingham alone has budgeted over \$42 million for district SPED costs.

WHEREAS: Out-of-district placement costs are rising yet the out-of-district schools have not been liable for their expenditures to the taxpayers, and there is no accountability for the increases. Public schools are held accountable to the taxpayers for where every dime goes. In turn districts are unable to justify their rising expenditures and are unable to receive the additional funding needed from those to whom they are accountable.

WHEREAS: Medicare and Medicaid cuts that are being discussed threaten many districts who have their Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy services paid for by those programs to bear the burden of these costs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: The Massachusetts Association of School Committees file for and support legislation that will support the provision of reform for Circuit Breaker Funding and support the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

RATIONAL: According to MAAPS 2012 Bottom Line Report between 2006 and 2012, special education costs in Massachusetts increased by 56% compared to 36% for all public education.

No Discussion.

RESOLUTION 3: LITIGATION FOR FAIR SCHOOL FINANCE Submitted by the Framingham School Committee

WHEREAS: As the result of a lawsuit (McDuffy vs. Driscoll), the MA Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the Commonwealth was obliged to provide such financial assistance so as to assure that there would be an adequate level of support for the public schools, and

WHEREAS: Public schools rely heavily on state financial assistance to underwrite the legislatively mandated level of "required net school funding" that meets the current standard of "adequacy" envisioned by the Supreme Judicial Court, and

WHEREAS: Based on the findings of the Foundation Budget Review Commission and the consensus of public educators across Massachusetts, state financial assistance to support a standard of adequacy sufficient to meet the Massachusetts Constitutional standard as determined in the McDuffy case, is lacking and

WHEREAS: The second attempt at litigation to secure greater state financial support was rejected by the SJC, but did not rule out a willingness to hear a future case should the situation merit consideration,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: The members of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, through its delegate assembly, authorizes the Board of Directors to

1. Reassess the need for a new round of litigation to secure funding to guarantee an adequate appropriation of funds, and
2. Assess the viability of a lawsuit to secure such funding, and
3. Join with other parties at interest to plan and file such a lawsuit if it is determined that there is likelihood of success, and
4. That the Board of Directors shall be authorized to use the reserves of the Association to help underwrite the cost of such litigation.

Mr. Khan asked for clarification on this resolution and if regional transportation is included?

RESOLUTION 4: PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THE OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INCLUDING SMALL AND REGIONAL DISTRICTS Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors

WHEREAS: The voters of Massachusetts overwhelmingly rejected a ballot initiative to lift the cap on charter school expansion, and

WHEREAS: In light of the decision of the voters, advocates for further reforms have proposed several new strategies that include such concepts as introducing federal tax credits for families who enroll their children in private schools, authorizing vouchers for use in private schools, and creating additional regulatory options to expand the power of the state to alter the status of schools and districts so as to limit the authority of the residents of their communities to oversee their public schools,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: The Massachusetts Association of School Committees, recognizing the provisions of the state constitution, oppose any state or federal legislative initiative to authorize the use of state funds for education to subsidize the tuition or costs of private schools, except where specifically authorized for students in special education programs, or students with disabilities.

Further, MASC opposes any state legislative initiative that expands the authority of the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Elementary Education, or the Secretary of Education over schools and school districts beyond those already imposed, and that MASC further opposes the alteration or conversion of any school or district status beyond that permitted by current law without the consent of the city, town or region in which the school or district is located.

MASC supports the protection of small and rural school districts from modifications in their governance format and regional structure without the consent of the member communities, and, further, supports recognizing the special financial requirements of these, often geographically large and difficult to access parts of the state.

No Discussion.

RESOLUTION 5: USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors

WHEREAS: School districts are operating in difficult economic conditions as the cost of education exceeds normal inflationary growth in our economy, and
WHEREAS: The Commonwealth has provided some measure of relief, but the growth in Chapter 70 funding has failed to keep up with expanding costs, and
WHEREAS: Several federal grant programs allow the Commonwealth in general, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in particular, to take an administrative overhead allowance from government aid programs including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Perkins Vocational Technical Education Act, and certain programs under the Department of Agriculture, and
WHEREAS: This money allocated for maintaining the state bureaucracy would be better deployed at the school and district level,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: MASC urges the legislature to restrict the ability of the Commissioner, Secretary of Education or Board of Elementary Education to take for its own purposes or use by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, such as but not limited to administrative overhead of the state agency, any share of funds disbursed by the federal government under ESSA, the Perkins Vocational Technical Education Act, or programs under the oversight of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and, further, that those funds be directed specifically to schools and school districts.

No Discussion.

**RESOLUTION 6: FOUNDATION BUDGET
Initiated by the Worcester School Committee
Sponsored by the MASC Board of Directors**

WHEREAS: A special Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC) reported its recommendations in 2015 to the General Court and to the public, and
WHEREAS: Among the recommendations were those to calculate more accurately the costs of students in special education and health insurance costs for employees and retirees, and
WHEREAS: Several recommendations of the members of the Commission to establish adequate and equitable funding for school districts remain unresolved, and
WHEREAS: There remains a broad consensus that the overall calculations used to establish the "Foundation Budget" for city, town and regional school districts remain significantly understated and, in the opinion of MASC and its members, violates the letter and spirit of the ruling of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in the 1993 McDuffy case,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that: MASC calls upon the legislature to enact the recommendations of the Foundation Budget into law, and further,

- That the legislature order the Commission to reconvene in order to conduct further deliberations and make such recommendations as the FBRC may propose, and further
- That the FBRC shall address and make recommendations toward the overall accuracy of the adequacy of the overall Foundation Budget.

No Discussion.

**RESOLUTION 7: AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND MEDICAID
Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors**

WHEREAS: The Affordable Care Act expanded access for health care to millions of Americans, including thousands of Massachusetts families who have been without health insurance, and
WHEREAS: Through the expansion of the Medicaid program, more families in economic distress gained access to health insurance and, subsequently, affordable health care, and
WHEREAS: The Medicaid program reimburses public school districts for certain clinical services provided to students who may be clients of special education or who experience disabilities, and this revenue provides critical support to the districts and municipalities where they are based, and

WHEREAS: The restriction of Medicaid eligibility and reduction of funding would require the Commonwealth to choose between extraordinary state budget increases to fill the gap or absorb the cost of caring for families that could lose health insurance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: MASC urges the Congress to preserve the Affordable Care Act and its expansion of Medicaid programs for the states, and further

MASC urges the General Court to require that 100% of Medicaid reimbursements to cities and towns be provided in full amount to the public schools of each municipality to underwrite the cost of providing an adequate education.

No Discussion.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to instruct the delegate to support resolutions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 as outlined. All in favor. Motion carried (7-0).**

RESOLUTION 3: LITIGATION FOR FAIR SCHOOL FINANCE Submitted by the Framingham School Committee

WHEREAS: As the result of a lawsuit (McDuffy vs. Driscoll), the MA Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the Commonwealth was obliged to provide such financial assistance so as to assure that there would be an adequate level of support for the public schools, and

WHEREAS: Public schools rely heavily on state financial assistance to underwrite the legislatively mandated level of “required net school funding” that meets the current standard of “adequacy” envisioned by the Supreme Judicial Court, and

WHEREAS: Based on the findings of the Foundation Budget Review Commission and the consensus of public educators across Massachusetts, state financial assistance to support a standard of adequacy sufficient to meet the Massachusetts Constitutional standard as determined in the McDuffy case, is lacking and

WHEREAS: The second attempt at litigation to secure greater state financial support was rejected by the SJC, but did not rule out a willingness to hear a future case should the situation merit consideration,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: The members of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, through its delegate assembly, authorizes the Board of Directors to

1. Reassess the need for a new round of litigation to secure funding to guarantee an adequate appropriation of funds, and
2. Assess the viability of a lawsuit to secure such funding, and
3. Join with other parties at interest to plan and file such a lawsuit if it is determined that there is likelihood of success, and
4. That the Board of Directors shall be authorized to use the reserves of the Association to help underwrite the cost of such litigation.

Mr. Francomano explained that there was discussion in 1992 McDuffy vs. Driscoll to provide adequate funding for all students throughout the Commonwealth and as a result you have education reform involving both governance and funding. Unfunded mandates and funding is inadequate. Yes, this includes regional transportation.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. McEntee, seconded by Mr. Gee, to instruct the delegate to support Resolution 3. All in favor. Motion carried (7-0).**

Municipal Representative to the School Community:

In a memorandum dated October 12, 2017, Dr. Zielinski indicated that Mr. Jim Lehan, Norfolk Selectman, will be the municipal representative with regard to Unit A negotiations.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- ❖ Norfolk School Committee Representative: Mr. Chalmers
Met on October 10, accepting electronic signatures for warrants cannot be done and the committee obtained a written legal opinion; new elementary report cards; Walker partnerships report.
Mr. Francomano asked that the legal opinion regarding electronic signatures be shared with the KP school committee.

- ❖ Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. McEntee
Discussed the Walker Report; approved revised rubrics for teachers; revised rental rates for facilities; update on school adjustment counselor/team chair position. Share report on facilities was done on surrounding towns.
- ❖ Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano
Discussed the opening of school reports; new Delaney School drop off routine; introduced to new staff, professional teacher status; home education; roof project completed. Also discussed were the superintendent goals for 17/18; and curriculum director presentation.
- ❖ HS Student Council Report: Miss Linde reported on the HS Student Council events.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Khan indicated that in California there are 400 groups forming a Self-Insured Employers Group regarding healthcare in which small employers banded together to provide healthcare to their employees. Mr. Khan asked if this idea has been brought up at King Philip, or in the state of Massachusetts. Mr. Francomano suggested that Mr. Khan provide more information at a future meeting or see if a representative would speak at a regional meeting or at MASC on this topic. Mr. Khan will follow up with the State of California and work with Mr. Azer. Mrs. DeStefano has had experience in working with this type of single entity and it is referred to as pooling.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. McEntee, seconded by Mr. Gee, to adjourn at 9pm and not to reconvene in open session except for the purpose of adjournment. All in favor by roll call vote. Yes (7); No (0).**

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

List of Documents Pertaining to the October 16, 2017 Meeting:

- ❖ October 2, 2017 – draft minutes
- ❖ Appointments, Retirements, Resignations Memorandum
- ❖ KP in the News
- ❖ BICO Quarterly Information & Activities dated 10/3/17
- ❖ 2017/2018 District Goals
- ❖ FY 18 Budget Update
- ❖ 2017 MASC Delegate Resolutions
- ❖ Municipal Representative to the School Committee re Collective Bargaining - Memorandum
- ❖ HS Overnight Field Trip – DECA: Mr. Dow
- ❖ Music Program Fees
- ❖ Alpine Ski Team
- ❖ HS Student Council Report