

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Timothy Eldridge, Wendi Fenderson, Dr. James Manning, James Pittman, Charlene Seibel, Dana Streeter, John Widmer. **Excused:** Krista Abear, Stefanie King

Student Representative: Fallon Peacock

Middleton Representative: Kelly Tivnan

Also present: Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, WCTV and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA REVIEW

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert asked to move the Science Virtual Reality presentation with Crescent Lake students to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Widmer added two items under the chairman's report: establish a superintendent search committee and engage the services of the NH School Boards Association to assist the search committee.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/MANIFESTS

Minutes of the November 1, 2021, Academic Affairs Committee meeting. Mr. Widmer said the board will hold off on voting on these until the next meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021, School Board meeting.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – **Seconded:** Dr. Manning

Vote: Minutes approved 5-0-2 with Mr. Eldridge and Ms. Fenderson abstaining.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 16, 17 and 18, 2021, finance committee meetings.

Moved: Mr. Pittman – **Seconded:** Dr. Manning

Vote: Minutes approved by finance committee members 3-0-0.

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$817,343.17) and payroll (1,491,323.45) manifests totaling \$2,308,666.82.

Moved: Mr. Eldridge – **Seconded:** Ms. Seibel

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0 on a roll call vote.

Science Virtual Reality Presentation

Kingswood Regional Middle School Science Teacher Kim Galimberti and students Aiden, Drew, and Nathan shared virtual field trips through virtual reality mobile devices. The devices enables a person to interact with an artificial three-dimensional visual or other sensory environment. A user wearing a helmet with a stereoscopic screen views animated images of a simulated environment.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro, said that the audio is not working well in the cafeteria and the Board room sounds as if they are underwater.

Mr. Widmer temporarily delayed the meeting to check on the equipment.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro, said students may appreciate it if the dress code is uniform. Ms. Williams said she would like to see the District focus ESSER III funds on the students and not on infrastructure, and that the District should stop being so divisive with masks and look at health precautions that do work.
- Josephine Amatucci, Wolfeboro, would like to bring manufacturing education to the district creating a business class making mops. Students will learn to sew, write a business plan, and sell the product online. She said they will be learning marketing, advertising, shipping and distribution skills.
- Martin Bailey, Ossipee, spoke about vaccines, masks and personal choice.
- Brie Burbank, Warrenton, Virginia, has a child attending Carpenter School, and Ms. Burbank said she has been watching the school board meetings on you tube. She asked the Board if they will allow virtual participation to make meetings more diverse. She asked if the District has any plans of dividing vaccinated children from those who have not received their COVID vaccine. She asked the District's position on the NH School Boards Association's withdrawal from the National School Boards Association. Ms. Burbank concluded that she thinks it is a poor use of law enforcement having police officers at school board meetings serving court summons to parents.

Student Representative to the School Board

Fallon Peacock gave a detailed report of school happenings. Student Council contributed 35 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need and their next project is *Wish Upon A Star*. National Honor Society held their first annual Kingswood and Kids where they work with younger students participating in gym activities and crafts and they also cleaned up trash around the Kingswood site. The theatre performed *Mama Mia* and have open registrations for their next production.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Testing Data and Academic Interventions Presentation

Katey Hills, District Curriculum Director, gave an assessment update and talked about procedures to address some of the District's concerns. She said the District did not have normal participation rates with the state assessment tests because in-school students were tested and many students were in remote learning or being homeschooled due to COVID. There were a number of factors that influenced learning: limited instruction time, there were a variety of experiences (hybrid, remote, homeschool), and student and staff absences. The District is addressing the issues in the following ways: contracting with the NH Learning Initiative for curriculum and assessment work, prioritizing competencies for all K-8 subject areas, math coaches were hired in all buildings as well as a curriculum project manager at the high school, providing additional math and literacy professional development, and the District is implementing ExactPath (K-12) and Courseware (9-12). Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said the process began before the pandemic but now ESSER funds have allowed the District to push forward quicker.

KRHS Basketball Request

The boys and girls basketball teams respectfully requested a mask exemption to school policy during the winter 2021-2022 basketball season. The athletes would like to forego the mask mandate while specifically playing on the court during a game against another team and in practice scrimmages. In all other instances, in practices and games, players will continue to wear masks. The Board listened to input from coaches, members of the girls basketball team and a community member.

Motion: To grant the waiver for basketball players across the District to be exempt from wearing masks during active play for the 2021-2022 season. Coaches and players will adhere to District

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

mask wearing policies when on the sideline, or when traveling and masks are required by the opposing team.

Discussion: The Board determined all recreational basketball participants and spectators must wear masks during basketball practices and scrimmages.

Moved: Mr. Pittman – **Seconded:** Ms. Fenderson

Vote: Motion passed 6-1-0 on a roll call vote. Ms. Seibel voted against the waiver.

Preliminary Adoption of 2023 Budget

Mr. Widmer gave an overview on the proposed 2023 budget. He talked about the ESSER funds (elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds) which happened in three phases. The ESSER grant is \$539,307.27, ESSER II \$2,928,158.41 and ESSER III is \$6,582,666 and must be expended by 2024. Mr. Widmer explained the budget process and said total enrollment is stable but the numbers vary from school to school. There are two collective bargaining agreements in the budget; one for support staff and one for the administrative team. The support staff is a three-year agreement with a wage increase of 5% and an insurance copay of 4% in year one, year two a 4.5% wage increase with a 4.5% insurance copay, and year three a 4.5% wage increase with an insurance copay of 5%. The administrative team is a three-year agreement with a wage increase of 3% and an insurance copay of 4% in year one, year two a 3% wage increase with a 4.5% insurance copay, and year three a 3% wage increase with an insurance copay of 5%. The Board will also put forth the Building and Maintenance Warrant Article and the Turf Field Capital Reserve Warrant Article. The budget as a whole has an increase of 2.35% and the default budget is \$433,642 lower than the proposed budget.

Stay Open Plan

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the state is requiring District's add what they are doing in the area of social emotional learning in Stay Open Plans.

Motion: To update the Stay Open Plan to include the wording, proposed by administration, on Social Emotional Learning.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – **Seconded:** Ms. Fenderson

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0 on a roll call vote.

COVID-19 Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said Carroll County Public Health held optional student vaccination clinics at the end of November in our elementary schools to make it easier for those who wish to vaccinate their children. The second clinic will be held in December. A booster clinic was also held for staff. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said NH leads the nation in the rate of COVID infections, and the increase is reflected in our schools with the absence rate of both staff and students.

Town of New Durham Elections

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert read an email from the Town of New Durham asking to secure New Durham Elementary School for 2022 elections (March 8, September 13 and November 8).

Motion: To deny the request for the Town of New Durham to hold voting at New Durham Elementary School on March 8, September 13 and November 8, 2022.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – **Seconded:** Ms. Fenderson

Vote: Motion passed 5-1-1 on a roll call vote. Mr. Streeter voted against the motion and Mr. Pitman abstained.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

Right-to-Know Follow Up

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert shared the Right-to-Know Requests format soon to be posted on the District website. The requests have been so extensive an explanation will be provided should someone else be looking for the same material. Some information is in electronic format and some in paper format and is available for the public to see. She said there have been 16 request since June and estimates to date that the requests have cost the District between \$16,320 and \$17,270

School Donations

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said November was an incredibly generous month for donations to our schools. The Dixon family donated a playground structure at Ossipee Central School and a volunteer crew installed it. Doug Lamparter donated a TheraGun G3Pro to Kingswood Athletics. The middle school received many donations for their annual Thanksgiving drive: Maxfield Real Estate \$1,000, Winnie Paint \$150 gift card for Hannaford, Bradley's Hardware donated 32 laundry baskets, At Vacation Rentals in Moultonborough \$200, Berkshire Hathaway \$100, Lucas Roasting 28 bags of coffee, Full Beli Deli 28 frozen side dishes and dinner rolls, and Keller Williams Coastal and Mountain Realty 20 pies.

American Education Week

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert read a letter she and Assistant Superintendent Cummings presented to staff for American Education week (November 15-19) thanking them for their devotion to the children and families of our communities.

NH School Boards Association

Mr. Widmer answered the question asked in public input about the letter sent by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to President Biden and then the NH School Board Associations (NHSBA) withdrawal from the NSBA. The NHSBA took exception that the letter was sent without consultation from the State agencies, but the decision to withdraw was also made based on years of questions and decisions made by NSBA relative to NSBA's governance structure, finances, communication, and core services.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said expressions of sympathy were sent to Carolyn and Bert Ramsey, Patti Morrissey, Brian and Deb Yeaton and Nicole Campbell on the passing of loved ones.

Establish Superintendent Search

Mr. Widmer said he would like to establish a superintendent search committee and hire the NH School Board's Association to conduct the search. He would like 5-6 board members to serve on the committee. Meetings will be open to the public to view with the exception of interviews. The process will be very involved for 10-12 weeks.

Motion: To form a superintendent search committee.

Moved: Mr. Pittman – **Seconded:** Mr. Eldridge

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0 on a roll call vote.

Mr. Widmer polled the Board to see who would like to commit to serve on the superintendent search committee. Board members will be Mr. Widmer, Mr. Pittman, Ms. Seibel, Mr. Streeter, Ms. King and Ms. Tivnan from the Middleton School Board.

Engage NHSBA to Conduct Search

Motion: To hire the NH School Boards Association and their consultants to conduct the superintendent search and be advisors through the process.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

Moved: Dr. Manning – **Seconded:** Mr. Eldridge

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0 on a roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Policy GBEBA-R, Guidelines for Professional Dress and Policy JICA, Student Dress Code were presented as a first read. Ms. Seibel said the committee spent a fair amount of time discussing head gear on the student dress code. Do we want to be consistent across the District and is it fair for principals to have to interpret the policy? She asked Board members to send any input to Ms. Cummings for the next meeting.

Policy JICD and JICD-R, Student Discipline and Due Process; JICI, Weapons on School Property and Policy JICK Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention/Bullying were presented for approval. Ms. Seibel also noted that the District does not teach Critical Race Theory it is covered at post-secondary institutes.

Motion: To approve the revisions to Policy JICD, Student Discipline and Due Process; strike Policy JICD-R, Student Discipline and Due Process; approve the revisions to Policy JICI, Weapons on School Property, and to reaffirm Policy JICK Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention/Bullying.

Moved: Mr. Eldridge – **Seconded:** Ms. Fenderson

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0 on a roll call vote.

Buildings & Maintenance

No report

Finance

Mr. Widmer said the final budget presentation is scheduled for January 10, 2022.

Human Resources

Mr. Widmer said there are legal items that need addressing in non-public session.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

Mr. Widmer read upcoming events from the agenda.

Public Input

- Martin Bailey, Ossipee, continued his earlier public input regarding vaccines and personal choice.
- Juanita Hill, Wolfeboro, congratulated Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for all she has done for the District. Ms. Hill said she respectfully disagrees with the District's COVID policies. She expressed concern with kids being vaccinated saying vaccines are only approved for emergency use. She also expressed concern with students having to wear masks.

Closing Comments by Board Members

Ms. Seibel expressed disappointment that at past meetings people have referred our music room to the shower room. She said it saddens her that there are people who believe that having to be in a separate room, because they refuse to follow the District mask protocol, is equivalent to the murder of millions of people.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 10:42 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Moved: Ms. Fenderson – **Seconded:** Mr. Eldridge

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented staff retirements and a legal matter was discussed.

Motion: To accept, with sincere appreciation, the retirement letter from Karen Payne from her teaching position at KRHS at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved: Ms. Fenderson – **Seconded:** Ms. Seibel

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept, with regret and sincere appreciation, the retirement letter from Susan Merrell, Director of Special Education and Counseling Services, at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved: Ms. Fenderson – **Seconded:** Ms. Seibel

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: At 11:07 pm a motion was made to end non-public session.

Moved: Mr. Eldridge – **Seconded:** Ms. Fenderson

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

There was no further business.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 11:08 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Dr. Manning – **Seconded:** Ms. Seibel

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved 01.10.2022