

KING PHILIP REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 9, 2017  
King Philip Regional High School – Library

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mrs. Martin, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Members Present:        Norfolk:        Jeff Chalmers, Mike Gee  
                                 Plainville:      Ann-marie Martin, Patrick Francomano, Charlene McEntee  
                                 Wrentham:     Lynn Desrochers, Erin DeStefano

Members Absent:       Norfolk:        Noelle Tonelli  
                                 Wrentham:     Jim Killion  
                                 Plainville:     Present

The meeting is being videotaped by Wrentham Cable Access. Mrs. Martin explained that the public may visit the district’s website at [www.kingphilip.org](http://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](http://www.wrenthamcableaccess.com) Mrs. Martin also explained the procedure for public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion if action is required. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

✚ A Motion was made by Francomano, seconded by Mr. Gee, to approve the Minutes dated November 21, 2016, as corrected by Mrs. McEntee by changing the word “interface” to “interest-based” under the Plainville School Committee section of the agenda. All in favor, with Mrs. Desrochers abstaining.

✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to approve the Minutes dated December 5, 2015. All in favor.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT**

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

**COMMUNICATION:**

Appointments, Retirements, Resignations, etc.  
MASC Legal Alert, 12/12/16  
Letter from Wrentham School Committee  
Memo from Mrs. Martin re April Election

**AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes of November 21, 2016 as presented. All in favor, with Mrs. Desrochers abstaining.

### **DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS**

Mr. Meichelbeck, District Treasurer, Mr. Schaefer, Consultant  
Mrs. Ann Lambert, HS STEM Teacher

#### **HS STEM Information: Mrs. Lambert (Taken out of Order):**

Mrs. Martin introduced Mrs. Lambert, HS STEM Teacher who presented a Power Point on the accomplishments of the science teachers in her department and the students. Some of the highlights of the presentation included: MIT Blossoms Video: Intro to Green Chemistry Initiatives; MA Association of Biology Teachers, Community Collaboration, Charles River Watershed Association, the receipt of a grant for \$3600 from PPG Foundation for wish list items. Student accomplishments in STEM practices and the Science National Honor Society were announced as well as the project that Mrs. Dello Russo is working on in anatomy and physiology students working with our physical trainer incorporate real-life applications of content.

Dr. Gilson gave an overview of the support that has been received from all three elementary school principals and superintendents to align the science standards and looking at the link from 6 to 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Papadonis has been working with the district as well. The “layer cake” model and the spiraled sequence approach was reviewed as well. Dr. Gilson noted that on January 10, 2017, all of the teams from 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be coming into the MS to meet with the MS 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams, working toward a uniform curriculum, along with Mrs. Lambert. The impact on the budget will be presented during the budget meetings with the department heads and the curriculum team leaders.

#### **New Business (Taken out of Order):**

##### **Excess & Deficiency Balance as of June 30, 2016: Mr. Meichelbeck**

In a memorandum dated January 3, 2017, Mr. Meichelbeck explained that the District has been advised by the MDOR that a prepayment that was made NCRS would result in a negative fund balance. There is no practical affect other than no money will be appropriated for FY18.

Discussion ensued that the District will appeal this decision by the MDOR. In the event that the District needs to use E&D funds during FY18, it will need to wait for the money to be certified and then present to the three towns during a special town meetings. Dr. Zielinski will be working with Mr. Meichelbeck and Mr. Caliento to work out a plan for date certification and write a letter of appeal to the MDOR Director of Accounts. She also noted that there is a full-day budget meeting on January 13, 2017

#### **COMMUNICATION:**

KP In the News  
2017 Ethics Compliance for School Committee Members  
FY16 BICO Financial Statements  
FY16 BICO Annual Report  
BICO Quarterly Report dated December 23, 2016

Discussion ensued on rental of space for BICO programs for social emotional students. A review of the FY16 BICO Financial Statement prompted the discussion on the reserved account (Page 5) which Dr. Zielinski explained is 25% as they use this money to operate special education and specialized programs over the summer months.

#### **REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: (Taken out of Order)**

- Norfolk School Committee Representative: Mr. Chalmers – the next meeting will be held on 1/10/17.
- Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. McEntee – the next meeting will be held on 1/10/17.

- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano – the last meeting was held on 12/13/16 and discussion was held on the school improvement plan, Dr. Cameron and the SRO presented emergency procedures protocols, and there was a discussion on opiate use and policy.
- HS Student Council Representative: Miss Sheehan

### **Schoolwide**

Midterm exams will begin the week of Monday, January 23rd.

During the week prior to Vacation, King Philip welcomed a statistician from Brown University to present a seminar on Biostatistics to both AP Biology Students, and STEM Research Students.

### **KP Cares**

KP Cares has recently displayed their New Year's resolution board in the space hallway. Students from all 4 classes are encouraged to write down their personal resolutions on the wall.

### **Student Council**

Student Council will be attending the winter SEMASC conference after school on Tuesday, January 10th. This event will be held at Quincy High-school for the southeastern region of MASC. Student Council is in the process of finding six teachers to chaperone a new event- Winter Carnival. This event will be held on Saturday, January 21st. The event is based off of Quebec's annual Winter Carnival.

Auxiliary and Eboard members have begun making stars to decorate / hide for "Star Day". This event falls during mid-term exams each year.

### **KPMA**

Accepted Students from King Philip's Concert Band, Symphony Band, Concert Choir, and Madrigals classes who auditioned for the Senior Southeastern District Festival will be participated at Sharon High School on Friday and Saturday last week.

The Senior Southeastern District Festival Concert will be held on Saturday afternoon at Sharon High School. King Philip Students have been encouraged to attend.

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **Superintendent's Goal Review**

Dr. Zielinski presented her 16/17 Superintendent's Goals and included the progress to date. She expressed some frustration on one of her goals, the offering of early college courses at the high school level. She has been focusing on the public colleges and feels the reluctance this is partially brought on by union issues at the college level. Discussion ensued on the differentiation of how an AP course is different from an early college course as it targets a different group of students to help make student see their college potential and what they want to do. State funding is no longer available for dual enrollment so now students need to qualify financially or pay for earned credits.

The topic of the Community Engagement Committee was discussed and Dr. Zielinski noted that the documents are ready to go once the committee is in place. Committee Members' schedules have made it difficult to schedule an initial meeting; Dr. Zielinski suggested a Monday meeting prior to a school committee meeting to help facilitate this. Dr. Zielinski said that a lot of work has been done in outreach, the framework is in place and capturing what we send out to parents.

Dr. Gilson noted that the 2 school resource officers (MS and HS) will be hosting a screening of Screenagers on January 19 at 7pm at the MS.

Dr. Mobley will be having a “Coffee and conversation” where the opiate issue and suicide prevention, as well as the results of the MetroWest Survey will be discussed on 1/26 at 6:30pm.

Dr. Zielinski is excited about the District being invited to partake in an app from the USDOE called “raise.me” to help students use their course load and grades to qualify for guaranteed merit scholarship money. Colleges are paying to be a member of raise.me. We are working with guidance department on this exciting endeavor. There is a list of schools on the site.

Mrs. McEntee asked that we revisit community engagement. Mrs. Martin will put the School Committee Goals as an agenda item for the next meeting for review. Dr. Zielinski will look at the last community survey that went out and review the different aspects of it.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **Policy File: JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited Update**

In a memorandum dated January 6, 2017, Dr. Zielinski explained that she received a legal opinion on policy JICG – Use of Tobacco Products and JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students, in which she indicated that having both policies is not detrimental and keeping both ensures that the District has both legal requirements completely covered.

Mr. Francomano suggested referencing both and have it as a simple policy instead of having 2 separate policies to eliminate any confusion and streamline it.

##### **Synergy Energy Net Metering Update: Dr. Zielinski**

In a memorandum dated January 5, 2017, Mr. Caliento explained that a legal review comparing the original Synergy agreement to the proposed Solten agreement identified many changes, some with minor impact but other appear to be more substantial. The District has reached out but not heard back from Mr. Jenkins, CEO of Synergy to explain the differences and answer any the questions that have arisen. Dr. Zielinski indicated that there may be some potential legal recourse in the contract. Mr. Francomano is concerned about how much money has already been spent on legal review.

#### **Public Records Access Compliance/Electronic File Management Comparison:**

- ✦ **A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. Desrochers, to enter into a contract with OfficeScope per Dr. Zielinski’s recommendation dated December 7, 2016. All in favor.**

Mr. Francomano asked that Dr. Zielinski present an action plan on the intended implementation over the next 2 years of putting in new departments and archiving documents at the February 6, 2017 meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Home School Plans:**

- ✦ **A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to approve the 3 home school plans as presented for the remainder of the 2016/2017 school year, according to policy IHBG:  
J.S. – Grade 8  
G.S. – Grade 7  
J.F. – Grade 11  
All in favor.**

Discussion ensued on whether home schooled students participate in after school activities and if parents attend workshops held by the district. Dr. Zielinski indicated that it depends on the individual families as home school families may associate with each other from the same area with the same interests based on the ages of their children.

**2017/2018 School Year Calendar (1<sup>st</sup> Reading):**

In a memorandum dated January 4, 2017, Dr. Zielinski presented the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the 2017/2018 school year calendar which also incorporated tentative school committee meetings. A 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will be on January 23, 2017.

**Assistant Superintendent/MS Principal Successor Contract:**

As noted by Mr. Francomano, Dr. Gilson's contract notification is due in April. According to Dr. Zielinski, Dr. Gilson has asked for a successor contract as she is in a dual capacity. The MS principal position falls under the superintendent, and the assistant superintendent position falls under the of the school committee.

**Superintendent's Successor Contract:**

Discussion began with what could be discussed in Executive Session and what had to be addressed in Open Session.

Mr. Francomano stated that any evaluation component must be in open session. Negotiations can be discussed in closed session. The School Committee needs to decide whether or not to offer a successor contract and that can be done in executive session. The only thing that is required in open session is any discussion involving performance.

Mr. Gee clarified that this discussion is to extend a successor contract and that if no action is taken, the contract automatically continues for a full year.

Prior to adjourning into Executive Session, the Committee discussed Dr. Zielinski's performance and issues that have arisen:

Mr. Francomano stated that while he believes Dr. Zielinski has done a good job, he has had concerns about several management decisions that have been made and the ability to get information out in a timely manner. He has concern about the Superintendent's support of her staff and feels that while she does give them the ability to be independent, he sometimes feels they have been thrown under the bus. He expressed concern with the administrative evaluation process, and the music lesson bid and implementation process. Mr. Francomano also felt that some of Dr. Zielinski's listed accomplishments are actually the result of a team effort. He feels Dr. Zielinski was a smart hire but that he continues to have performance concerns.

Mr. Gee stated that the District is definitely better off then we were 6 years ago, with advancement seen every year. We hold a manager accountable and the success of the district is how that manager works with her team. Dr. Zielinski does hold her team accountable, people don't work out and she has taken care of that.

Mrs. McEntee expressed concern that Dr. Zielinski has been a finalist in several districts and that the District would be left in the lurch if she continued to look and found a new position. She would like a firm commitment that Dr. Zielinski plans to stay with King Philip

Mr. Francomano agreed with this concern.

Dr. Zielinski stated that she would like to stay in the area, stating that her daughter is attending college in the area.

Mr. Francomano stated that the Committee cannot make decisions based on that and reiterated that with 90 days notice, the district could find itself in an unexpected Superintendent search. He also discussed the upheaval that occurs in the district during the finalist process and how disruptive it is.

Any contract offered should include ramifications for this. He reminded Dr. Zielinski that the previous contract was based on a long term commitment and that she was willing to leave before fulfilling that.

Dr. Zielinski acknowledged the concerns and stated that she still feels there is a lot to do at King Philip, and that she would like to continue to work to make King Philip a stellar district.

Mrs. Desrochers stated that she agreed with Mr. Gee's comments, things are better and we have really improved our relationship with our fellow districts. She also shares Mr. Francomano's concerns that there are matters that need improvement including the music program, and financial decisions. She does feel Dr. Zielinski is dedicated to King Philip. The Committee's priority is to protect the district.

Mrs. McEntee commended Dr. Zielinski, for creating a great administrative team and stated that a great administrative team is what makes KP great.

**ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Assistant Superintendent/MS Principal Successor Contract - Negotiations  
Superintendent's Successor Contract - Negotiations**

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mr. Gee, to enter into executive session at 9:30pm to discuss the superintendent's successor contract and will return to open session. All in favor by roll call vote. Yes (7); No (0).**

Open session reconvened at 10:30PM

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee that the School Committee will enter into negotiations with the Superintendent for a successor contract. All in favor.**
- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, that the School Committee authorizes the Superintendent to enter into negotiations for a three-year contract with the Assistant Superintendent/MS Principal. All in favor.**

**LATE COMMUNICATIONS**

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 10:45pm. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7); No (0).**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Barrett Witkus  
Secretary to the School Committee*