

**KING PHILIP REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES - Approved
March 19, 2018
King Philip Regional High School - Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Mr. Gee announced that Mr. Francomano is not in attendance this evening as he is receiving an award tonight by the Plainville Rotary Club.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Members Present: Norfolk: Michael Gee, Ken Dow
Plainville: Samad Khan
Wrentham: Jim Killion, Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano

Members Absent: Norfolk: Jeff Chalmers
Wrentham: Present
Plainville: Patrick Francomano, Charlene McEntee

HS Student Council Representative: Miss Linde

The meeting is being videotaped by Wrentham Cable. Mr. Gee 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. Gee also explained the procedure for public comment.

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

Mr. Azer, Director of Finance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 5, 2018
February 7, 2018
February 15, 2018
February 26, 2018
March 5, 2018

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the Consent Agenda, including the Minutes as presented, noting the respective abstentions for each meeting. All in favor.
- ✚ To approve the Minutes dated February 5, 2018, as presented. All in favor, with Mr. Gee, Mr. Dow, Mrs. DeStefano abstaining.
- ✚ To approve the Minutes dated February 7, 2018, as presented. All in favor, with Mr. Knott abstaining.
- ✚ To approve the Minutes dated February 15, 2018, as presented. All in favor.
- ✚ To approve the Minutes dated February 26, 2018, as presented. All in favor, with Mr. Dow abstaining.
- ✚ To approve the Minutes dated March 5, 2018, as presented. All in favor, with Mr. Killion and Mr. Dow abstaining.

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

COMMUNICATION:

Letter of Retirement of Ms. Lacher, Director of Special Education

Dr. Zielinski will post and advertise for Ms. Lacher's replacement and indicated Mr. Zinni will be part of the hiring process for the next special education director.

Mr. Gee noted that Ms. Lacher's letter reflects the professionalism she has brought to the district during her tenure and commended her and her work.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Executive Session Minutes dated February 5, 2018. Mr. Gee asked to defer these minutes to the next meeting for clarification as he was not in attendance at this meeting.

- ✦ **A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes dated February 26, 2018. All in favor, with Mr. Dow abstaining.**
- ✦ **A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes dated March 5, 2018. All in favor, with Mr. Killion and Mr. Dow abstaining.**

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

Mr. Azer, Director of Finance

COMMUNICATION:

- KP in the News: Dr. Zielinski
 - DECA did very well in the conference and had a phenomenal showing and will now be moving on to internationals.
 - Student Council did well in their conference and received top awards.
- King Philip Annual 2016/2017 Town Reports were distributed to the towns of Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham.
- Adolescent Sleep Public Forum – Thursday, March 22 at the HS Library at 7pm.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

National Student Walkout Summation:

Dr. Zielinski reported that the student walkout scheduled for March 14, 2018 was not held due to a snow day. There is a group going on to Boston on March 24 in which the group plans to speak with legislatures. There is also a planned national day to be held during April vacation and Massachusetts will change the date so that students can actively participate. She noted that this is a student driven event.

Public Comment:

HS student P. LaPointe gave a public comment to the student walkout. She stated that she tried to put an alternative after-school organizational meeting together to be held on March 20 and have it announced on the loud speaker. She thought she had Dr. Mobley's support. She put together an announcement, had her teacher sign it and gave it to the office. She stated that there was nothing of a political nature involved for this event. The vice principal pulled it and said it needed to have the principal's approval. She feels there is a lack of support from the school to spread the message.

Mr. Gee indicated that without Dr. Mobley present at tonight's meeting to address this, she will need to be contacted to respond. Dr. Zielinski will follow up with Dr. Mobley.

Mr. David LaPointe spoke and indicated that there is discussion about an organized planned event and it seems as though there is not much support from the school. At the assembly students tried to stand up and were shut down and not allowed to speak and as things now progress, with explicit rules, which is understandable, then the snow day happened, and now there are other events trying to be organized and are shut down again. There doesn't seem to be much support from KP, referencing an article in *The Sun Chronicle* in which other schools in MA are actively involved, KP was noticeably absent from the article.

Miss Linde, stated that she agreed with the comments made and the junior and senior assembly did not go very well. The freshman and sophomore assemblies were policed and seemed that it was tried to be more about KP's message instead of the students' message and the nation's message. As a student body we were not 100% backed by administration and it is a nationwide event. She indicated that students could not applaud during the assembly which was unfair to support other students when they expressed their views.

Discussion ensued on the length of the assemblies. The assemblies were scheduled to see what the ideas were for this event. Mr. Knott reiterated that Dr. Mobley's message is about school safety and she has responded and reiterated her concerns for safety and to honor the walkout.

LATE COMMUNICATION: (taken out of order):

In a memorandum dated March 14, 2018, Dr. Zielinski gave an overview of the 6 snow days used this school year. If there are no further weather-related events, then the last day of school will be Monday, June 25, 2018. Dr. Zielinski recommends utilizing a half-day for Good Friday, March 30, 2018, to be used at the discretion of the School Committee which was approved by the School Committee when 2017/2018 school year calendar was set. Dr. Zielinski noted that there is another snow storm scheduled for Thursday, March 22nd with 8-12" of snow expected.

Discussion ensued on AP Exams and that date does not change and with snow days students need to attend. Mr. Gee indicated that this is more the reason to use Good Friday. Dr. Zielinski noted that Wrentham will be discussing this issue and

it is anticipated that they will make Good Friday a half-day as it is scheduled as a full day for this calendar year. Plainville and Norfolk will also be voting this week, as currently they do not have school.

A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Knott, to support the superintendent's recommendation.

Mr. Killion asked if there are any other options such as using a Saturday as another snow day. Dr. Zielinski indicated that she did think that would be permissible under the teacher contract. Dr. Zielinski said that another option may be to take days out of April vacation. Contractually teachers work 180 days which is more allowable than a Saturday.

Mr. Gee asked that the discussion speak in favor of taking the half day on Good Friday and if we need to take more snow days then bring this up for another discussion.

Discussion ensued on the percentage of staff and student population that must be present in order for the day to count as a school day. Dr. Zielinski will review this and noted that in a previous use of Good Friday in the district in which it was close to the percentage of being closed. Contractually, the district must provide a week's notice.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Knott, to support the superintendent's recommendation to utilize a half-day on Good Friday, March 30, 2018, as a school day. Motion carried. All in favor.**

Dr. Zielinski will send out communication to KP families and staff members via ConnectEd on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Unfinished Business:

Special Education Mileage Reimbursement

In a memorandum dated March 7, 2018, Mr. Azer provided additional information based upon the previous discussion held on March 5, 2018. He indicated that it would be more expensive to reimburse at the IRS reimbursement rate and would need to add \$15,000 to the budget if adopted. It was the recommendation of the Budget & Finance Subcommittee to increase the budget by \$15,000 to the FY19 budget request. Mr. Azer indicated that the elementary districts are not reimbursing now as they do not have any parents transporting, but if they had a parent who did it, they would use the IRS rate. The IRS rate is 54.5 cents per mile is 21% higher than the state rate. Mr. Azer estimated that the cost to transport students using the contracted provided (Van Pool) which adds up to approximately \$200,000 in total, which would be more than twice as much as the parent reimbursements.

Discussion ensued on the area of alignment with the IRS rate. Mr. Knott indicated he has a problem with that small number of families - 10 families - for an increase of \$200,000 in total as we are attempting to save money.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, that pursuant to School Committee action taken on March 19, 2018, all mileage expenses effective July 1, 2018 shall be reimbursed at the IRS rate published the previous January. Therefore for FY2019, which runs from 7/1/18 through 6/30/19, the reimbursement rate will be 54.5 cents per mile. When the new IRS rate is published in January 2019, it shall take effect on 7/1/19, and will follow that pattern each year going forward.**

Discussion was held whether or not parents can deduct the state rate vs. the IRS rate. Mrs. Zimmerman, made a public comment, that it is not deductible.

- ✚ **All in favor. Motion carried.**

FY19 Budget – Vote:

In a memorandum dated March 12, 2018, Mr. Azer gave an update on the FY19 budget. The percentage variance from FY18 from the original budget was 4.99%, revised budget is 3.81% for a variance of 1.28%. Mr. Killion asked to discuss the formation of this budget. Dr. Zielinski said that this is a level service budget, with the only addition is the new special education program (social/emotional program). The District does need a 0.5 FTE HS assistant principal. There were no cuts to current staff and also no additional staff was added. The biggest factors are special education and healthcare negotiations.

Mrs. Cannally of the Community Working Group, commented that Rep. Dooley mentioned an error in funding level. Mr. Azer indicated that he forwarded the data to Senator Ross and St. Rep. Dooley and explained the differential historically.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Erin DeStefano, that the School Committee adopt an FY2019 total budget (including debt service) of \$35,023,194 with the following member town assessments: Norfolk: \$9,527,606; Plainville: \$6,516,640; and Wrentham: \$10,510,673. All in favor.**

Mrs. Cannally asked about budget process going forward from this point with the tri-town group. Mr. Gee indicated that Mr. Azer will send the budget information to the towns. Then it will be onto individual towns to present to the Finance Committees

and Selectmen up until town meetings for each town. The Norfolk Town Meeting will be held on May 8, and Wrentham and Plainville Town Meetings are both being held on June 4.

NEW BUSINESS:

2018/2019 School Year Calendar (2nd Reading):

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Dow, seconded by Mr. Knott, to approve the 2018/2019 school year calendar, as presented, with a start date on September 4, 2018 and the last day of school will be June 17, 2019. All in favor.

Other dates will be added such as professional development, school committee meeting dates, Unit C paid holidays and will be presented to the School Committee at upcoming meetings.

School Committee Self-Evaluation:

Mr. Gee indicated that based upon a number of factors, this discussion will be postponed until May 7 with the new school committee configuration. However, current members are encouraged to complete the self-evaluation as soon as possible.

Ratification of KP Cafeteria Association Collective Bargaining Agreement 2018-2021:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, Seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to ratify the KP Cafeteria Association successor collective bargaining agreement 2018-2021, as presented. All in favor.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Norfolk School Committee Representative: Mr. Chalmers - None

Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. McEntee - None

Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano reported that there is an opening for director of curriculum and a search will be started. The next school committee meeting will be held on March 20.

HS Student Council Report: Miss Linde presented her report. Mrs. DeStefano asked that Miss Linde bring in the Book of Excellence for the members to look at.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mr. Gee noted that the Finance Subcommittee Meeting has been cancelled for Friday, March 23, 2018.

Mr. Gee said that April 2 is the last KP School Committee Meeting for Patrick Francomano and Charlene McEntee and one other member will be departing. He said that last year as vice chair he sat in until all of the elections and local school committees appointed their representatives. He assumes that reorganization will be held off until later in May and he would act as chair; but, if there is a different idea then we could discuss again.

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Purpose of Executive Session: #2

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Purpose of Executive Session: #3

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. (Unit A; KP Cafeteria – Collective bargaining negotiations)

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- ✚ At 8:17pm, a Motion made by Mr. Killion seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, for the following purposes: #2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and #3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. And not to return to open session except for the purpose of adjournment. All in favor by roll call vote. Yes (6); No (0). Motion carried.

(Mr. Dow recused himself from Executive Session.)

ADJOURNMENT:

- ✚ At 9:15pm, a Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Knott, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote. Yes (5); No (0). Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa B. Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

List of Documents distributed to the School Committee on March 19, 2018:

- February 5, 2018 draft minutes
- February 7, 2018 draft minutes
- February 15, 2018 draft minutes
- February 26, 2018 draft minutes
- March 5, 2018 draft minutes
- Letter of Retirement of Ms. Lacher, Director of Special Education
- Executive Session Draft of February 5, 2018
- Executive Session Draft of February 26, 2018
- Executive Session Draft of March 5, 2018
- KP in the News
- King Philip Annual Town Reports to Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham
- Adolescent Sleep Public Forum
- Special Education Mileage Reimbursement: Mr. Azer
- FY19 Budget – Vote
- 2018/2019 School Year Calendar (2nd reading)
- School Committee Self-Evaluation
- Ratification of KP Cafeteria Association Collective Bargaining Agreement 2018-2021
- Snow Day Memorandum from Dr. Zielinski