

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:47 pm. There was a delayed start to the meeting due to public attendees refusing to put masks on in a mask required facility. They were also accommodated with a designated room for non-mask wearers, equipped with multi-room audio and visual, but refused to move or mask up.

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

Middleton Representative: Kelly Tivnan

Excused: Wendi Fenderson

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

No changes

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/MANIFESTS

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 16, 2021, School Board meeting.

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

Discussion: Ms. King said that under the COVID-19 update she made a recommendation to the Plan to strike the sentence that desks will face the same direction. She said desks should be able to be rearranged due to the education benefit of students being able to make eye contact with one another. The orientation of desks can be rearranged for teaching purposes.

Vote: Amended minutes approved 6-0-2 on a roll call vote. Mr. Eldridge and Ms. Seibel abstained.

Motion: To approve the accounts payable and payroll manifests totaling \$2,520,540.76.

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT

- Holly Williams, Wolfeboro, asked the Board if they would consider a grace period, if and when the COVID rate drops, when masks become optional. This would allow any family that may be uncomfortable having their child(ren) in school with no masks time to make other plans.
- John Eastman, Middleton, is in favor of having masks optional.
- Luke Freudenberg, Wolfeboro, said temperance is the word he was thinking about on his way to the meeting but added that we do live in extraordinary times. He said the pandemic will be around for some time and it is important that we use science to lead us out of this. We must move forward in a progression that does not hurt our kids.
- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro, had questions on the quarantine period in the Stay Open Plan for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Ms. Williams also addressed the mask wearing expectations. She said masks are distracting and damaging for kids and they probably cannot learn the way that they could without a mask. She said she did the math and the denominator the District is using is from the 2010 census data and is inaccurate. Ms. Williams said the mandate

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

for masks on public transportation does have an exemption for persons who have trouble breathing with a mask on.

- Glenn Cordelli, Tuftonboro, asked what plans are in place for the COVID relief funds and ESSER money that has been allocated to the District. What is the amount and what purpose are the funds earmarked for? He asked what vendors are being used since the primary use of the funds includes HVAC systems and recovering student learning loss.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

School Opening Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said it was a great opening. The feel is more typical and normal than it has been and the students enjoy seeing their friends. She thanked the maintenance team for all their hard work in preparing the buildings for opening day. New Durham School has notable outside improvements with cement work and landscaping.

COVID-19 Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert wrote a letter to families explaining the requirement for masks when the transmission rate is high or low. The District will be guided by the transmission rate in Carroll County. The Governor expects increased cases this fall. The Health and Safety and COVID Advisory Management Committee will be meeting to review the plan. She said the nurses have been working really hard going above and beyond as we learn of new cases. Ms. Seibel asked if cases continue to rise if the District will require employees to be vaccinated. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said if the Board wants to discuss vaccinations the topic should be added to an agenda.

Wentworth Watershed Association

Crescent Lake School received a \$1000 donation from Wentworth Watershed Association.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said this generous donation will help supplement the science curriculum by purchasing water sampling equipment and new microscopes.

Administrative Retreat Review

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert thanked Ms. Cummings for planning a great retreat. The NH Learning Initiative reviewed the work they will do with the District on curriculum alignment and competencies. The team discussed goals for the school year which revolve around ESSER projects for math and curriculum as well as staffing schedules and health and safety protocols.

NHSBA Delegate Assembly

Mr. Widmer talked about the proposed resolutions. The Commission and Association feel a couple do not fit the criteria for a resolution. He will be the Governor Wentworth representative on October 16 so please address comments or concerns to him. Ms. King spoke in favor of the resolution to support diversity, equality and inclusion in all aspects in our schools. To preserve free speech in our schools.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said expressions of sympathy were sent to Warren Carver, Justine Crockwell, Sarah and Justin Olkkola and Amy Varney on the passing of loved ones.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports. Mr. Widmer asked the Human Resources Committee if they would be able to stay for a brief discussion at the conclusion of the meeting.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

ADVANCED PLANNING

Upcoming events were read from the agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Teisha Keefe, Wolfeboro, said the NH Department of Education issued a technical advisory that no school can mandate vaccines.
- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro, said students not wearing masks are being dismissed from school. Why are they being dismissed and not suspended? Ms. Williams said if a student is suspended for more than 10 days it sounds like they can have a school board hearing. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said yes, she and the Assistant Superintendent may suspend for up to ten days. She added that students who are refusing to wear masks can go back to class as soon as they decide to wear one. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said we want students in class as much as possible.
- Maxim Ledoux, Tuftonboro, asked if the school board and superintendent has received training on 91-A. Mr. Widmer said yes everyone has been trained or briefed on how to apply it.
- Juanita Hill, Tuftonboro, said the CDC and DHHS are not using medical science they are using political science which should not be a source for decisions on masking. She said there are 50 people in this room who want to make the decision on whether their child(ren) wear masks. She said there is a petition and if the public petition receives 5% of registered voters in the District then a special meeting can be held.
- Nate Williams, Effingham, spoke against masks, and displayed a graph which he printed from the DHHS website. Cases have gone down; even during summer school.
- Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro, said the Town of Wolfeboro has a high vaccination rate but we are a cooperative District and not all of our towns have high vaccination rates. Ms. Boudman also said the population numbers are off because during COVID some people have chosen to stay in the area, but cases get reported to their home States so we should look at the hospital numbers. She said on vaccines there may be a federal mandate for businesses with 100 or more employees. She said if masks will keep children in school then why are we having this hyperbolic behavior? We need to treat each other respectfully.

Motion: To extend public input by ten minutes.

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

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

- Keith White, Freedom, said it is sad to see students seeing communism first hand.
- John Eastman, Middleton, said no one in the unmasked room is afraid of the virus; the issue is with tyranny.
- Robin McLean, New Durham, said she understands that parents are concerned with the safety of their children, but she would like to see masks optional.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 8:43 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss legal and personnel matters.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

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

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

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

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented resignations and nominations.

Motion: To accept with regret and sincere appreciation resignations from Elizabeth Arsenault, Victoria Bardin and Juanita Hill.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept Superintendents nomination of Adriana Brown as Reading Interventionist/Specialist for Carpenter School and Crescent Lake School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 13 - \$73,918

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept Superintendents nomination of Julie Carbone as a Music Teacher at Carpenter School and Crescent Lake School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 5 - \$47,872

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept Superintendents nomination of Timothy Fahey as a Special Education teacher at Kingswood Regional Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 1/Step 1 - \$42,552

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept Superintendents nomination of Alyssa Freeman as a Physical Education teacher at Kingswood Regional High School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 1/Step 1 - \$42,552

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote

Motion: To accept Superintendents nomination of Jennifer Ouellet as the Student Services Coordinator at Lakes Region Technology Center for the 2021-2022 school year.
Track 1/Step 1 - \$42,552

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote

Motion: To accept Superintendents nomination of Kimberly Reed as Math Project Manager (.5) at Tuffonboro Central School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 4/Step 14 - \$42,506.50

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote

Motion: To accept Superintendents nomination of Steven Sanborn as Automotive Technology Instructor at Lakes Region Technology Center for the 2021-2022 school year.
Track 1/Step 10 - \$57,818

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote

A legal and personnel matter were discussed.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
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Motion: At 9:58 pm a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

The School Board meeting resumed the meeting in the Arts Center.

Motion: To hold the October 4, 2021, school board meeting at the Arts Center instead of Crescent Lake School.

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

Vote: Motion passed 8-0-0 (Mr. Streeter did not vote)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 10:02 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 GWRSD School Board 10.04.2021