

**King Philip Regional School Committee Meeting**  
**Remote Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 6, 2020 – 8PM**  
**Approved**

**ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Members Present:**

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jim Lehan, Sarah Ward
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, Samad Khan, Michele Sharpe
Wrentham:	Erin DeStefano, Trevor Knott, Jim Killion

**Members Absent:**

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Present
Wrentham:	Present

**Visitors:**

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer, Mr. Bois

**OPENING OF MEETING:**

Mr. Gee, Chair opened the meeting at 8:00pm and read the following statement into the Minutes:

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](http://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.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Superintendent Zinni shared the public comments that were received from members of the community. Both public comments expressed support for full remote learning. Mr. Killion referenced a letter signed by a large group of juniors and seniors to the school committee that was not submitted for public comment. Mr. Gee summarized their letter which was this group's feeling that remote learning was less effective, increased the feeling of isolation, and increased mental health risks.

## **Reports of the Superintendent:**

### **Review of District Reopening Plan:**

Mr. Zinni updated the committee about the meetings held over the last several days, that included, but not limited to, school councils, parent town halls, staff meetings, along with meeting with a group of parents virtually. There were a lot of questions asking about the information raised in proposed school re-opening models, full in-school, hybrid, and remote. Reasons for not entering every student back in full include loss of a huge number of electives with replacement with study periods. Mr. Zinni noted that the Administrative Team will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the proposed models further.

School Committee discussion reinforced that the District would pivot between learning models and that public health is paramount. The school district has been trying to look at the model that has the least number of cons and to try to lessen the problems that go along with those.

Mr. Zinni noted that Mr. Bois and Dr. Gilson have been working on grants to get laptops into the hands of all students to facilitate easy transitions between the models where students do not have to share computers.

Discussion ensued about the delayed start dates for students. Norfolk is starting earlier than King Philip by 2 days. Mr. Zinni noted that the KPTA Teacher Contract indicates teachers cannot start prior to September 1st. Each school district is using the 10 days allowed by DESE for professional development.

## **Meeting Change of Date:**

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to move the August 10, 2020 School Committee Meeting to August 12, 2020. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (9): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Ms. Sharpe, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor; Motion carried.**

## **Additional Information:**

Mr. Zinni provided additional information on parts of the hybrid and remote models. He also indicated that the COVID information section on the KP website has been revamped. For students that stay home all the time we are creating a remote academy.

Discussion ensued on recording, live streaming of the School Committee meetings.

Further discussion was held on what is the process if someone tested positive. Mr. Zinni reiterated that COVID has brought a lot of new issues and new directions. The committee continued to debate about the respective models with the vote on the reopening plan being on Wednesday, August 12th.

**Reports from School Committee Members:**

Closing comments included reports from the three towns. Elementary schools are going hybrid. The model includes Wednesday as a day for deep clearing and full remote. KP and elementary districts are looking at aligning with the same or similar model.

**ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- ✚ **A Motion was made at 9:49pm by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Knott, to adjourn the school committee meeting and enter into Executive Session 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. A roll call of members was taken: Yes (9): Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Cates, Mr. Khan, Ms. Sharpe, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott; No (0); Abstain (0). All in favor; Motion carried.**

Mr. Zinni stopped recording of the meeting and the live stream.

Mr. Gee announced that the School Committee will not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Susan Gilson, Assistant Superintendent

**Documents presented on August 6, 2020:**

None