

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
OCTOBER 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

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

Student Representative: Fallon Peacock

Middleton Representative: Kelly Tivnan

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA REVIEW

Add ESSER Funds after Carroll County Adult Ed

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/MANIFESTS

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021, School Board meeting.

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

Vote: Minutes approved 7-0-1 on a roll call vote. Ms. Fenderson abstained.

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$1,698,821.63) and payroll (770,783.47) manifests totaling \$2,469,605.10.

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

Vote: Motion passed 8-0-0 on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Holly Williams Aucoin, Wolfeboro, asked the Board to consider a grace period when the COVID rate drops and masks become optional. She shared an experiment she did, wearing a mask all day and checking her oxygen levels throughout the day, and her oxygen level did not drop.

Mr. Widmer said since Ms. Aucoin spoke a couple of minutes over the allotted time he will allow two people in the music room to speak before coming back to the auditorium.

- John Eastman, Middleton, again expressed his opinion to have masks optional and his displeasure with board policies.

Mr. Eastman was the only person to speak so Mr. Widmer referred back to the auditorium.

- Glenn Cordelli, Tuftonboro, talked about the ESSER Funds allocated to the District. He said people will want to know how the funds are being spent. He also said ESSER III funds require public input and it is his opinion that the District is out of compliance.
- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro, said the eligibility requirements for ESSER funds require public input and she feels the District is not in compliance.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Carroll County Adult Ed/Carroll Academy

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert introduced Crystal Sawyer, Director Carroll County Adult Education/ Carroll Academy. Ms. Sawyer gave an overview of the program explaining they offer a variety of classes directed toward adult learners to help them become high school graduates by recovering missing credits or prepare them for the HiSET exam to receive their high school equivalency credential. They also offer basic classes in English (speaking and reading) as well as citizenship. She said SAU 49 acts as their fiscal agent. She talked about the programs increased enrollment and funding (state and federal).

Student Representative to the School Board

Mr. Widmer welcomed Fallon Peacock, Student Representative to the Board for the 2021-2022 school year.

ESSER Funds

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert explained that the COVID funds have been allocated from the federal government for financial assistance during COVID. They are being allocated in three phases and are intended to assist schools with circumstances associated with the pandemic such as personal protective equipment, staffing, safety in school buildings, keeping schools open and supporting academic and social and emotional growth.

ESSER I funds were allocated primarily for personal protective equipment, technology to make it possible to be remote, cleaning supplies and an increase in the school nurse time in one of our schools that was only part time. The project and budgeted amount is \$539,307.27 and \$460,830.25 has been paid.

ESSER II funds are targeted toward academic achievement and social emotional learning including technology, curriculum materials and project managers in math, reading and overall curriculum at the high school. The curriculum work is tied to professional development and consultation for staff over the period of the grant with the NH Learning Initiative group. The District also provided an extensive summer program. The project amount is \$2,928,158.41, the budgeted amount is \$2,770,128.06 and \$57,199.70 has been paid.

ESSER III funds are over 6 million and the District is seeking public input. The building and maintenance committee discussed HVAC system and dark Fiber connection but will address their priorities under committee reports.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert pointed out that the ESSER I and ESSER II grants were discussed in detail at a previous meeting. They are posted on the website. ESSER III is explained on the website and an email is posted so the public can provide input. The District has until 2023 to expend ESSER II funds and 2024 for ESSER III funds.

COVID-19 Update/Stay Open Plan

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said Carroll County remains in substantial transmission. The District had 49 positive cases from September 7-October 1. Changes have been made to the Stay Open Plan to keep the District in line with NH DHHS. These include recognizing only those living in a household as a contact for quarantine purposes which changes the close contact language to household contact. If an individual is within 90 days of having COVID-19 they do not need to quarantine even if they are a

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household contact and they follow the guidelines as someone who is vaccinated. NH DHHS also recommends that BINAX home tests be accepted.

Ms. King asked if the Board would consider changing the duration of the quarantine for household contact from 10 to 7 days if a negative test result is provided on day 5 or later. She added that extended quarantines may affect the social and emotional health of students and be a financial burden for families. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the District will want to be cautious making this change because CDC defines it differently than DHHS standards. She said before changing the quarantine time she would like advice from the health professionals and the COVID Advisory Task Force.

Motion: To reduce the quarantine for a household contact from 10 to 7 days and a negative test result must be provided to the school nurse. This change is pending a favorable review from the health professionals and the COVID Management Advisory team.

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

Vote: Motion passed 8-0-0 on a roll call vote.

Motion: To move forward with the Stay Open plan which may include above changes on quarantine if the health professionals on the COVID Management Advisory team concur with the change.

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

Vote: Motion passed 8-0-0 on a roll call vote.

School Enrollment

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the October 1, 2021 total District enrollment is down from October 1, 2020 by approximately 100 students. It is difficult to know the factors. The impact may be due to online learning options and the voucher law.

Budget Timeline

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert provided the Board with 2022-2023 budget preparation dates and deadlines.

Winter Weather

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert read a letter to parents notifying them of the winter weather procedures used to decide if school should be delayed, released early or cancelled.

NH School Boards Association

Mr. Widmer said the annual Delegate Assembly is scheduled for October 16, 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Ms. Abear reported that Academic Affairs is working on several policies for a first read and several for reaffirmation. Many of the amendments are state and federal law changes. For a first read: JICD & JICD-R, Student Discipline and Due Process; GBEB, Professional Dress Code; JICA, Student Dress Code; EHB, Public Access to District Records. For reaffirmation: JI, Student Rights and Responsibilities; JIC and JIC-R, Student Conduct/Code of Conduct; JICI, Weapons on School Property; JICK, Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention/Bullying.

Buildings and Maintenance

Mr. Eldridge said the District has allocated almost the full amount of the ESSER II funds which has an end date of September 30, 2023.

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The ESSER III grant will consist of two phases. The first phase is \$4,340,310 and the second phase is \$2,235,917 with an end date of September 30, 2024. The committee discussed the recommendation to use this money for HVAC in the remainder of the school buildings in the District. This project will require preliminary approval by the state and will take some time to complete. All members of the committee agree that HVAC Districtwide is the top priority for this grant. If there is money left over from this project the second priority would be to continue the dark fiber technology connection throughout the District. The Board is currently seeking public input on the uses of the ESSER III grant.

Mr. Eldridge said the maintenance and custodial staff worked hard over the summer. We currently have an unanticipated project; the outdoor stairs at Carpenter School. The repairs should happen in the next month.

Finance

Mr. Widmer said the dates for the Finance Committee meetings and budget presentations will be November 16-18, 2021. Location to be determined.

Human Resources

Mr. Widmer said the committee will be working on the administrative and support staff contracts.

Student Representative Report

Miss Peacock gave a detailed report of school happenings.

ADVANCED PLANNING

Mr. Widmer read upcoming events from the agenda. He said the Board will need an alternative location for the November meeting because the Arts Center is booked. The Board may look at KRHS lecture hall.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Teisha Keefe, Wolfeboro, encourages more people to attend meetings. She said there is a petition being circulated for a special meeting because people are tired of being segregated at the school board meetings.
- Becca Brownell Smith, Wolfeboro, would like to see people respect each other's decisions. Masks are not unreasonable and the School Board is doing what is best for kids while the transmission level is substantial or high.
- Angie Carver, Wolfeboro, asked how much weight the COVID Task Force has with policy, how often they meet and can members of the public attend the meetings. She asked what a parent can do if they have a problem with a single source. She asked for clarification on previous minutes where the ESSER I and II grants were explained.
- Justin Martin, Wolfeboro, said the board meeting is a public forum and he does not support people being segregated at the meetings. He asked that the parent pick-up at Carpenter School be reviewed because it causes a traffic jam for about an hour making it difficult for anyone in downtown parking areas.
- Rhoni Harding, Wolfeboro, said there are many caring and involved parents in the District. She said she is surprised text books are not listed online.
- Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro, thanked the School Board for following science and DHHS guidelines to keep our students in school. The DHHS toolkit is following data not opinions. Another way to keep our students in school is to cease on the right to know orders. Why attack

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the people who are trying to educate our kids. Ms. Boudman's last comment was on the student dress code policy. She said now is the time to talk to the students.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

- Mr. Widmer thanked Miss Peacock for her willingness to serve as the student representative.
- Ms. Seibel said people who are signing the petitions should make sure they reside within the District.
- Ms. Abear shared a story of a family that relocated to a different state with a no mask mandate at the school and the children brought COVID home and their mother contracted it and died. She said the School Board has safety precautions in place to try and protect everyone.
- Ms. King acknowledged and thanked the parents who sent emails voicing their concerns about their children's safety. She said even though you can't be here in person we hear you.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 8:55 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss legal and personnel matters.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented a nomination. Legal matters were discussed.

Motion: To accept the Superintendents nomination of Kimberly Canney as a teacher at New Durham Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 2/Step 1 - \$43,616

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: At 9:49 pm a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting resumed in the Arts Center. There was no further business.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 9:51 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 by the School Board 11.01.2021