

**School Committee Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2019
King Philip Regional High School – Library
201 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA 02093**

OPENING OF MEETING:

Mr. Killion, Acting Chair, opened the meeting at 7:10pm.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

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| Norfolk: | Jeff Curry |
| Plainville: | Amy Abrams, Samad Khan |
| Wrentham: | Erin DeStefano, Jim Killion, Trevor Knott |

Members Absent:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Norfolk: | Michael Gee (Participating Remotely), Ken Dow |
| Plainville: | Bruce Cates |
| Wrentham: | Present |

HS Student Council Representative: Marion Linde

Mr. Killion read into the Minutes the summary of the Public Participation Policy File BEDH:

Public Participation at School Committee Meetings - Summary

Anyone interested in making a statement during the public comment period – which will begin after I read this statement – is asked to complete an information card and give it to Mrs. Lisa Witkus, School Committee Secretary.

Please note that our public participation policy was recently revised to reflect recommended practices. Here is a summary the revised policy. The full policy BEDH can be found on the KP website.

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public.

The School Committee desires members of the KP community to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of the District. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of community members on matters within the scope of their authority. These matters include the budget for District, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the District.

In order that all members of the KP community who wish to be heard before the Committee have a chance, and to ensure the ability of the Committee to conduct District business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted consistent with free speech laws:

- 1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals or group representatives who have signed up to speak will be invited to address the Committee during its 15-minute public comment period.*
- 2. Speakers must begin their remarks by stating their name, town or city of residence, and affiliation. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting.*
- 3. Public Comment shall concern items that are within the scope of the School Committee's authority. Therefore, any comments involving staff members or students must concern the educational goals, policies, or budget of the District, or the performance of the Superintendent.*
- 4. All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner.*
- 5. The Chair reserves the right to terminate speech which is not Constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats, incitement to imminent lawless conduct, comments that were found by a court of law to be defamatory, and/ or sexually explicit comments made to appeal to prurient interests. Verbal comments will also be curtailed once they exceed established time limits or to the extent, they exceed the scope of the School Committee's authority.*

6. *Disclaimer: Public Comment is not a time for debate or response to comments by the School Committee. Public Comments do not reflect the views or the positions of the School Committee. Because of constitutional free speech principles, the Committee does not have the authority to prevent all speech that may be upsetting and/or offensive at Public Comment.*

The full policy includes other procedural details about 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. Knott, Ms. DeStefano, to approve the Minutes of October 7, 2019, as presented. All in favor: Yes (5); No (0); Abstain (1) Mr. Killion.**
- ✚ **As a point of order, the Motion was moved again: A Motion was made by Mr. Knott, seconded by Ms. DeStefano, to approve the Minutes of October 7, 2019, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (6) - Mr. Knott, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Khan, Mr. Gee; No (0); Abstain (1) Mr. Killion. Motion carried.**

PAYMENT OF BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT:

Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

COMMUNICATION:

Appointments, Resignations, Retirements, etc. were presented in a Memorandum dated October 21, 2019 from Mr. Zinni.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Executive Session - None

DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Mr. Azer

COMMUNICATION:

- HS and MS Student Council Report: Miss Linde.
- Ms. Linde added that the HS Student Council will be hosting the Holiday Party this year where seniors will be giving books as gifts and reading to the children attending.
- BICO quarterly report. Mr. Zinni met with superintendents as the governing board of BICO and their programs are solid and enrollment is rising.

REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

2019-2024 Strategic Plan

Mr. Zinni presented a new document that he hopes will meet with the School Committee's requirements. He noted that the Administrative Team is proud of the document presented this evening. Mr. Killion asked for comments and concerns. Mr. Zinni indicated that the goals are the same and added a rational and outcome for a more measurable goal. Initiatives not previously specific are now clearly defined and a date of completion and the budget implications are included as this document will be used during the budget process. Mr. Killion thanked Mr. Zinni and the Administrative Team for putting together such a thorough document.

Mr. Gee indicated that the prime changes are from pages 13 on in the actual strategic plan. The beginning of the document is background material.

The School Committee reviewed each of the goals as presented.

Goal 1: Ensure rigorous and relevant 7-12 curricula that fosters active engagement and depth of understanding.

Mr. Knott had a question regarding Action Steps 6, 7, and 8 under Goal 1, and asked about leveling at the HS level especially around team approach.

Mr. Zinni indicated that Action Step 6 describes the full implementation of a team approach at the MS.

With regard to Action Step 7, Mr. Zinni said that the district is moving toward heterogeneous grouping with differentiated instruction. This will provide professional development for teachers to enable them to acquire the skills needed included in differentiated instruction, co-teaching and complex instruction.

Mr. Knott asked if other districts, such as Dover-Sherborne, who have high achievement levels, have they also introduced this model? Mr. Zinni indicated that unleveling of classes is not new. Leveling according to Mr. Zinni led to tracking, and students develop at different rates.

Mr. Knott asked about theory and is concerned about higher level AP students and the challenge level. He also stated that is why he keeps asking about other districts that have high achievement levels. Mr. Zinni explained that the best practice in research supports differentiated instruction. The highest performing students continue to succeed at a high level, and research is clear it does not drag down the accelerated students.

Dr. Gilson referred to the Rational behind Goal 1 in which MCAS scores show that students in Grades 7, 8 and 10 are outperforming their peers throughout the state in Math, ELA and Science. The outcome of which KP students will increase achievement at or greater than state targets as evidenced by MCAS and will consistently demonstrate moderate to high growth rates.

Discussion ensued regarding looking at the HS to try to make sure that students are not so stressed about their GPA and the weight the grade carries. At the HS level, they took away the CP category and changing the terminology over time.

Mr. Khan asked if this is aligned with the state and based nationally or internationally?

Mr. Zinni explained that the MCAS to determine if students have mastered the state standards and Massachusetts standards are very high. We need to strive toward SATs and APs so that our students can be admitted to prestigious universities. Mr. Zinni referred to John Hattie's research on effective education strategies and which ones are most successful at creating change. Mr. Zinni gave an example of homework.

Goal 2: Develop a supportive learning community through a social emotional initiative to encourage the healthy development of all students.

Mrs. Abrams referred to Action Step 7 and the late start time research committee. She asked if this is to move forward with the current committee or include a feasibility group that is a full committee that has been established and whether a study will be presented by the end of the school year. Mrs. Abrams also asked for a list of members. Mr. Zinni will provide the names at the next meeting.

Goal 3: Grow and sustain a mutually supportive and trusting relationship with stakeholder groups for the benefit of the mission and vision of the KPRSD and sustain a positive connection with and among the community at large.

Mr. Zinni said this is our Communication goal and that it is harder to measure this goal. Mr. Gee referred to the announcements and press releases on all issues. Mr. Zinni indicated that more people are following KP and the news sources are reporting exactly how the message is put out into the community.

Goal 4 – Provide and enhance the integration of technology resources available to staff and students.

Mr. Zinni stated that for the first time this year, Curriculum Team Leaders were asked to include a vision for technology in their department and a rationale for the technology they are requesting as part of the budget process. Mr. Zinni indicated that the District has a data specialist who specifically is assigned to do state reporting data. Technology also covers data management, software and licenses. The district has implemented Infinite Campus. Mr. Bois, Technology Director, has taken the lead on this project under the direction of the superintendent. Also, any budget implications will be part of the budget process.

Goal 5: Develop and sustain effective and efficient use of resources to focus on continuous improvement, support student learning, and fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Gee thanked Mr. Zinni and the Administration as the format is much clearer and consistent.

Mr. Khan asked that periodic updates be provided to the School Committee. Mr. Zinni indicated that the Strategic Plan will be reviewed and presented each year and one of the days of the administrative retreat during the summer will be for updating the plan.

A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Khan, to support and approve the 2019-2024 King Philip Regional School District's Strategic Plan, as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7) – Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Khan, Mr. Gee; No (0). Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Home School Report

Mr. Zinni presented a report on the 2019/2020 home school educated students in which 38 students have approved home school plans.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Norfolk School Committee Representative: Mr. Curry – Norfolk recommended one member to volunteer on the Sheriff's Task Force and to also include Ms. Dorothy Pearl, Director of Wellness for the four districts. Mr. Zinni noted that Officer Palladini, the MS SRO, will also be representing King Philip. Mr. Curry continued his report that Norfolk has plans to expand the Freeman Kennedy School and the intent is to take action in the next 2-3 years as it is designed for expansion. Norfolk adopted the Public Comment limiting the scope that are within the scope of the school committee's authority. Norfolk adopted the Raptor System.
- Plainville School Committee Representative: Mrs. Abrams – Mr. Jeff Johnson, Selectman, was reported to have asked for a KP representative to participate in the future of the Plainville budget; Plainville received a grant of \$250K from Green Community Funds to be used toward facilities; voted on a new secretaries contract; had an update by the Curriculum Committee; discussed an issue with attendance; voted on the MASC resolutions.
- Wrentham School Committee Representative: Mrs. DeStefano – Wrentham approved their home education applications; MCAS review; Homework Review Committee led by Ms. Dorothy Pearl; Superintendent's Roundtable that aired on Cable TV.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS –

Public Participation Policy File BEDH:

Mr. Zinni spoke with Attorney Waugh and presented to the School Committee his recommendation to amend the language in Paragraph No. 4 to read as follows:

4. Public Speak shall concern items on the School Committee's agenda and items that are not on the agenda, but which are within the scope of the School Committee's authority. Therefore, any comments involving staff members or students must concern the educational goals, Policies, or budget of the King Philip Regional School District, or the performance of the Superintendent.

✚ **A Motion was made by Mrs. DeStefano, seconded by Mr. Killion, to amend Policy File: BEDH as presented. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7) – Mr. Killion, Mr. Knott, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Khan, Mr. Gee; No (0). Motion carried.**

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES - None

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None

Mr. Abrams asked for the following updates and review at the next meeting of the School Committee:

- A fundraising presentation
- A field trip policy review
- An update on the Late Start Time Subcommittee. She indicated that there is some confusion as to what the subcommittee discussed and what is the title of the Subcommittee and its role and for Mr. Zinni to provide the names of the members who sit on this Subcommittee.

Mrs. Abrams also asked Mr. Zinni for an update on Homecoming Game. Mr. Zinni said that it was a raw, cold, rainy night, but Dr. Mobley and Mr. Zinni attended. The students behaved in a way that we would expect them to behave. There was an increase in police presence. It was a very nice evening. The level of security will continue to be present and the administration is in the process of working on changing the culture in a few different ways.

ADJOURNMENT:

✚ **A Motion was made by Mr. Khan, seconded by Mrs. Abrams to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 8:20pm. All in favor by roll call vote: Yes (7) - Mr. Killion, Mr. Curry, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Khan, Mrs. DeStefano, Mr. Knott, Mr. Gee; No (0). All in favor. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa Barrett Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents presented on 10/21/19:
Draft Minutes of October 7, 2019
Appointments, Resignations, etc.
Student Council Report
Bi-County Collaborative Quarterly Report
2019/2020 District Strategic Plan Update
Home School Education Review