

King Philip Regional School Committee
Remote Meeting - Approved
Monday, March 1, 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, Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Jim Killion, Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Present

HS Student Council Representative: Miss James

Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Ms. Moy, 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.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- ✚ At 7:02pm, a Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to adjourn into Executive Session, for Purpose No. 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Superintendent's Successor Contract); and, to return to open session. 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

Mr. Zinni and NorthTV stopped recording and live streaming.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

- At 7:20pm, the School Committee returned to open session.
- This meeting continued to be recorded by Mr. Zinni and is being live-streamed. The meeting is also being recorded by NorthTV.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the February 8, 2021 and February 22, 2021 minutes, with the noted change by Ms. Ward to the February 22, 2021 minutes. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (2); Abstain (2 – Mr. Lehan and Mrs. Killion). Motion carried: 7-0-2

Payment of Bills, Financial Report:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the following Warrants: Payroll: 56; Accounts Payable: 57a, 57b and 57c, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: 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:

Mr. Zinni presented the 2019/2020 Annual Town Report which is a year in review of the last school year. Mr. Zinni thanked Dr. Gilson for coordinating this report, along with the assistance of the building principals.

AGENDA

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Ms. Moy, 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 March 1, 2021, were presented by Miss Ahunna James.
- Mr. Zinni recognized Norfolk siblings Nick, Jackie and Zack Mullen who have been volunteering every Saturday since October for the MA Military Support Foundation Food 4 Vets Program at the Foxboro Terminals. An article was published in *The Sun Chronicle* dated February 28, 2021 about their volunteer work that they are providing to help veterans and their families.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

KP Dealing with Suicide and Attempted Suicide Procedural Manual: Ms. Moy (Taken out of Order)

Mr. Zinni presented the Suicide Procedural Manual that Ms. Moy created to address the warning signs and prevention of suicide. This manual, along with other procedural manuals, were being worked on even prior to COVID-19 as the District was working to have in place solid procedures and protocols to address mental health issues. This manual will help to support the staff and students of the District.

Dr. Gilson, working with Ms. Pearl, presented the topic of suicide to staff during a recent professional development day as part of their required training and also in an effort to do everything we can for our students.

Discussion ensued on the MetroWest Study which according to Mr. Zinni has been put off until Fall 2021 due to COVID-19. Further discussion was held on the district designing their own survey questions to provide information to help with internal data. Mr. Zinni outlined proactive steps that the District has in place to support students and families dealing with mental health issues. The District also provides an extensive team of professionals who work with families, including a district social worker who does in-home visits. Dr. Gilson reviewed the training models for staff that is required for suicide training and prevention that is offered every three years.

District Update:

DESE Guidance:

Mr. Zinni had shared the latest update from the DESE Commissioner about guidance on protocols for the expansion of student in-person learning. This new guidance allows for 3' up to 6' distancing. Discussion ensued on contact tracing that is involved with students who are less than 6' apart. There is also new guidance on bus transportation to allow 2 students in a seat on a bus, masked, with the windows open. Mr. Zinni explained that KP has been at the 3' distancing since October. There is also conflicting information from the medical experts. Mr. Zinni indicated that he will continue to monitor all of this information to get KP students back in school.

Pool Testing:

Pool testing was discussed among the four superintendents along with a vendor. There is an additional cost involved in pool testing and Mr. Zinni noted that for the MS it would cost approximately \$25,000, and for the HS it would cost approximately \$40,000. Pool testing may not provide any additional benefit and will not help to bring students back into schools, according to Mr. Zinni. All four districts agree with this decision not to pursue pool testing.

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 had been working with Cataldo Ambulance who was contracted to provide the Covid-19 testing for staff. Unfortunately, the Governor has suspended employers from offering staff members a vaccination clinic at this time. The District is trying to take proactive steps to get students back into school. Once staff is vaccinated, the quarantine issue for staff members is eliminated.

Seniors and Co-Curricular Activities:

Mr. Zinni plans to have Dr. Mobley attend the next meeting to give an update on senior activities and provide details on co-curricular activities while adhering to group gathering parameters. Discussion ensued that seniors should be a priority and for the District to make this happen so that seniors are given some sort of normalcy before they graduate from KP.

Covid Mitigation:

Mr. Azer presented Covid mitigation that is in place at the MS and the HS. This presentation reviewed enrollment trends over the past 20 years; HS traffic patterns and student drop offs; safety features implemented at both buildings; hygiene safety, cleaning products and protocols, including 8 electrostatic sprayers that are used to sterilize classrooms; plexiglass shields on teacher desks, main offices and shared spaces; air quality safety including HVAC systems, secondary nursing stations for staff and students experiencing Covid-19 symptoms; and classroom seating showing desks at 3' apart.

Discussion ensued on plans for next steps if restrictions are lessened for lunch.

Covid Committee:

Mr. Zinni invited school committee members to become part of the Covid-19 Committee which consists of administrators and teachers. This group meets twice a month remotely to discuss topics that arise due to Covid-19 and is a way for the group to brainstorm. Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, and Mr. Knott have volunteered to become part of this committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MS Program of Studies (2nd Reading):

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the 2021/2022 MS Program of Studies, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: 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

Public Comment Revision Recommendations:

At the request of Mr. Lehan, the School Committee discussed the public comment period of the school committee meeting and to look at the committee being responsive to questions asked during the public comment period. Mr. Gee asked for clarification from the Committee on whether the policy needed to be reviewed or the technology to be used in the most efficient way to allow for public comment responses or the “waiting room” feature. Mr. Faraca and Mrs. DeStefano reviewed how their respective districts handle responses to public comment and the format used. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gee and Mr. Zinni spoke with Attorney Waugh on the current policy and that it was written by the attorney to protect the district.

Following discussion, it was decided that at this time, the policy does not need to be changed. However, individuals who provide a public comment deserve to receive a response, there was consensus that the School Committee would accept public comment through email as they have been doing for remote meetings, but the Chair will acknowledge and offer an appropriate response, which may include referring to discussion during an agenda item or referring to the administration for a future response.

Superintendent’s Contract:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Ms. Ward, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve a successor three-year individual employment contract to Mr. Zinni from 2021-2024. 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

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent’s Evaluation:

Mr. Gee noted that Mr. Zinni will prepare an instrument as soon as possible for members to complete and discuss by the April 4 school committee meeting.

Wrentham Cable Advisory Committee Representative:

Mr. Zinni received an email from Mr. Sweet, Wrentham Town Administrator, asking for the KPR School Committee to designate a member to be on the Wrentham Cable Advisory Committee. Mr. Killion will remain as the appointed member to the Cable Advisory Committee at this time.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Norfolk School Committee Representative: No report at this time.

- Plainville School Committee Representative: John Faraca – A Plainville school committee member has resigned, and interviews were held for a successor through April; discussion on getting K-6 students back in school; reduce social distancing from 6’ to 4’.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Erin DeStefano – Topics included: Budget proposal; school committee self-evaluation; getting more students into the building; looking at 6’ to 3’ challenge with eating and mask breaks; look at Wednesdays but this would cost 20% more to the budget for bus transportation.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mr. Knott volunteered to be on the Covid Committee and focus on bringing students back in school.

ADOURNMENT:

- ✚ **At 9:47pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to adjourn. 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**

Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Barrett Witkus

Executive Assistant & Secretary to the School Committee

Documents Presented on March 1, 2021:

- Agenda
- Warrants:
- 2020 Annual Town Report
- HS and MS Student Council Report
- DESE letter regarding expansion of in-person learning
- KP Dealing with Suicide and Attempted Suicide Manual
- MS Program of Studies (2nd reading)
- Public Comment Policy – BEDHY
- Wrentham Cable Advisory Committee Representative