

King Philip Regional School Committee
Remote Meeting
Monday, March 15, 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.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jim Lehan
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, John Faraca, Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Trevor Knott, Erin DeStefano

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Sarah Ward
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Jim Killion

HS Student Council Representative: Miss James

Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Dr. Mobley, Mr. Azer, Mrs. Reynolds, Miss James
Co-senior advisors: Ms. Walden and Ms. Roberts and 2021 Class Officers

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.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (Taken out of Order):

Co-Senior Class Advisors, Ms. Walden and Ms. Roberts, along with Senior Class Officers (Ally Ward, Emily Hom, Mitch Breen and Cole Breen) provided the School Committee with an update on upcoming senior class activities and fundraising efforts. Mitch Breen announced that there will be several outdoor events for the Class of 2021 including the senior prom to be held on June 10 (with a rain date of June 11), a senior picnic and a senior barbecue. Cole Breen gave an overview of current fundraisers and thanked the families and parents for all of their donations and support for the senior class.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- ✚ At 7:15pm, a Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to adjourn into Executive Session, for Purpose No. 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 Successor Contract 2021-2024; 2021 KPTA Units A, B, C, D and KP Food Services Retirement Incentive); and, to return to open session. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0

Mr. Zinni stopped recording and live streaming.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

- At 7:24pm, the School Committee returned to open session.
- This meeting continued to be recorded by Mr. Zinni and was live-streamed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Zinni received one email for public comment and read it into the Minutes:

1. Jill Hindley Lawrence, Norfolk – Allowing seniors to return to school and DESE on-site consultations.

Mr. Zinni responded to Ms. Lawrence's public comment. With regard to receiving a waiver or having a DESE consultation team to assess how the new full-time requirements can be implemented, Mr. Zinni explained that there has been no movement or ability to get a waiver for less than 3' distance, and all communication from the CDC and the APA has been for a minimum distance of 3'. Mr. Zinni reiterated that KP has been and still is at the minimum distance of 3'.

NEW BUSINESS (Taken out of Order):

Ratification of Unit A (Teachers) 2021-2024 Successor Agreement:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Lehan, to approve the KPTA Unit A (Teachers) Memorandum of Agreement for the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement that will be in effect for a three-year period. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0

FY2021 Early Retirement Incentive:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the FY2021 Early Retirement Incentive, based upon the eligibility and terms for each of the following KPTA Units A, B, C, D and KP Food Services Association. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0

Transportation Base Price Bid Award:

Mr. Azer reviewed the transportation bid process and the specifications that were developed collaboratively by King Philip along with the three elementary districts and while they were unable to formally issue one collective bid together, many elements of the respective bids were updated to achieve a closer alignment to allow for such a possibility in the future. The specifications were sent to six vendors, with one bid from Holmes Bus Company being received.

Mr. Azer indicated that the bid specifications also included an alternate for a variety of start/end times. The pricing for the alternative start/end times far exceeded the District's budget capacity by approximately \$900,000.00. For this reason, Mr. Azer recommends against proceeding with looking at later start times. Discussion ensued that the District would revisit later/alternate start times and continue to monitor this matter with the elementary districts over the next few years.

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve that the District award a three-year contract to Holmes Bus Company to provide regular education transportation in accordance with bid specifications, in the amount of \$232 per bus, per day for FY2022 - \$1,002,240; \$240 per bus per day for FY2023 - \$1,036,800; and \$250 per bus, per day for FY2024 - \$1,080,000. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0

COMMUNICATION (Taken out of Order):

Mrs. MaryAnn Reynolds, KP Food Services Director, provided an overview of the curbside meal delivery program that the food services department has been preparing and distributing to KP families during the Covid-19 Pandemic. To-date over 46,602 meals have been distributed curbside according to Mr. Zinni. Mrs. Reynolds and her staff have done a phenomenal job serving the KP Community. Mr. Zinni also thanked Mrs. Dot Pearl and the Hockomock YMCA for their assistance. The School Committee extended their thanks to the KP Food Services Department.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (Taken out of Order):

Student Learning Plans for Seniors: Dr. Mobley

Dr. Mobley explained her commitment to have seniors return to full, in-person learning. She presented the School Committee with data on class size and room capacity by class which is based upon very fluid data. She explained how some classes are at or over capacity at this time, however, this may change based upon the results of a survey being sent to students this week. In the survey, students will need to decide if they choose remote or in-person learning and a commitment to a six-week interval period. Dr. Mobley explained that she intends to make seniors a priority and is committed to having seniors being back in class.

Dr. Mobley announced her plan that starting on April 5, students who choose to, will return to in-person learning, on a rotating cohort schedule 5 days per week and use the 7-day, 6 block, drop one schedule.

Further discussion was held on MIAA guidelines and regulations for student-athletes for quarantine and contact tracing.

Mr. Zinni announced that the Covid Committee will be meeting on Monday, March 22 at 5:30pm in the MS Library. Any decisions made at this meeting will be shared with the School Committee.

Discussion ensued on vaccinations for teachers and DESE guidelines for quarantine and contact tracing

A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the changes to the learning model, as discussed.

Further discussion was held on clarification of what the changes to the learning model include. Mr. Zinni reviewed the changes.

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Knott, to approve the changes to the learning model, as outlined by Mr. Zinni:

- 1) Moving to an A/B alternating schedule for the month of April, with no remote Wednesdays.
- 2) The District will be adhering to the six weeks timeline to move someone out of remote learning into full in-person learning.
- 3) The District will survey its students who are in remote asking them at the HS and MS to commit to in-person learning by March 22, 2021 or recognize that they will be out for at least 6 weeks.
- 4) Returning to a 7-day schedule rotation at the HS.

All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0

Discussion ensued on whether there will be a teacher in every classroom upon return to full in-person learning.

COMMUNICATION (continued):

MS and HS Student Council Report:

Miss James provided the School Committee with the HS and MS Student Council reports dated March 15, 2021.

- Mrs. DeStefano asked if the presentation on suicide and suicide prevention could be shared with the parents of the elementary districts. Mr. Zinni will coordinate this with Mrs. Pearl, Wellness Director of the 4 districts.
- Mrs. DeStefano mentioned that if the Eco-warriors are looking for project hours that the Wrentham Elementary Garden can use some helping hands and their help would be very much appreciated. Miss James will follow up on this.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the March 1, 2021 minutes, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0

Payment of Bills, Financial Report:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the following Warrants: Payroll: 58; Accounts Payables: 59, 60a, 60b, 60c, 60d, 60e and 61, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes dated February 22, 2021 and March 1, 2021, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

District Update:

1. **Survey:** As a follow up to Mr. Khan's question on the MetroWest Survey, Mr. Zinni will be meeting with members of Healthy KP, working with an assessment group, on health and wellness issues and will plan to develop a survey for our students.
2. **Nursing Staff:** Mr. Zinni, along with Ms. Moy, wanted to thank the members of the nursing staff for all of their tireless work during this pandemic and their work on contact tracing. The nurses reach out by phone and emails to students and their families who are considered close contacts. The nurses have compiled Covid-related data and also report to the Board of Health on related matters along with follow up calls to families.

Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Mr. Zinni and Mr. Khan served on the search committee for the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and have announced that candidate Jessica Pepple has accepted the position and will be joining KP and the three elementary districts in her new role. Mr. Zinni would like to introduce Ms. Pepple to the School Committee at an upcoming meeting. A press release will be forthcoming.

Mr. Cates has asked that a discussion on the job description for this position and policy setting be held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Superintendent's Evaluation:

Mr. Gee announced that the superintendent's evaluation, along with goals and indicators, has been sent to school committee members and asked that it be completed by March 25, 2021. The summary of the evaluation will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting on April 5, 2021.

FY22 Budget Update and Vote:

In a memorandum dated March 9, 2021, Mr. Azer presented the proposed FY22 budget for review and consideration of final adoption by the School Committee. He reminded members that a 2/3 affirmative vote of the full committee was required in order for the budget to be approved (6 yes votes).

A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the adoption of a FY22 total budget (including debt service) of \$37,300,279 with the following member town assessments:

- Norfolk: \$9,598,046
- Plainville: \$7,214,644
- Wrentham: \$11,631,726

The member town operating assessments are as follows:

- Norfolk: + 1.92%
- Plainville: + 9.81%
- Wrentham: +3.91%
- Total: +4.64%

All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0

NEW BUSINESS:

2021/2022 School Year Calendar (1st Reading):

Dr. Gilson presented the 1st reading of the 2021/2022 School Year Calendar. She explained that the district always does its best to coordinate and collaborate with the three elementary districts.

Policy Review (1st Reading):

The following policies were presented as a 1st reading. A 2nd reading will be held on April 5, 2021.

- Section I: IKA - Graduation Requirements
- Section J – Students:
- Files: JBB, JF, JH, JHD, JI, JIB, JICA JICFB, JICH, JJIB, JIE, JJA, JK, JKAA, JLC, JLCA, JLCC, JLCD, JQ
- Section K - Community Relations:
- Files: KBA, KBE, KDB, KDD, KE, KF, KF-R, KHA, KHB, KLG
- File KDBA – Rescind
- File KJA – Rescind

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Norfolk School Committee Representative: None.
- Plainville School Committee Representative: John Faraca – The focus of the meeting was bringing students back into school by April 5, 2021; parent communication.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Erin DeStefano – Topics included: Back to school plan on April 5, 2021; vaccination of staff; changes to quarantine guidelines; fundraising for the Roderick School playground and construction; Summer Institute will be returning this summer.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Town Elections:


Mr. Gee mentioned that with the upcoming elections in Plainville, Wrentham and Norfolk, there will be changes in the KP school committee membership. One of the changes will be that Mrs. DeStefano is not running for reelection to the

Wrentham School Committee and will no longer be the appointed representative to King Philip. Mr. Gee thanked Mrs. DeStefano for serving on KP and for her contributions to this committee and all that she has done for the district.

Meeting Schedule:

Mr. Knott noted that since there is a three-week span until the next meeting, he suggested that the Committee meet in two weeks rather than three. Following discussion, Mr. Gee will decide on the next meeting date based upon discussions of the Covid Committee on March 22nd and whether any further decisions will need to be made for the roll out plan of bringing students back to school.

ADOURNMENT:

-  **At 9:45pm, a Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Cates, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Mr. Cates, Mr. Faraca, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried: 7-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa B. Witkus
Executive Assistant &
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on March 15, 2021:

- Agenda
- Warrants
- HS and MS Student Council Report
- Ratification of Unit A Successor Contract 2021-2024
- Ratification of Early Retirement Incentives
- Transportation Base Price Bid Award
- Draft Minutes of March 1, 2021
- Draft Executive Session Minutes of 2/22/21 and 3/1/21
- FY22 Budget Update
- 2021/2022 School Year Calendar (1st reading)
- Policy Review (1st reading):
 - Section I: IKA - Graduation Requirements
 - Section J – Students:
 - Files: JBB, JF, JH, JHD, JI, JIB, JICA JICFB, JICH, JJIB, JIE, JJA, JK, JKAA, JLC, JLCA, JLCC, JLCD, JQ
 - Section K - Community Relations:
 - Files: KBA, KBE, KDB, KDD, KE, KF, KF-R, KHA, KHB, KLG
 - File KDBA – Rescind
 - File KJA – Rescind