

To: King Philip Regional School District School Committee

From: Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent of Schools

Date: January 27, 2025

Re: Superintendent's Update

# **Project 351 Ambassadors**

I will begin my update by recognizing our annual Project 351 8th grade nominees: Cecelia Varey from Norfolk, Evelyn Miles from Plainville, and Isabella Pennini from Wrentham. Project 351 models service learning and civic engagement, and serves as a platform for students to value empathy and kindness. Project 351 Ambassadors are often unsung heroes and quiet leaders. Project 351 engages youth at a critical stage in their development, and helps to build courage and compassion. Our students joined ambassadors from all other 351 towns/cities in Massachusetts on Saturday, January 25th, along with some Project 351 alumni, for their annual "Launch Day." Thank you to Ms. Lisa McIntyre and Mr. Sean Jones, teachers who are both here tonight from King Philip Middle School, for serving as co-advisors for our student ambassadors. And I also want to acknowledge their parents here tonight for raising such wonderful kids. Pictured below on the next page is Principal Kreuzer, Bella, Evelyn, and Cecelia.



# **DECA Project**

On Saturday, Jan. 18th, along with Mr. Harmon I had the privilege to be a "Minnow Tank" judge here at KPHS in the library to assist junior students Lusia Harmon and Eve Rose with their DECA project. Below is a photo of Lusia and Eve providing an overview of their project, and then below that is another photo of our middle school student winners who participated in this entrepreneurship opportunity and excelled with their technological football product. Thanks go out to Norfolk town resident Peter Bishop, Chief Marketing Officer at Plymouth Rock Home Assurance, who served alongside myself and Mr. Harmon as a judge. And of course, thanks also go to Mr. Dow for being there to encourage and support his DECA students.





### MSBA Statement of Interest / Accelerated Repair Program

MSBA's upcoming Statement of Interest (SOI) opened on January 13th. The SOI closing date for districts submitting for consideration under the Accelerated Repair Program (ARP), which is intended for roofs, windows/doors, and heat pump conversions in existing school facilities, is Friday, March 21st, 2025. We plan to submit a SOI for roofs at the middle school because we now qualify at KPMS; we do not yet qualify at KPHS as their roofs are still less than 20 years old. Although the roofs at the middle school are in good condition, we want to get in the queue as soon as possible to hopefully be approved for MSBA funding for our roofs in the future. The MSBA encourages all interested districts to submit an SOI to the MSBA, although the ARP is not appropriate for all potential projects. With each ARP project, the MSBA intends to prolong the longevity of the existing building and improve the environment of the school. Please reference the ARP SOI Overview, located here, to view the changes to the ARP in 2025.

#### Norfolk Temporary Respite Shelter Update

The week of January 13th we had 7 new students enroll in our school district and 4 students leave our district. For the week of January 21st we had no new students enroll in or leave our school district. And for this week of January 27th we had 6 new students from the Norfolk shelter enroll in our school district. As of now, we have a total of 22 students from the Norfolk Temporary Respite Shelter being educated in our school district (15 high school students and 7 middle school students).

# **Essential Ellington**

On January 15th Mr. Keough and our KPHS Jazz Ensemble learned that for the 2nd year in a row they were selected for 30th Annual Essentially Ellington Festival to be held May 7th-11th in New York City. Congratulations to Director Keough and all of our hard-working and talented Jazz musicians! The students in the group include Harry Chisholm, Grace McHugh, Ben Spiller, Allison Graham, Chris Stock, Sean Gable, Alex Bazinet, Gavin O'Brien, Lily Brideau, Ewan Simone, Eric Collins, Bobby Ford, Anran Ye, Julian Rosario, Julia Brideau, Chad Werling, Aidan Carone, Aarit Shrivastava, and Thomas Nerney

#### **Credit for Life**

On January 13th all KPHS juniors participated in a "Credit for Life" event during one of four hour-long time slots. They began with an overview and then spent the majority of the session moving from vendor to vendor, assessing their salary, and determining how/if they could afford rent, transportation, insurance, food, cell phones, and so on. This was a great event planned with Ms. Bottomley, Mr. Dow and his DECA students, some local businesses, and parent volunteers. Credit for Life teaches students about

financial literacy. Ms. Bottomely and her team will look to expand and enhance the Credit for Life event for our students next year. Below is the "Credit for Life Fair Spending Sheet" students used and some photos I took from attending one of the sessions.





