

**King Philip Regional School Committee
Remote Meeting - Approved
Monday, December 21, 2020 – 7PM**

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Sarah Ward
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Jim Killion (arrived at 7:20pm)

HS Student Council Representative: Miss James

Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer, Mr. Bois, Ms. James, Ms. Ann Barr, Healthy KP

Mr. Zinni will be recording and live streaming this meeting.

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the meeting at 7:08pm and read the following statement into the Minutes:

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
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.

This meeting is being recorded and live streamed by King Philip.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Gee reviewed the process for public comment and indicated that all comments will be taken under consideration. Mr. Zinni read into the Minutes the following five (5) emails received as public comment:

1. Eric Harmon, Norfolk re in-person learning
2. Tracey Molloy re school environment and social-emotional concern
3. Brooke McCreedy, Norfolk re MS instruction concern
4. Ryan and Jennifer Herlin, re hybrid learning model concern
5. Jill Lawrence, Norfolk, in-person learning

(Mr. Killion arrived at 7:20pm)

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the Minutes dated November 16, 2020 and December 7, 2020, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Knott, Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Killion, Mr. Faraca; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Payment of Bills, Financial Report:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the following Warrants: 42 Payroll and 43, 44, 45, 46a, 46b, 46c and 46d Accounts Payable. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Knott, Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Killion, Mr. Faraca; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

AGENDA

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Knott, to approve and retain the Executive Session minutes dated December 7, 2020, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Knott, Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Killion, Mr. Faraca; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Communication:

- HS Student Council Report: The HS Student Council Report dated December 21, 2020, was presented by Miss Ahunna James

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Healthy KP Substance Use Prevention Coalition Grant:

Mr. Zinni provided a comprehensive overview following the announcement of KP being awarded a \$625,000 grant as part of the Healthy KP Substance Use Prevention Coalition Grant to fight substance abuse among students. This grant will be utilized over a five-year period amounting to \$125,000 per year. Mr. Zinni thanked Mr. Lewis, HS Assistant Principal and Mrs. Pearl, Wellness Director for their untiring efforts to procure this grant and being instrumental in receiving this federal award.

Mr. Zinni indicated that one of the first priorities will be to hire a program director who will create initiatives and oversee all aspects of the grant. These initiatives will help to increase community collaboration through partnerships with other local organizations in the three towns. The main goal will be to reduce substance abuse by helping youth to develop skills to make healthy decisions. The use of the funds will also include social norms campaigns, secure speakers, provide workshops, and initiate surveys.

Mr. Zinni introduced Ms. Ann Barr who has been working on many projects that the coalition has been involved in. Ms. Barr named some of the projects that she worked on including educating youth and parents about substance abuse; sticker campaigns about a penalty for providing liquor to minors; and family meals matter campaign.

Mr. Lewis gave an overview of the Social Norms Campaign and raising awareness about vaping. He also talked about the Metro-West Surveys which are taken every 2 years which includes questions on healthy behaviors, making good choices and mental health issues. This survey is now on hold due to the pandemic according to Mr. Zinni.

Discussion ensued on addressing the social-emotional components such as depression in students. Mr. Zinni indicated that this grant is for substance use prevention, not around treatment, but there is a huge correlation between the two and referred to a Wellness Grant that the four superintendents worked on together that has a mental health component to assist with counseling services.

Mr. Zinni also thanked the entire coalition for their time and commitment, as well as a phenomenal group of students who participated in promoting Healthy KP and for being extraordinary role models for the entire student body.

District Update – Mr. Zinni

Flu Shots:

As of 12/22/2020, an update was provided in the Influenza vaccine requirement for school attendance (K-12). All students now have until February 28, 2021 to receive their flu vaccine for the 2020/2021 school year, whether or not they are remote learners they will need to comply with this mandate. Discussion ensued on the administration of the flu vaccine and Mr. Zinni indicated that the District will comply with all regulations and is monitoring this the same as it would treat any other immunization and families have been notified.

Covid-19 Testing and Vaccines:

- Ms. Pearl has coordinated for a Covid-19 Testing to be held on Monday, January 4, 2021. This is a voluntary testing for any staff member who wishes to be tested following Winter Break.
- Ms. Pearl has also done research on when the Covid-19 Vaccine may be administered. For the population in education the Vaccine is expected to be in Round 2 and may be administered sometime between February and April. This will help to get students back in the buildings.

Discussion ensued on quarantine and contact tracing within the district. Mr. Zinni indicated that the District is following all precautions and the hope is that families will adhere to the guidelines over the holidays and will reopen as planned on January 4, 2021.

Technology Update:

Chromebooks have all been received and the devices have been distributed. The ClearTouch Boards have been installed by the Custodians and Mr. Bois has prepared tutorials on how to use them.

DESE – Student Learning Time Regulations:

DESE provided new requirements to Student Learning Time (SLT) regulations, on an emergency basis. The amendments establish minimum levels for live instruction and synchronous instruction that districts operating hybrid and remote learning models must provide to see if districts are in compliance. Mr. Zinni reported that KP was in compliance with an average of at least 40 hours of synchronous instruction over a 10-school day period at both buildings overall. Mr. Zinni would like that interactive component to be higher in both buildings.

Next Steps - Surveys:

To provide more robust learning, surveys have been created by the Administrative Team for students and staff members. Mr. Knott would like a report at the next meeting on the findings of these surveys and would like to see recommendations to the current model. Discussion ensued on giving students the opportunity to present their thoughts perhaps in a Zoom meeting rather than submitting checkmarks in a survey. Further discussion was held on the concern about the outcome for students with social-emotional needs and how this can be resolved.

Mr. Zinni explained that in his 34 years of education has he seen our children been more vulnerable. The administration is very concerned about our students and continually holds team meetings about how they can reach out to students who are disengaged. He indicated they are not ignoring our students and have told them to reach out directly to guidance, administrators, and teachers.

Dr. Gilson provided a preliminary review of the student survey that was sent to 1702 students with a return of 85%. Discussion ensued on conducting focus groups in all grade levels of the student body.

There were numerous comments and suggestions from individual committee members, including that surveys be sent to parents as well as students and to continue to look at Wednesdays.

Dr. Gilson will provide the School Committee with a report on the surveys and present data at the next meeting to be held on January 11, 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to move the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee to approve the following policies: Section G - File GBD; Section H – Files HA, HB, HF; and Section I - Files IB, IC/ICA, ID, IGA, IGB, IHAM, IHAMB, IHB, IHBAA, IHBEA, IHBF, IHBH, IHBHE, IHCA, IJ, IJ-R, IJL, IJLA, IJOB, IJOC, IK, IL, ILD, IMD. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Knott, Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Killion, Mr. Faraca; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.
- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to move the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee to rescind the following policy files: Files IHAE, IJJ, IJK. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Knott, Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Killion, Mr. Faraca; No (0); Abstain (1-Mr. Lehan). Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Norfolk School Committee Representative: Ms. Ward - None
- Plainville School Committee Representative: Mr. Faraca - Topics discussed included using snow days as remote learning days. Mr. Raiche brought this to the Plainville Education Association (PEA) for discussion, but no decision has been made yet.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano – Topics included: The use of snow days as remote learning days, but this will depend on power outages and other factors; policy updates; 2021/2022 school year calendar; budget review; letter from MASS to Gov. Baker.
-

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Mr. Khan thanked Mr. Zinni and all of his staff members for their dedication and commitment to KP students.
- Mr. Cates apologized to Mr. Zinni for comments made at the last school committee meeting held on 12/7/20.

- Mr. Knott would like updates on a new plan and hear about progress we are making and then layout the new plan at the next meeting on January 11, 2021.

ADOURNMENT:

- ✚ **At 9:25pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Lehan to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Knott, Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Mr. Killion, Mr. Faraca; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on December 21, 2020:

Agenda – December 7, 2020
Draft Minutes of November 16, 2020
Draft Minutes of December 7, 2020
Draft Executive Session Minutes dated December 7, 2020
HS Student Council Report
Policy Review:
File GBD
Section H-Negotiations
Section I – Instructional