

KING PHILIP REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES - Approved
October 3, 2016
King Philip Regional High School – Library

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Mrs. Martin welcomed Mrs. Erin DeStefano, who is the representative from Wrentham Public School representative appointed to the King Philip Regional School Committee. She will be replacing Mrs. Schmitz as the Wrentham representative.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Members Present:	Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jeff Chalmers, Noelle Tonelli
	Plainville:	Ann-marie Martin, Patrick Francomano, Charlene McEntee
	Wrentham:	Erin DeStefano, Jim Killion, Lynn Desrochers

Members Absent:	Norfolk:	Present
	Wrentham:	Present
	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 to review informational documents pertaining to each school committee meeting. Videotaped meetings may be viewed in their entirety at 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 Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to approve the Minutes of September 6, 2016 as presented. All in favor with Mrs. Tonelli, Mrs. DeStefano and Mrs. Martin abstaining.

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

COMMUNICATION:

1. Appointments, Retirements, Resignations, etc., were presented by Dr. Zielinski in a memorandum dated September 23, 2016.
2. Murphy, Hesse: Municipal Client Advisory – September 2016.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

Mr. Hawkins, MTA Representative
Mr. Bill Rice, Mr. Dow, HS DECA Advisor

COMMUNICATION:

KP In the News:

- *The Sun Chronicle* dated 9/27/16, "Gender dynamics may be key to presidential debate."
- Budget & Finance Subcommittee approved minutes dated August 1, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hawkins of MTA was invited by the School Committee to discuss and consider the Charter School Resolution as this ballot question is being funded by a significant amount of money from out of state. He indicated the costs to the school district as special education services or ELL are not funded and are not the same as a public school.

Mr. Hawkins distributed the following information:

1. "Save our public schools," and
2. FY16 sending district tuition to Commonwealth charter schools – updated. In which the net district payment for King Philip is \$129,262, with a reimbursement shortfall of \$1,092.

Mr. Francomano suggested dealing with this topic under the MASC delegate resolutions under Unfinished Business, as there is a resolution dealing with Charter School expansion to be discussed (MASC Resolution 3). The Committee agreed.

New Business:

Mr. Rice was introduced by Mrs. Martin to present a nomination to the School Committee for the naming of the HS Varsity Baseball Field after Gary F. Lombard. Mr. Rice gave a brief history of various roles Mr. Lombard held within the King Philip community as a teacher, guidance counselor, coach and administrator for over 30 years. Mr. Rice and current baseball coach Patrick Weir would like to see this field named after Mr. Lombard while he is still living. Former students of Mr. Lombard, who are now established men in the KP community, were introduced.

Mrs. Martin thanked Mr. Rice for his presentation and explained the protocol. Dr. Zielinski will let the community know about this nomination and it will be presented for a second discussion on October 17, 2016.

DECA Overnight Field Trip: Mr. Dow

Mr. Dow, DECA Advisor, was present to answer any questions the School Committee may have on upcoming DECA overnight field trips.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mr. Francomano, to approve the attendance of King Philip Regional High School DECA Program members to attend the DECA State Skills Marketing Competition to be held Thursday, March 9-11, 2017, in Boston, MA, according to Policy JJH and IJOA. All in favor.**
- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mr. Gee, to approve the attendance of the King Philip Regional High School DECA Annual International Marketing Skills Competition to be held April 26 to May 1, 2017, in Anaheim, CA with transportation (flights) and lodging accommodations to be determined, according to Policy JJH and IJOA. All in favor.**

The school committee requested an update prior to the trip on the transportation and lodging accommodations for the Annual International Marketing Skills Competition.

The Committee questioned whether there was a concern in the community that they were unaware of as a number of DECA parents attended the meeting but no issues were raised. Dr. Zielinski will investigate.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Future Ready Schools: Dr. Zielinski

Dr. Zielinski indicated that she has been meeting with the IT department on Fridays and there is currently a search for an interim technology director being conducted with Interviews scheduled for next week.

Dr. Zielinski is implementing a program entitled Future Ready Schools and has provided the Committee with some general information on this program which is a United States Department of Education initiative to create collaboration among community members to improve technology access and use by students and teachers. On November 14th and 15th, Future Ready will be holding a conference in Boston. There is a great deal of work that needs to be accomplished before attending the conference which includes an audit of our current technology at King Philip. The conference provides the Technology Team with experts in the field to help the team develop a technology plan while at the conference.

The conference has a limit to the number of committee members who can attend, however there is plenty of opportunity for all of the Technology Committee to participate in the preconference work (audit of technology) and post conference work of completing the plan and implementing it.

Dr. Zielinski provided for the School Committee as well as other technology team members a copy of the book "Digital Citizenship: A Community Based Approach" by Susan Beardon who will be one of the experts at this conference. I encourage you to read it and participate in the discussion as we move our technology forward at King Philip.

Below is a list of the current membership for the Technology Committee:

Mr. Jeff Chalmers - KP School Committee, Norfolk Public School Representative
Mr. Pat Francomano - KP School Committee (Plainville)
Mrs. Charlene McEntee - KP School Committee, Plainville Public School Representative
Mrs. Noelle Tonelli - KP School Committee (Norfolk) and a Middle School Teacher
Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski - Superintendent
Dr. Susan Gilson - Assistant Superintendent/MS Principal
Dr. Lisa Mobley – HS Principal
Mr. Spencer Christie – HS Assistant Principal
Mrs. Cheryl Rowe - HS Media Technology Teacher
Mr. Michael Bois - IT Security – Network Administrator and KP parent
Mr. Domenic Sergio - IT Help Desk Manager
Mrs. Patricia Olen - Data Specialist
Mr. Ian Proffer - Parent and IT Professional (Norfolk)
Mrs. Elizabeth Nowakowski - Parent and Higher Education Professor (Plainville)
High School Teacher – Tim O'Connor
Middle School Teacher – Susan Hall

Dr. Zielinski is proposing October 11 and October 18 as dates for the Technology Committee. 7pm is the recommended start time proposed by Mr. Chalmers so that more members may attend.

Mr. Francomano expressed concerned about the timeline and what the organization is going to look like. Dr. Zielinski indicated that she is spearheading this initiative, and that a chair and co-chair based may be appointed following discussions by the committee.

Discussion continued on the best way to complete the technology audit in a timely fashion prior to the conference. Data collection will continue throughout the week in an effort to have all the information

available for the Tech Committee on the meeting tentatively slated for 10/11 pending responses from committee members about availability.

Discussion ensued on the librarian position being the center focus, where King Philip has a media specialist that is a shared role with many other responsibilities. Mr. Francomano asked if the goal is to have a full-time media specialist role.

Dr. Zielinski explained currently the Media Specialist position is full time and that several of her other responsibilities, including those revolving around athletics, are covered by a stipend, and not part of the position's duties.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Norfolk School Committee Representative: Mr. Chalmers – Discussion on strategic planning and the opening of school.
- Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. McEntee – Reviewed goals, approved a wellness policy and Jackson and Wood School School Improvement Plans, ballot question #2 was discussed and tabled for the next meeting.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Ms. DeStefano – Discussion on MCAS results, emergency response protocols are being reviewed and enhanced, a staff vs. police softball game was held as a fundraiser.

Ms. Sheehan, HS Student Council Report:

Schoolwide:

Open House was on Thursday, September 29th 6-8 at KPHS

KP Cares:

KP Cares ended up raising 2500 dollars for the KP student who is battling cancer.

KP Cares is hosting another "Paint the School Pink" Event in which the entire school is honoring those with breast cancer by wearing pink clothing.

Student Council:

KP debuted their new event, "Find Your Match" on Wednesday, 9/28. This ice-breaker designed event was to get the classes to know each other. Prizes were distributed as well for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & creativity winners.

Planner Sales have been sold at lunch for 10\$. At open house on Thursday, 9/28 the planners were sold to parents for 5\$ each.

Spirit Week is next week, with Pep Rally on October 7th.

Monday: America Monday

• Tuesday: "Paint the School Pink" - "Beat cancer"

• Wednesday: Decades Day

• Thursday: Class Color Day

• Friday: KP Color Day

The homecoming dance will occur on October 8th, 2016. This year's dance theme is Black & White.

Student Government:

The freshman class officers just selected the color black to be the class of 2021's class color.

KPMA:

The Marching Band's home-show is on Saturday, October 1st at 6pm.

9/24 color run raised \$3500

MASC Resolutions - continued:

- ✦ **A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to support MASC Resolution #3 at the MASC Delegate Assembly, as submitted by the MASC Board of Directors, and read into the Minutes by Mr. Francomano:**

Charter School Reform:

WHEREAS the possibility of the expansion of Commonwealth charter schools in Massachusetts poses a threat to the ability of public school districts to provide services to the children of the Commonwealth, and

WHEREAS in many cities and towns, Commonwealth charter schools are imposed upon communities over their objections and without regard to the impact such a charter school would have on the education of children in the public schools, and

WHEREAS without substantial reform of Commonwealth charter school financing; recruitment of students; accurate, unduplicated, and students who are no longer seeking to enroll but are alleged to be on charter school waiting lists; equitable charter school enrollment of representative segments of the population of economically disadvantaged, special education, and disabled students remediation of the adverse impact of charter school expansion cannot be addressed, and

WHEREAS these circumstances would be exacerbated by the approval by voters of a proposed ballot initiative to expand charter schools and to circumvent such safeguards as would address several of the inequities arising out of the expansion of charter schools in Massachusetts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to reject such a ballot initiative, and further,

That MASC seek legislative approval of a comprehensive set of reforms that includes:

- 1. Establishment of strict guidelines or regulations to require that charter schools enroll represent cross sections of students residing within the school service areas.**
- 2. Reporting of accurate numbers of students who leave charter schools to return to the sending districts or district of residence.**
- 3. Requiring the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to retain and report accurate data on enrollment of students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, economic disadvantage, emotional disability and status as racial and linguistic minorities.**
- 4. State requirements that any charter school authorized in a community without its consent be funded in full by the Commonwealth rather than by expropriation of Chapter 70 education aid from the sending cities, towns and regions.**
- 5. State funding in full of any mitigation funds created to offset the loss of state funding for students who become students in charter schools.**

All in favor.

The Committee discussed the confusion and controversy over costs to the districts brought on by charter schools. Mr. Francomano explained that there is an average per pupil cost, we only get a portion of that money in state aid, so right away you are dealing with a loss. In a hypothetical scenario, if the average per pupil cost is \$5000, and a district lost 12 students across 12 grade levels (1 student per grade), that district just lost the equivalent of the salary of the teacher, but cannot cut a teaching position.

The question was asked, what does MASC do with this vote? Mr. Francomano explained that the delegate assembly of MASC sets the legislative policy and agenda for the association for the coming year. The votes on these resolutions let the Committee's official delegate, Mrs. Martin, to know how to vote at the conference on the school committee's behalf.

All in favor.

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mr. Gee, that the voting delegate or alternate be given the appropriate leeway to use his/her discretion regarding any motions or amendments to a resolution that occur on the floor. All in favor.

Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. Tonelli, that the King Philip Regional School Committee moves that, as read into the Minutes by Mr. Francomano:
 - WHEREAS**, free public schools available to all students regardless of income, ability, need or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and
 - WHEREAS**, all of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and
 - WHEREAS**, local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and
 - WHEREAS**, King Philip Regional School District is losing \$129, 262, Commonwealth charter schools and public school districts across the state are losing more than \$450 million this year alone — a loss of funds that is undermining the ability of districts to provide all students with the educational services to which they are entitled; and
 - WHEREAS**, Commonwealth charter schools are often approved over the objections of a majority of community residents and their elected officials and are not accountable to local elected officials once they are approved; and
 - WHEREAS**, Commonwealth charter schools often fail to serve the same proportion of special needs students, low-income students and English language learners as the districts from which they receive students and often use high suspension rates to drive out students they don't want to serve; and
 - WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth charter school system is creating separate and unequal opportunities for success; and
 - WHEREAS**, lifting the cap on charter schools would greatly worsen the problems listed above and lead to a costly and divisive two-track school system;
 - THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the King Philip Regional School Committee opposes lifting the cap on Commonwealth charter schools.

All in favor.

Mr. Francomano noted that there are great charter schools doing great work, the problem is lifting the cap doesn't address the underlying needs of public education of today. We do not have the same flexibility. This is not about competition it is about equity for all students

Mrs. Desrochers indicated that she has no problem with choice, but if Public and Charter Schools are using the same funds, they should have to abide by the same rules, and that is not currently the case.

RESOLUTION 1: FOUNDATION BUDGET

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to approve Resolution 1, as submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee that:
 - WHEREAS** a special Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC) reported its recommendations in 2015 the General Court and to the public, and
 - WHEREAS** among the recommendations were those to calculate more accurately the costs of students in special education and health insurance costs for employees and retirees, and

WHEREAS several recommendations of the members of the Commission to establish adequate and equitable funding for school districts remain unresolved, and

WHEREAS there remains a broad consensus that the overall calculations used to establish the “Foundation Budget” for city, town and regional school districts remain significantly understated and, in the opinion of MASC and its members violates the letter and spirit of the ruling of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in the 1993 McDuffy Case,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC calls upon the legislature to enact the recommendations of the Foundation Budget into law, and further,

That the legislature order the Commission to reconvene in order to conduct further deliberations and make such recommendations as the FBRC may propose, and further

That the FBRC shall address and make recommendations toward the overall accuracy of the adequacy of the overall Foundation Budget.

All in favor.

RESOLUTION 2: TAX REFORM BALLOT QUESTION

Essentially there was a resolution last year to support to the state constitution and requires a constitutional amendment that failed. This will amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth to allow for greater tax equity that will not raise taxes on any but the wealthiest residents of Massachusetts,

Mrs. Desrochers stated that she did not think this is fair.

✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to move that Resolution 2, Tax Reform Ballot Question, as submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee:

WHEREAS there is a clear need to invest in our state’s educational, social, and infrastructure systems, and

WHEREAS the need to rebuild our roads and bridges, strengthen public education, and provide the necessary support to help ensure social and economic equity for the residents of Massachusetts, and WHEREAS a reasonable solution could be a combination of tax reforms and measures of accountability to establish a more equitable source for revenue and a more effective way of measuring our success, and WHEREAS Net income growth over the past decade has demonstrated a disproportionately lower tax burden as a share of net income upon high wage earners within a current tax system than is asked of economically disadvantaged and middle class families, and

WHEREAS Advocates for social and economic equity are considering seeking to ask voters to amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth to allow for greater tax equity that will not raise taxes on any but the wealthiest residents of Massachusetts,

WHEREAS the Foundation Budget Review Commission recommended additional revenue and securing a more equitable distribution of those funds, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees explore ways to promote social and economic equity through a ballot initiative whose purpose may include a state constitutional amendment, tax reform, protection of the state’s neediest residents of all ages, and seeks additional revenue only from tax reform affecting the state’s wealthiest residents.

Further, that the goal of such a ballot referendum would be to secure a stronger financial base to underwrite needed improvements in the infrastructure of the Commonwealth as well as the educational, social and economic wellbeing if its residents.

Motion carried: Yes (7); No (2) Mrs. Desrochers, Mr. Killion

RESOLUTION 4: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS

✚ ***A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mr. Francomano, to move Resolution 4, the social and emotional well-being of students as submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee, that***

WHEREAS various factors including the impact of poverty, family status, other social issues and academic pressures have contributed to a marked increase in the levels of stress and anxiety among students at all grade levels, and WHEREAS the expansion of standardized testing to a wider range of students and these tests to establish ratings for schools and districts has contributed to the growing concern among educators that students are exhibiting complications of adding stressful factors to their lives both inside and outside of school, and

WHEREAS advocates for students, including school committee members, school leaders, teachers and parents have identified that an effective strategy for children is to address social and emotional learning (SEL) by various tactics, and

WHEREAS in response to the demand for SEL, initiatives have been organized by several stakeholder groups including a collaboration of MASC, MASS, MIAA, MSSAA, MESPA, MOEC, and Teachers 21, and, in addition, a separate working group within MASC to identify available resources, new strategies, and tactics to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of children,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees shall be directed to deploy such resources of the Association independently and in collaboration with other organizations to gather resources, identify strategies, and improve public awareness of the importance of addressing student social and emotional well-being, and further that

MASC shall give consideration to such public policy initiatives that prioritize action by stakeholders and stakeholder groups, in collaboration with expert behavioral and health care providers, as the most effective entities for addressing strategies that are in the best interests of children.

All in favor.

Mrs. Martin announced that the MASC Division III meeting will be held on October 18.

Mrs. McEntee announced that the MASC voted that Mrs. Martin will be honored on November 4th at MASC/MASS Joint Conference as a Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient. The Committee congratulated Mrs. Martin.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FY17 Budget Update: Mr. Caliento

✚ ***A Motion was made by Mrs. McEntee, seconded by Mrs. Desrochers, that the FY Budget Update, Line Item Budget, be tabled to the next meeting on October 17, 2016 as materials were not given to the committee in a timely manner. All in favor.***

Mrs. McEntee asked that information be presented to the school committee along with the packet materials prior to the meeting.

Individual Employment Contract:

✚ ***A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to offer Ms. Lacher, director of Special Education, a successor individual employment contract for 3 years as presented at \$129,780. All in favor.***

Mr. Caliento's Individual Employment Contract will be voted in open session on October 17, 2016, as a matter of protocol.

FY15 Independent Audit Report Approval:

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. McEntee, seconded by Mr. Francomano to approve the Management Letter and the Financial Statements of fiscal year 2015 prepared by Lynch, Malloy, Marini, LLP (Certified Public Accountants & Advisors) as presented. All in favor.**

Public Records Access Officer:

In a memorandum dated September 22, 2016, Dr. Zielinski indicated there were some changes to the requirements involved in the Public Records Law. A memo from Governor Charles Baker to his Cabinet Secretaries from July 30, 2015 was included in the materials. This memo outlined guidance related to compliance with the regulation. In accordance, the School Committee needs to appoint a Records Access Officer for the District. Dr. Zielinski requested that the School Committee appoint Elisa B. Witkus the Records Access Officer for the King Philip Regional School District. This will provide us a point person for all requests that are received by the District and allow her to maintain a request tracking system.

Discussion ensued on having an update as to the systems that will be used and in place for this purpose to have searchable scanned documents.

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mrs. McEntee, to appoint Elisa B. Witkus as the District's Public Records Access Officer. All in favor.**

Home school request:

- ✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. Desrochers, to approve the home school plan of N.G. for the 2016/2017 school year according to School Committee policy IHBG. All in favor.**

LATE COMMUNICATIONS

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. Martin announced that the MS open house will be held on October 8 for Grade 7, and October 13 for Grade 8.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT:

- ✚ **At 8:35pm, A Motion was made by Mr. Francomano, seconded by Mrs. Tonelli to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote. Yes (9); No (0).**

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa B. Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

