

**School Committee Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2019 - Approved
King Philip Regional High School - Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093**

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Gee, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jeff Curry
Plainville:	Samad Khan, Amy Abrams
Wrentham:	Jim Killion, Erin DeStefano

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Kenneth Dow
Plainville:	Bruce Cates (arrived at 7:20pm)
Wrentham:	Trevor Knott

HS Student Council Representative: Marion Linde

Mr. Gee reviewed the current Public Comment policy and procedure.


The Chair announced that this Meeting is being televised by Wrentham Cable and provided details about how to access school committee documents on the King Philip Website at: Kingphilip.org

NEW BUSINESS: (Taken out of order)

Dr. Mobley, along with members of a group from the Class of 1963, have worked together to present a gift and scholarship from the Class of 1963. The gift is a Memorial Bench for a beloved class member, Chip Faulkner, who was the 1963 senior class president and passed away in May 2019 of Pancreatic Cancer. The bench design and placement were reviewed by Dr. Mobley who feels this would be a wonderful addition for students and staff members.

Discussion ensued on setting a standard by approving this and similar tributes in the future. Mr. Gee indicated that a protocol was put in place a few years ago for such requests, in which the administration works with the parties to ensure that what is created and donated will fit in and enhance the school. Dr. Mobley conveyed to the Committee the process by which the administration worked with the donors to come up with the design and placement.

(Mr. Cates arrived at 7:20pm.)

-  A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mrs. Abrams, to accept the gift of a memorial bench in memory of Mr. Chip Faulkner from the Class of 1963. All in favor: Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.

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. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2019, as presented. All in favor: Yes (4); No (0); Abstain (3 – Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mrs. DeStefano). Motion carried with a vote of the majority.

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT:

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

COMMUNICATION:

Appointments, Resignations, Retirements, etc. were presented in a Memorandum dated November 18, 2019 from Mr. Zinni.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Executive Session - None

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer, Dr. Mobley

COMMUNICATION:

- HS & MS Student Council Report: Miss Linde

The General Court of Massachusetts, Joint Committee on Education (Fact Sheet):

Mr. Zinni updated the committee regarding the law recently passed on the Student Opportunity Act that makes an unprecedented \$1.5 billion new investment in Massachusetts public education to ensure that the schools have adequate resources to provide a high-quality education across the state. Mr. Zinni indicated that districts are still awaiting the calculations.

According to Mr. Azer, there is legislative language, but no numbers released probably until governor's budget is released at the end of January. He foresees no significant increase for King Philip in Chapter 70, and the primary purpose was to close gaps, we don't fall into those and we are an above foundation spending district. Other components include changing the circuit breaker to include funding of regional transportation subject to a percentage reimbursement, but the amount will need to be calculated.

The bill modernizes the K-12 education funding and policy landscape in four areas:

1. Fully implements the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.
2. Increases funding for English learners
3. Provides additional state financial support to help public schools and communities deliver a high-quality education to every student
4. Implements policy updates designed to maximize the impact of new funding in improving students' outcomes and closing opportunity gaps.

Mr. Gee noted that Mr. Patrick Francomano, who served on the King Philip Regional School Committee for a number of years, was part of the Foundation Budget Review Commission when it was initiated.

REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Late Start Exploratory Update: Mr. Zinni

Mr. Zinni gave an update on the Late Start Exploratory Committee. He noted that King Philip's bus rates are tied directly to the elementary schools. Mr. Azer sent out over 60 letters to bus companies throughout Massachusetts requesting information and received one response, which was from Kim Presutti, Vice President of NRT Bus Inc in Newbury, MA. Ms. Presutti indicated in her response that it is impossible to put out a rate until they get the bid and there are many factors and variables that need to be considered that go into cost. She did indicate that the average bus rates are currently between \$350 and \$380 per day per bus.

Mr. Zinni indicated that there would be a 50-75% increase over our current base. This would increase KP's budget by 2.4%. Mr. Zinni explained that the transportation piece would increase King Philip's budget by \$1 Million and would also impact each of the elementary districts a percentage of another \$1 Million.

Mr. Zinni asked that the Committee decide how they wish to proceed with this initiative and have discussions with the individual towns. He suggested three options:

Option 1: Do nothing at all.

Option 2: Go it alone and look at the increase budgeting in transportation and discuss with towns.

Option 3: Work with the elementary districts and communities about changing their start times and have a discussion with the individual school committees to explore each of their commitments and see if they are willing to move forward with that commitment.

Following discussion, the school committee charged the superintendent to work with the elementary superintendents and present to the elementary school committees King Philip's findings and to see if there is a commitment on their part for King Philip to proceed with this initiative. Following these discussions, Mr. Zinni would then review his findings after the first of the year with the KP school committee forming an action plan on the late start exploratory initiative.

School Committee members gave their input for the superintendent to have preliminary discussions prior to meeting with the elementary districts that could include the following:

- What is the financial impact for King Philip and for each of the elementary districts, as the percentage and calculation for each district may be different?
- Have conversations with the unions on the possible extension of the workday for teachers and teacher assistants. Or do the contracts speak to the length of the workday or a specific start time.
- What is the optimal time in school based upon research for social emotional issues and what is in the best interest of students.
- Could each of the committees come up with options, provide the requirements needed and then review and assess specific concerns or requirements.
- Possibility of holding a joint meeting of all four school districts.
- Send out a survey with specific questions to review the data received from the school districts. This would be sent to community members, school districts, parents, unions, etc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

KPTA - Unit B Negotiations Subcommittee Dates Discussion:

Mr. Zinni will coordinate negotiation dates with the Subcommittee members (Mr. Gee, Mr. Khan and Mr. Knott) and the KPTA to set dates for January/February 2020 to begin the process for a successor collective bargaining agreement.

Policy File ADDA - Background Checks:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve Policy File ADDA - Background Checks, as presented by the Policy Subcommittee. All in favor: Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.

Policy File IJOA - Field Trips:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mrs. Abrams, to approve Policy File IJOA - Field Trips, as presented by the Policy Subcommittee. All in favor: Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of School Committee Goals:

Mr. Gee presented the current School Committee Goals that were approved in 2017/2018. He asked for thoughts on the format and to tie the goals in to the approved Strategic Plan. Mrs. Abrams agreed with the current format as they indicate benchmarks and key actions.

Mr. Gee indicated he will aim to present draft goals at the next meeting in January 2020.

American School Board Journal Subscription:

Discussion ensued on the subscription of the American School Board Journal and the wishes of the committee to continue to receive this subscription.

Teacher Substitute Pay:

Mr. Zinni asked for an increase in the daily substitute rate to \$95 per day as there is continuous difficulty in securing teacher substitutes. The cost to implement this increase is less than \$10,000, with no reduction in staffing or services to cover this increase.

- ✚ A Motion made by Mr. Killion, seconded by Mr. Khan, to increase the daily teacher substitute rate from the current amount of \$85 up to \$95 per day, effective January 2, 2020. All in favor: Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.

HS DECA Overnight Field Trips:

A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to approve the following two HS DECA Overnight Field Trips:

1. SCDC Marketing Skills Competition to be held on February 27-29, 2020 in Boston, MA; and
2. Annual ICDC International Marketing Conference, to be held from April 29 to May 4, 2020 in Nashville, TN with transportation (flights) and lodging accommodations to be determined. Mr. Dow will update the committee when this information is available.

All in favor: Yes (7); No (0). Motion carried.

Reports from School Committee Members:

Norfolk School Committee Representative: Mr. Curry - None

Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. Abrams - None

Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano: The last meeting was held on 11/12/19. Topics included fundraising for a new playground in which they raised \$50,000; School Committee policy review to be completed by this year; USDA visit; teacher conferences held; School Committee self-evaluation discussion.

As the representative from King Philip to the Sheriff's Task Force, Mrs. DeStefano attended the first meeting on 11/18/19 at Norfolk County Sheriff's Office in Dedham with 27 people attending. Introduction event, Sheriff McDermott talked about his facility and there was a presentation by an inmate. The focus is to help students when they are young and put every resource, we have to keep them on the right path and one of the challenges faced involve funding. Going forward future meetings may have DEA and keynote speakers on the state level on funding programs on social/emotional issues and prevention. The meetings may be held on a monthly basis.

Mr. Zinni offered to attend any future meetings to offer input as needed.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS: None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: None

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ✚ At 9:15pm, Motion made by Mrs. Abrams, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to adjourn into executive session for:
Purpose of Executive Session: #2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel: (Successor individual employment contract for the Director of Finance and Operations); and, Purpose of Executive Session: #1: To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual: (Request for additional family sick time from Individual Employment Contracted Employee); if the chair so declares, and to return to open session solely for the purpose of

adjournment. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7) Mr. Gee, Mr. Killion, Mr. Khan, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mrs. DeStefano; No (0). Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

- ✚ At 9:30pm, a Motion was made by Mrs. Abrams, seconded by Mrs. DeStefano, to adjourn. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7) Mr. Gee, Mr. Killion, Mr. Khan, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Cates, Mrs. DeStefano; No (0). Motion carried.
Mr. Gee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents presented on December 9, 2019:

Draft Minutes of November 18, 2019
HS & MS Student Council Report
The General Court of Massachusetts, Joint Committee on Education
Policy File ADDA - Background Checks
Policy File IJOA - Field Trips
Review of School Committee Goals
American School Board Journal Subscription
Teacher Substitute Pay
HS DECA Overnight Field Trips:
1. Marketing Skills Competition
2. International Marketing Conference