

**King Philip Regional School Committee Meeting
Remote Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2020 – 7PM**

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Norfolk: | Michael Gee, Jim Lehan |
| Plainville: | Bruce Cates, Samad Khan, Michele Sharpe |
| Wrentham: | Erin DeStefano, Jim Killion, Trevor Knott |

Members Absent:

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Norfolk: | Sarah Ward |
| Plainville: | Present |
| Wrentham: | Present |

Visitors:

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

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the meeting at 7:02pm 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. The meeting is also being live streamed by NorthTV.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Zinni reported that there was one (1) public comment received and read into the Minutes from:

1. Eric Harmon, Norfolk
Submitting a KP parent letter re live streaming with 506 parent signatures on behalf of a community parent group.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Killion, to approve the Minutes of September 30, 2020, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (6): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain: (2) Mr. Khan and Ms. Sharpe. Motion carried.

The approval of Minutes dated October 5, 2020 was tabled for the November 2, 2020 meeting.

Payment of Bills, Financial Report:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the following Warrants: 27 Payroll, 28, 29a, 29b, and 29c Accounts Payable. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Mr. Khan, and Ms. Sharpe. No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Communication:

- HS Student Council Report: The HS Student Council Report dated October 5, 2020 was presented by Miss Ahunna James.
- USDA extends universal free school meals through June 2021. The federal government will reimburse school districts for meals distributed to students over the course of the school year. The District will continue to communicate this notification to all families and remind them throughout the school year that free school meals are available to all students.
- Bi-County Collaborative Quarterly Report dated September 30, 2020.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Professional Development:

Mr. Zinni thanked Dr. Gilson for coordinating two exceptional full days of professional development for staff members that included keynote speakers and guests to offer high-quality sessions.

Dr. Gilson gave an overview of the sessions offered.

- Dr. Lisa Dieker, offered individual and common course planning applications, showing the use of PD resources in the *Google Classroom*, and experience with remote learning to lesson planning for the hybrid model.
- School Resource Officers Palladini and Schwalbe discussed the importance of self-awareness and emotional regulation during uncertain times.
- New Middle School Teacher Assistants Training was held to assist in managing behavioral challenges and to learn reinforcement strategies and de-escalation techniques in a variety of settings.

Communication:

Mr. Zinni indicated that a food service worker at the high school has tested positive for Covid-19 and that as a precaution all food service workers have been asked to quarantine for 14 days. This decision is based on CDC Guidelines for close contact, as well as discussions with the Board of Health. This matter has been reported to DESE as required. Mr. Zinni has sent a letter to all families addressing this situation and offering resources.

The elementary districts will prepare meals and serve them to the KP students until such time as a vendor can be procured to handle meal preparation and distribution to students.

Discussion ensued that school committee members should be included in the distribution list to receive all communication sent out to families. Mr. Bois, Technology Director, will look into the messaging system within Infinite Campus which is the program that is used for all shared electronic communication.

Reopening – Phase 3:

Mr. Zinni reported that the students returned to school in the Phase 3 hybrid model and the administration did a phenomenal job monitoring the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Teachers and students are fully engaged.

Traffic Flow and Parking:

Traffic flow at the HS has been redesigned to allow for approximately 29 new parking spaces and hopefully this will offer a solution to assist with a parking issue.

Technology:

Mr. Zinni indicated that along with some creative methods of teaching being used in the classroom, such as making videos and independent work, some teachers have been live streaming their lessons. Discussion ensued that although it is not always educationally best, the district is moving forward to try to enable it. It was noted that there are items that need to be acquired such as monitors, speakers, and staff computers. The district is looking into the availability of more technology and resources to assist teachers to live stream and to look at what kind of technology would help to assist students.

1200 Chromebooks have been ordered and are expected to be received by the end of the month with distribution planned for early November. This would allow each student to have their own device. Mr. Zinni explained that the district cannot troubleshoot a privately-owned device. Mr. Bois has also secured 100 Bluetooth Speakers and have been distributed to both schools.

Transportation:

Mr. Zinni indicated that Mr. Azer is doing a phenomenal job as liaison working with the bus companies. Discussion ensued on some transportation issues that are in the process of being resolved.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Azer presented the final FY20 financial update that included extra expenses related to Covid-19, that are eligible for reimbursement. He provided an overview of the revenue, expenses, and E&D of the District. E&D should be certified within the next few months.

Discussion ensued on Medicare reimbursement as a revenue source. Last year over \$600,000 was reimbursed by the state to the District for services that are eligible under Medicare provided by professional staff and members of the special education department. These staff members include, but are not limited to, adjustment counselors, speech/language therapists, occupational therapists, and other staff members when providing services to eligible students. Reimbursement is based upon trackable time submitted for these services. Mr. Zinni noted that Ms. Moy and her staff have done a phenomenal job at procuring these funds for the district.

The School Committee thanked Mr. Azer for an in-depth presentation on the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Timeline for District Strategic Plan and School Committee Goals Review and Update:

Mr. Zinni explained that the District Strategic Plan is the first step in the process of goal setting for the school committee, the superintendent, and the administration. Normally the strategic plan is discussed over the summer months with the administration and presented to the school committee early on in the school year. This year, due to Covid-19, those meetings did not occur. Mr. Zinni hopes to present updated action steps to the school committee either at the first or second meeting in November.

Discussion ensued on the status of school councils. Mr. Zinni indicated that school council is run by the principals based upon the strategic plan.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

Acceptance of Donation Received – Norfolk Resident in Support of our Schools:

Mr. Zinni announced the donation of \$600 from the Norfolk Resident in Support of our Schools. The group is administered by Tamara Dalton and Susan Klein. The first major fundraiser was a t-shirt sale in which nearly \$2000 was raised to directly benefit the four schools, including KP, who will purchase document cameras to assist with remote learning.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to accept the donation of \$600 from the Norfolk Residents in Support of our Schools. This gift if accepted and appreciated by the staff and students of the King Philip Regional School District to purchase document cameras to assist with remote learning. All in favor by roll call vote: All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Mr. Khan, and Ms. Sharpe. No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Ms. Ward – Norfolk School Committee: None
- Ms. Sharpe – Plainville School Committee: Discussion on topics included: Interviews for new school committee member to fill an open seat. Mr. John Faraca was chosen to fill an open seat. Supt. Raiche sent a parent letter re hybrid model; open house; district re-entry survey. Ms. Sharpe indicated she is the official voting delegate for Plainville at the MASC business meeting.
- Mrs. DeStefano: Wrentham School Committee: Update on re-entry survey sent out on 10/11/20 received over 500 responses offering feedback. This included 400 families/100 staff members. The next meeting will be held on 10/20/2020.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- ✚ **A Motion was made at 8:57pm by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Killion, to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose No. 1, to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The Committee will not return to open session. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Mr. Khan, and Ms. Sharpe. No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on October 19, 2020

Agenda
Draft Minutes of September 30, 2020
Warrants: 27 Payroll, 28, 29a, 29b, and 29c Accounts Payable
HS Student Council Report
USDA Communication
Bi-County Collaborative – Quarterly Report
Final FY20 Financial Update