

**King Philip Regional School Committee
King Philip Regional High School Library
Monday, April 26, 2021
7pm**

OPENING OF MEETING:

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

This meeting is being recorded by NorthTV.

Introduction of New Committee Members:

- Marc Waxman elected member from Wrentham to a 3-year term.
- Grey Almeida appointed member from Wrentham School Committee for a one-year term.
- Christopher Brenneis appointed member from Plainville School Committee for a one-year term.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members Present:

Norfolk:	Michael Gee, Jim Lehan, Sarah Ward
Plainville:	Bruce Cates, Christopher Brenneis
Wrentham:	Trevor Knott, Marc Waxman, Grey Almeida

Members Absent:

Norfolk:	Present
Plainville:	Samad Khan
Wrentham:	Present

HS Student Council Representative: Miss James

Visitors:

Mr. Zinni, Dr. Gilson, Miss James

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Russell Kitsis – The name and mascot of the King Philip Regional School District to remain the same.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes:

March 15, 2021:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Knott, to approve the Minutes of March 15, 2021, as presented. All in favor. Yes (5); No (0); Abstain (3 – Grey Almeida, Christopher Brenneis, Marc Waxman). Motion carried.

March 29, 2021:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the Minutes of March 29, 2021, as presented. All in favor. Yes (5); No (0); Abstain (3 – Grey Almeida, Christopher Brenneis, Marc Waxman). Motion carried.

April 5, 2021:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Ms. Ward, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve the Minutes of April 5, 2021, as presented. All in favor. Yes (5); No (0); Abstain (3 – Grey Almeida, Christopher Brenneis, Marc Waxman). Motion carried.

Payment of Bills, Financial Report:
Warrants/Budget Report/Budget Transfers

Warrants 66 Payroll, 67, 68a, 68b, 68c Accounts Payable were distributed for approval.

Communication:

None

AGENDA

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Cates, to approve and retain the Executive Session Minutes of March 15, 2021, as presented. All in favor. Yes (4); No (0); Abstain (4 – Grey Almeida, Christopher Brenneis, Sarah Ward, Marc Waxman). Motion carried.

Communication:

None

HS Student Council Report:

- Miss James provided the report of the HS Student Council dated April 26, 2021. Mr. Gee thanked Miss James for such a comprehensive report.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

District Update:

Mr. Zinni provided the School Committee with an update on MS Reopening:

- MS students returned to school today based upon the DESE requirement that all MS students return to in-person learning within the State. KP has been at hybrid learning since October 2020 at a 3' distance.
- Classroom teachers and staff members are continuing to be vaccinated.
- MS administrators have been mapping out classrooms to accommodate spacing for student desks.
- The District has purchased 300 new tables to accommodate new spaces for student lunches. A schedule has been created with the administrators to rotate lunch duty to assist with student lunches.
- Central office has completed the reconfiguration of its offices to allow for more classroom space.
- Mr. Zinni thanked Mr. Zahner and the entire custodial staff as they prepared classrooms and set up new teacher spaces in anticipation of students' return.
- The MS traffic situation is being reviewed by the Administration.
- Mr. Zinni indicated that it was a very smooth first day with everyone back in the buildings today and thanked all of his staff for making this possible.

Updates:

- DESE Commissioner announced updated guidance for contact tracing in consultation with the public health officials and local board of health nurses on physical distancing, contact tracing and quarantine information. While students will still need to be notified if they have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, they will only need to quarantine if they were within 3 feet of that positive individual.
- Mr. Zinni thanked the nursing staff who have worked tirelessly, provided assistance and conducted contact tracing during the Pandemic.
- Discussion ensued on vaccinations for students.

High School Return and Building Capacity:

In a memorandum dated April 21, 2021, Mr. Azer provided detailed information on building capacity at the HS and the MS. Formulas for capacity in buildings are calculated by the Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA) as a percentage of total square footing in the building.

The HS which has been operating in excess of 95% capacity based upon enrollment. There is a need for more space to accommodate more students into the classroom. Mr. Zinni noted that moving forward, the Links Program will be moving to the Middle School permanently in the Central Office which will free up some space at the HS.

Mr. Zinni reminded the committee that in order to enable all seniors and juniors to return in person, the district made a requirement for students opting for remote to commit to remote for a set period of time. A survey was sent to students to see who will be committing to remote learning for the remainder of the school year, beginning May 3. Those surveys are due this week. Discussion ensued on the impact that the newly released guidance that eases contact tracing and quarantining requirements might have on individuals' decisions. Mr. Zinni will send out an update informing parents of this new information.

Mr. Zinni noted that there is a meeting for superintendents with the DESE Commissioner tomorrow (4/27/21), at which he is expected to announce a date for all high school students to return to the classroom. While seniors are a top priority, Mr. Zinni is also concerned about dropout rate if students need to repeat a year and to support those students who are suffering with mental health issues. Dr. Gilson is working with principals on summer programs.

Discussion ensued on setting up a meeting of the Covid Committee to plan for the return of HS students.

MCAS Update:

- Mr. Zinni provided an update on MCAS requirement for Grades 7 and 8 and 10.
- The DESE Commissioner, working with the Board of Education, has removed the MCAS requirement for Grade 11, but the district will offer the MCAS as voluntary to students in Grade 11 as it is a means for students to receive scholarships to state universities.

School Committee Retreat:

Mr. Zinni is coordinating a School Committee Retreat day for the KP School Committee along with the three elementary districts to meet sometime over the summer. More information will be provided at a later meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2021/2022 School Year Calendar (2nd Reading)

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Mr. Knott, to approve the 2021/2022 School Year Calendar, as presented. All in favor: Yes (8); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

FY22 BICO Appointment:

- ✚ A Motion was made by Mr. Lehan, seconded by Ms. Ward, to approve the FY22 of Mr. Zinni, Superintendent to the BICO Board of Directors. All in favor: Yes (8); No (0); Abstain (0). Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- ❖ Norfolk School Committee Representative – Ms. Ward. Topics included: Voted on Superintendent and Special Education Director Contract; Reviewed policy on animals in school. Resource office writing a grant for a community resource dog; bullying report review; fundraising, KPMA – School Partner Renewal and Norfolk Recreation – School Partner Renewal.
- ❖ Plainville School Committee Representative – Mr. Brenneis. Topics included: Reorganization of subcommittees; elementary return to full in person learning; increase in class size.
- ❖ Wrentham School Committee Representative – Mrs. Almeida: Topics included the welcoming of two new members; reorganization; approved new contract for transportation; budget and school safety presentation.

LATE COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

RECOMMENDATIONS OR QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ADOURNMENT:

- ✚ At 8:30pm, a Motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Cates, seconded by Mr. Lehan. All in favor by roll call vote: Mr. Gee, Mr. Lehan, Ms. Ward, Mr. Brenneis, Mr. Cates, Ms. Almeida, Mr. Knott, Mr. Waxman. 8-0-0 Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elisa B. Witkus
Secretary to the School Committee*

Documents Presented on April 26, 2021:

Draft Minutes of March 15, 2021, March 29, 2021 and April 5, 2021
Draft Executive Session Minutes of March 15, 2021
Warrants
HS Student Council Report
Building Capacity
2021/2022 School Year Calendar (2nd reading)
FY22 BICO Appointment to the Board of Directors