

**King Philip Regional School Committee**  
**Remote Meeting**  
**Monday, April 5, 2021**  
**7pm**

**OPENING OF MEETING:**

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the meeting at 7pm.

This meeting is being recorded by Mr. Zinni and is being live-streamed.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Members Present:**

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jim Lehan, Sarah Ward
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, John Faraca, Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano, Jim Killion

**Members Absent:**

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Present

**HS Student Council Representative:** Miss James

**Visitors:**

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer, Miss James

Mr. Meichelbeck, District Regional Treasurer, Mr. Grady Connor, Auditor

**OPENING OF MEETING:**

Good evening. This Open Meeting of the King Philip Regional School District is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus." "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, Section 20."

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will present public comment during that designated portion of the meeting. As directed in the posting, public comment should have been emailed to the superintendent of school prior to the start of the public comment section of the meeting and will be read by the superintendent on the commenter's behalf.

For this meeting, the King Philip Regional School District is convening by Zoom Meeting as posted on the District's Website identifying how the public may join. Please visit: [www.kingphilip.org](http://www.kingphilip.org)

Please note that this meeting is being recorded, and that some attendees are participating by video conference. All voted will be taken by roll call vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Zinni reported that he received 1 email for public comment and read it into the Minutes:

1. Nadine Lioufi – Plainville: Name of school's mascot and name, King Philip Warriors

**NEW BUSINESS (Taken out of order):**

**FY2020 Independent Audit Report: Mr. Connor**

Mr. Connor presented a Summary of Financial Statement Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2020. He also reviewed the Independent Auditor’s Management Letter and Basic Financial Statements and Management’s Discussion and Analysis for the year ended June 30, 2020. Mr. Connor said that he is pleased with the report with all things considered from a financial perspective and this is a fiscally responsible audit for the District.

Discussion ensued on the components of OPEB liability and pension liability.

**Reappointment of District Regional Treasurer:**

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to reappoint Mr. Joseph Meichelbeck to serve as the District Regional Treasurer from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, at a salary rate to be determined. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0

**Reappointment of School Committee Secretary:**

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to reappoint Mrs. Elisa B. Witkus to serve as the Secretary to the School Committee from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes:**

March 15, 2021 – Tabled to the next meeting.

**Payment of Bills, Financial Report:**

**Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers**

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to approve the following warrants: Accounts payable 63, 64a, 64b, 64c and 65 payroll. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0

**Communication:**

None

**AGENDA**

**Approval of Executive Session Minutes:**

March 15, 2021 – Tabled to the next meeting.

**Communication:**

**Recognition of KP Regional School Committee Members:**

Elections are being held today in the towns of Wrentham and Plainville.

Wrentham: Mrs. DeStefano is not seeking reelection for the Wrentham School Committee; therefore, Mr. Gee recognized and thanked Mrs. DeStefano who has served as the appointed member to King Philip for the past 5 years from the Wrentham School Committee.

Election results in Wrentham will determine if Mr. Killion will continue to serve as a committee member.

Plainville: Mr. Cates is running unopposed.

**MS & HS Student Council Report:**

- Miss James provided the report of the HS Student Council.
- Mr. Zinni read the report of the MS Student Council.

- Mr. Gee thanked all of the parents and community who volunteered for Warrior Mayhem event. This full day event was held for the Class of 2021 and was a great event according to Mr. Gee who volunteered for this event.

### **MASC Day on the Hill:**

The MASC Day on the Hill will be held on Friday, April 16, 2021. Any school committee member may attend this virtual event by registering through MASC.

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **District Grants to Benefit KP Students:**

Dr. Gilson provided information on the following 3 grants:

#### **ASOST-Q- KP Summer Bridge to support Grade 6 to Grade 7 Transition - Amount \$50,000**

This grant is the result of a joint collaboration between King Philip and Elementary School Districts. Students promoted from 6th grade in June 2021 will be eligible to participate in the Summer Bridge to KP program to prepare them for a smooth transition to the King Philip Middle School. A total of 340 seventh graders from Plainville, Norfolk, and Wrentham Schools will be invited. Each program will run for one week in late July or early August, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

#### **ASOST-Q - KP Summer School Program Grades 8-12 - Amount \$45,000**

The grant is being funded to improve the summer academic, physical, social, and emotional wellness of students entering Grades 8-12 that have felt the isolation and struggled with a learning model that was predominantly hybrid with periods of remote learning from March 2020 through present. Students will meet from July 5- August 6 (five weeks) from 8AM-12PM (4 hours daily) to experience academics in an area needing recovery, enrichment to motivate social connections, and evidence-based programming called “WhyTry” through a partnership with the SAFE COALITION to build resilience strategies. Our existing partnerships with the SAFE Coalition and Bristol Community Counseling allow the district to ensure continuation of support for students beyond the summer and throughout the full years of enrollment in the high school program. The goal of the summer program is to operate in-person with small class sizes with opportunities to engage in learning experiences outside weather permitting. Student groupings will be made in accordance with their credit area in need of recovery (ELA, Math, Science, and History).

#### **FY2021: Digital Literacy Now Grant Part 1 — Year 2 grant award - Amount \$2,540**

Last year, the district was awarded \$26,328 to further develop existing programs in STEM and strengthen our alignment with the 2016 Digital Literacies Computer Science frameworks. The grant provided for teacher training, equipment, and teacher support to strengthen alignment with the DLCS state frameworks. how to approach coding for students with Code.org, and training with the Bootstrap team (which originated from the development team at Brown) where our teachers learned how to use the basics of computer programming to reinforce and extend mathematical concepts such as order of operations, word programs, linear functions, inequalities, piecewise functions, and the Pythagorean theorem. The Year 2 grant is divided into two parts that will increase alignment of the middle school with the high school programming in this area. Additional teacher training will be provided to our teachers. The MA Digital Literacies Framework continues to be the foundation that we draw as we develop curriculum that leverages our opportunities for students.

Discussion ensued on sustainability of these programs in the budget going forward.

### **Covid-19:**

Mr. Zinni noted that there has been an increase in Covid cases this week following the holiday weekend. He would like to thank the administration and the nursing staff for doing contact tracing following this uptick in cases, following the procedure by the Board of Health.

### **District Update:**

- Students will be following the new schedule this week; and this will be the first Wednesday of the school year where students will be back in school on Wednesdays.
- The HS Administration is continuing to look at students who are staying remote. The District is able to bring back all of the juniors and seniors for 6 weeks.

- The district will invite 100 freshmen and sophomores, through the beginning of May, who are struggling to return to school and fill those seats strategically.
- DESE Commissioner announced that he is looking into eliminating the MCAS requirement for juniors in order to graduate and that he is moving forward to have the Board of Education to waive the MCAS requirement. Looking into having juniors take it voluntarily as it drives the Adams Scholarship. Students who are remote will be able to take the MCAS remotely. Awaiting a vote from the Board of Education.

**Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Community Introduction:**

Mr. Zinni announced that Jessica Pepple has been chosen as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for King Philip, Norfolk, Plainville, and Wrentham School Districts. An article on Ms. Pepple was published in *The Sun Chronicle* recently introducing her to the community. Ms. Pepple will begin her new role on May 17, 2021.

**Update on Mental Health Initiatives:**

Mr. Zinni provided an update on Mental Health Initiatives provided by Ms. Pearl. HS students Matthew and Madison Kelley proposed that suicide prevention hotline numbers be printed on the back of student identification cards. Ms. Pearl coordinated this proposal with Lifetouch, who handles the HS school picture account, and the project will move forward to be finalized and available to students this fall. The numbers will also include a Text to Talk helpline.

The MS administration has been working with Morin’s Studios, who will also be able to provide these numbers for MS students on their identification cards.

Other mental health initiatives include the Nan Project by promoting mental health awareness and suicide prevention programs for young people using a peer-to-peer model, and Active Minds that is a non-profit organization supporting mental health awareness and education for students at the high school and college level.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Superintendent’s Evaluation:**

Mr. Gee indicated that the committee had decided that, in order to accommodate the current members on the committee before it transitions due to upcoming elections, the Superintendent’s End of Year Summative Evaluation would be completed at this meeting. Mr. Gee gave a summary of the evaluation of which 8 members completed the instrument. He indicated that the outcome will be voted upon by the school committee on an overall rating as recommended by the chair.

Following review, Mr. Gee recommended that a rating of Proficient be provided to the 2021 End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation for Mr. Zinni, Superintendent.

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Khan, to give Mr. Zinni, Superintendent of Schools, a rating of Proficient for the 2021 End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Discussion ensued.

Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Gee asked that the Motion on the table be moved:

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Khan, to give Mr. Zinni, Superintendent of Schools a Proficient rating for the 2021 End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation for Mr. Zinni, Superintendent, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0**

**Policy Review (2<sup>nd</sup> reading):**

- **Section I: IKA - Graduation Requirements (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)**
- **Section J - Students – (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)**
- Files: JBB, JF, JH, JHD, JI, JIB, JICA JICFB, JICH, JJIB, JIE
- JJA, JK, JKAA, JLC, JLCA, JLCC, JLCD, JQ
- **Section K - Community Relations (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)**
- Files: KBA, KBE, KDB, KDD, KE, KF, KF-R, KHA, KHB, KLG
- File KDBA – Rescind
- File KJA – Rescind

Discussion ensued on the use of gender pronouns in the policies.

Mr. Cates made a motion to change the pronouns in the policies as they are written. Hearing no second, Mr. Gee proceeded with the approval of the policies as presented.

 **A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the following policies, as presented:**

- **Section I: IKA - Graduation Requirements**
- **Section J – Students:**
- **Files: JBB, JF, JH, JHD, JI, JIB, JICA JICFB, JICH, JJIB, JIE**
- **JJA, JK, JKAA, JLC, JLCA, JLCC, JLCD, JQ**
- **Section K - Community Relations:**
- **Files: KBA, KBE, KDB, KDD, KE, KF, KF-R, KHA, KHB, KLG;**
- **Rescind File KDBA and KJA.**
- **All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (1 – Mr. Cates); Abstain (0). Motion carried 8-1-0**

**REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

- Norfolk School Committee Representative – Ms. Ward: No report
- Plainville School Committee Representative – Mr. Faraca: Everyone is very excited to bring K-6 students back to school 5 days a week.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative – Mrs. DeStefano: The first day for students K-6 to return to school 5 days a week will be April 6, 2021. The playground reconstruction is moving along.

**LATE COMMUNICATIONS:**

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

None

**ADOURNMENT:**

-  **At 9:05pm, a Motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano.**
- All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (9): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried 9-0-0**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Elisa B. Witkus*  
*Secretary to the School Committee*

**Documents Presented on April 5, 2021:**

Minutes of March 15, 2021

Warrants

MS and HS Student Council Reports

MASC Day on the Hill

Superintendent's 2021 Evaluation

Policy Review:

- Section I: IKA - Graduation Requirements
- Section J – Students:
  - Files: JBB, JF, JH, JHD, JI, JIB, JICA JICFB, JICH, JJIB, JIE
  - JJA, JK, JKAA, JLC, JLCA, JLCC, JLCD, JQ
- Section K - Community Relations:
  - Files: KBA, KBE, KDB, KDD, KE, KF, KF-R, KHA, KHB, KLG;
  - Rescind File KDBA and KJA.

FY2020 Independent Audit Report

Reappointment of District Regional Treasurer

Reappointment of School Committee Secretary