

King Philip Regional School Committee
Remote Meeting - Approved
Monday, February 22, 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. The meeting is also being recorded by NorthTV.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Present

HS Student Council Representative: Miss James

Visitors:

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

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

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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mr. Gee held a moment of silence in recognition of the 500,000 deaths that have occurred during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Zinni read into the Minutes the following email from:

1. Mr. Eric Harmon, Norfolk – Return students back to school and classroom configurations

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

None

Payment of Bills, Financial Report:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the following Warrants: Payroll: 54; Accounts Payable: 55a, 55b and 55c, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (8): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

AGENDA

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

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

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

None

Communication:

- HS and MS Student Council Reports: The HS and MS Student Council Reports dated February 22, 2021, were presented by Miss Ahunna James
- Congratulations were extended to Mrs. Dot Pearl who has been awarded the MIAA Wellness Director of the Year Award. Ms. Pearl provides guidance and support for each of the four school districts of King Philip, Norfolk, Plainville, and Wrentham and is very deserving of this award. Dr. Gilson, Assistant Superintendent along with Dr. Ann Dargon, Plainville Director of Student Services, Victoria Saldana, Norfolk Director of Curriculum and Dr. Vanessa C. Beauchaine, Wrentham Director of Curriculum initiated Mrs. Pearl’s nomination to the MIAA.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

District Update:

Vaccination Update:

Mr. Zinni provided an update on the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccination for staff members in the four school districts. Mrs. Pearl has been working with Cataldo Ambulance who was contracted to provide the Covid-19 testing for staff. Tentative dates for the vaccine clinic are March 6 and 7 to support our staff members.

Quarantine Guidelines:

Mr. Zinni referred to his email dated February 14, 2021 in which he provided the School Committee with a letter dated February 12, 2021 from the Public Health Nurses revising the current local guidelines to better align with the state and CDC guidelines, but maintain the safety of students and faculty. This letter indicated 10 days of strict quarantine, release on day 11, if the individual has not experienced any symptoms up to that point, and the individual/parent conducts active monitoring through Day 14. No test is necessary under this option. This letter was sent to families within the District.

Updated Bus Guidelines:

Mr. Zinni also provided in his email dated February 14, 2021, a copy of the DESE school year 20/21 reopening transportation guidance issued on July 22, 2020 and updated on February 11, 2021. This guidance focuses on supporting districts to develop a transportation strategy that provides safe conditions for all students and staff traveling by bus while also maximizing in-person learning. This guidance allows for 2 students per seat. Mr. Zinni also reviewed the CDE guidance and information from the American Pediatric Association. He indicated that there is more than one piece of guidance to follow and the District will do its best to keep our students as safe as possible. Discussion ensued on bus capacity.

MCAS Assessment:

The state is moving forward with MCAS assessment requirement. The assessment will not be used for district performance.

Communication to Families:

Mr. Zinni provided a tutorial on information that is provided and archived on the KP Website. The website provides information and many resources for the district, school committee, high school, and middle school along with up-to-date information on Covid-19 related information.

Discussion ensued on trending common questions from constituents and it was suggested that FAQs be listed to answer those questions or topics. Further discussion was held on public comment statements and questions and the need to be responsive and provide more dialog to respond to public comments in the public format to those people who take the time to write to the school committee. Discussion was held on finding a way to respond and provide feedback and address the core issues raised as a result of public comment.

Discussion was held on the District providing a step-by-step plan to reopen the schools, overcome hurdles, and become more proactive. Mr. Zinni reviewed the space issues and the 3-foot guidance that was mapped out in the reopening plan. The classrooms were also inspected by the Fire Department prior to the reopening of schools in the fall.

In response to Mr. Harmon's public comment regarding classroom reconfiguration re taking out built-in cabinets, Mr. Azer explained the reasoning why this is not suitable for the following reasons: a) may need the cabinets again; b) expensive to replace; and c) it is incredibly expensive to tear out cabinets in 150 classrooms and then cap all of the electrical outlets. Every avenue has been taken to fit as many desks as possible in classrooms while adhering to the current guidelines.

(Ms. Ward left the meeting.)

Mr. Knott has requested that at each meeting to be provided with an update and for the district to provide a plan and state where the district stands and address it. He also suggested that a summary be provided after each meeting with specific questions and answers responded to proactively.

MAPS Assessment:

Dr. Gilson explored benchmark assessments and feels that MAPS is a better assessment than MCAS as it is more specific to each student for benchmark purposes. It is a very good diagnostic tool for Math and ELA according to Mr. Zinni.

MS Program of Studies (1st Reading):

In a memorandum dated February 19, 2021, Ms. Kreuzer, MS Principal provided proposed changes to the MS Program of Studies for the 2021/2022 school year. Mr. Zinni asked that if there are any questions for Ms. Kreuzer to please let him know ahead of the March 1, 2021 meeting so that she may respond and attend the meeting if necessary.

KP Student Records, Registration & Withdrawal Procedures:

Mr. Zinni provided a copy of this procedure manual in which Ms. Moy has created. The manual along with the forms will be posted on the KP website for access by families.

KP Dealing with Suicide and Attempted Suicide Procedural Manual:

Tabled to March 1, 2021.

Nurses and Health Services Manual:

Mr. Zinni indicated that this manual will be presented at a meeting in the spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

School Committee Goals:

Mr. Gee presented the current school committee goals for review as a 3rd reading. He noted that two dates will need to be changed under school committee benchmarks for Goal 4: a) change the date to November 2021; and b) change the date to January 2022.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the 2021 School Committee Goals, with the noted changes: under school committee benchmarks for Goal 4: a) change the date to November 2021; and b) change the date to January 2022. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent's Evaluation:

With upcoming town elections, there will be changes in the membership of the school committee. Plainville and Wrentham will be holding their elections on April 5, which is also a school committee meeting date. Norfolk's election will be held on May 4. Discussion ensued on the timeline for the superintendent's evaluation. The consensus was that it would be preferable to have current committee members provide the evaluation; Mr. Zinni will prepare an instrument as soon as possible for members to complete and discuss by the April 4 meeting.

Meeting Format:

Mr. Gee recommended that meetings continue to be held remotely as the "default" mode based on the Governor's Executive Order. Members of the committee agreed and indicated that there may be meetings in which an in-person meeting may be necessary such as for negotiation purposes. Discussion was held on the call-in aspect and to further explore the "waiting room" tool. Further discussion was held on public comment policy. Mr. Gee and Mr. Zinni will consult with legal counsel on this policy.

Mr. Knott would like to see KP get in sync with the elementary districts so as not to be perceived as being less open and to create alignment.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Norfolk School Committee Representative: The following information was read into the Minutes by Mr. Gee provided from Ms. Ward:

- Acceptance of donations to the gift fund; Dr. Tupper discussed preschool programming, will remain the same for next year, no tuition increase
- Registration will go live this Friday 2/12, closes 3/1, Notification of lottery: the week of 3/15
- 1st draft of budget complete (restoration of positions and additional positions)
- Educators vaccination clinic
- District learning plan update
- Launched more in person learning 1/19 with much positive feedback
- Begin moving to phase III in April with priority for preschool and first grade (no changes to current kindergarten schedule)
- No lunch or transportation needed for preschool (fewer barriers)
- 1st grade: missed a portion of K last year, challenging for this age group for remote learning
- Then grades 2-6 as long as conditions hold, and guidelines do not revert.
- Remote class will remain available for the remainder of the current school year.

Plainville School Committee Representative: John Faraca – A Plainville school committee member has resigned, and interviews were held for a successor through April; partnership with Boston College for teachers

who are in their pre-practicum; discussion on getting K-6 students back in school; reduce social distancing from 6' to 4'.

— Wrentham School Committee Representative: Erin DeStefano – The next meeting will be held in March.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ADOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:


At 9:05pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Knott, to adjourn into Executive Session for the following purpose of Executive Session:

No. 2: To discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and to return to open session. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7) - Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Mrs. DeStefano; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The School Committee returned to open session for the purpose of adjournment.

ADOURNMENT:

 At 10:15pm, a Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Killion, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on February 22, 2021:

Agenda
Warrants: 54 Payroll, 55a, 55b, 55c Accounts Payable
HS and MS Student Council Report
MIAA Wellness Director of the Year Communication
MS Program of Studies (1st reading)
KP Student Records, Registration & Withdrawal Procedures Manual
School Committee Goals 2021