

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
EFFINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
AUGUST 16, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**Middleton Representative:** Kelly Tivnan

**Excused:** Timothy Eldridge, Charlene Seibel

**Also present:** Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Principal Patricia Morrissey, Principal Brian Beaverstock, WCTV and community members.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

No changes

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 7, 2021, Buildings and Maintenance Committee meeting.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried with both committee members, Dr. Manning and Mr. Pittman, voting in the affirmative.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 7, 2021, School Board meeting.

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Pittman noted one typo on page 2.

**Vote:** Amended minutes approved 7-0-0 on a roll call vote.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

- Scott Lounsbury, Wolfeboro, spoke in support of masks. He said there are many students under the age of 12 who at this point are unable to be vaccinated. He said we don't hear about responsibility only about people's rights. He also asked if the Vista Team would be reconsidered at some point. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the Vista team was reorganized due to the numbers.
- Mark D'Entremont, New Durham, said he has concerns with the decision for outside groups not to be able to use school facilities. It is detrimental to kids and town programs.
- Diane Sebastian, Mirror Lake, said parents should decide as to whether or not their child/children wear masks.
- Rhonda Martin, Wolfeboro, said children are at a low risk at contacting COVID. She said masks do more harm than good and ask that mask wearing be a personal choice.
- Isaac Farley, Effingham, said he has read articles and studies that align on the ineffectiveness of masks and the impacts on mental health.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said she is happy to start the rotation of visiting schools for school board meetings. She introduced Principal Morrissey for an update.

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Welcome by Principal Morrissey

Ms. Morrissey said she is super excited to be the first school to host this year and she also said that Effingham Elementary is the first to have a solar field. She said a year ago at this time the field was being installed and now we are well into production. She introduced Jack Bingham and Ted Vansant from Barrington Power.

Barrington Power Update

Barrington Power provided production numbers from the solar array panels from November 2020 through July 2021 and answered questions from community members. The District put up zero dollars for the project and it is doing what it should be doing. Based on the numbers it is expected that after a year or two it will be producing more solar energy than anticipated. The District can continue to buy the power from Barrington Power or in six years there is an option to buy the equipment. This is clean energy and it is saving the District money. It is also an educational benefit because the data can be used to teach math and science. All the energy produced covers Effingham Elementary and when credits are built up it will go towards Ossipee Central School. Barrington Power hopes the District will consider rooftop panels on the schools in Wolfeboro.

School Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said it is great to be back in the schools. She said she would like to look at the schedule because it may be beneficial to move the October 4 meeting scheduled at the Brookfield Town House to one of our schools.

**Motion:** To hold the October 4 School Board meeting at Crescent Lake School and change the April 4, 2022 location to the Town of Brookfield.

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

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

COVID-19 Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert reviewed the proposed changes to the Stay Open Plan. Changes made eliminate screenings and changed the definition of close contact and changes to quarantine time. She said face masks are not recommended in outdoor locations with the exception of close/physical contact sports. She hopes to further reduce the need for masks, but currently the recommendation is for masks to be worn indoors when the county transmission rate (Carroll or Strafford) is substantial or high. Ms. King said New Durham's numbers may be a misrepresentation since UNH is included in the county so we may not want to use Strafford County's numbers. If the transmission level is low or moderate masks are optional. If the transmission is substantial or high they will be required. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said distancing in school will happen as much as possible to minimize close contact. Ms. King said she would like the sentence struck that desks will face the same direction. Desks should be able to be rearranged due to the education benefit of students being able to make eye contact with one another. All references to a remote program are gone. Plexiglass barriers are no longer recommended by CDC as prevention strategies so they will be removed but will remain in the main office. The District will return to routine cleaning and will continue to run the HVAC systems as we did last year. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said there is also a federal order requiring that masks be worn on all public transportation; including school buses. The District will have assigned seats to help with contact tracing if necessary.

**Motion:** To approve the District "Stay Open Plan" as presented with modifications mentioned by Board members.

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

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

Use of Facilities by Outside Groups

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said now that we know transmission is very unlikely to occur through surfaces. Given this, it should not be a risk to students or staff to open is more comfortable with facility use by outside groups; as long as they follow the District's guidelines in the Stay Open Plan. She said she has heard from several community groups how important it is for them to be allowed in District buildings.

**Motion:** To allow outside groups to use District facilities following District protocol and the guidelines outlined in the Stay Open Plan.

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

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

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a biennial survey of adolescent health risk and health protective behaviors such as smoking, drinking, drug use, diet, and physical activity conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It surveys students in grades 9–12. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said although there is always work to do it is important to recognize the improvements made since the last survey. She noted some of the improvements and said the Coalition Carroll County Public Health printed a valuable brochure with information on youth mental health and preventing youth substance abuse which will be uploaded on our website. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the Youth Risk Behavior Survey is being administered in the fall and the District is being asked to make a decision about participation.

**Motion:** To approve and authorize the administering of the 2021 YRBS at Kingswood Regional High School.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried 6-1-0 on a roll call vote with Mr. Pittman voting against the motion.

Mrs. Cuddy-Egbert said she will invite the new wellness coordinator, funded by a grant, to a future Board meeting to provide information on in house services being provided.

Authorization to Suspend

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert explained annually the board must authorize the superintendent and the assistant superintendent to suspend students for up to ten days in accordance with RSA 193:13-I (b) and continue a suspension of a pupil for a period in excess of ten school days.

**Motion:** To authorize the superintendent and assistant superintendent to suspend students from school for up to ten days in accordance with RSA 193:13-I(b).

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

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

Authorization to Sign Assurances

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert explained annually the board must authorize the superintendent, assistant superintendent, business administrator and/or curriculum directors to sign the assurances for all grants and requests to and from trust funds.

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**Motion:** To authorize the superintendent and assistant superintendent, business administrator and/or curriculum directors to sign the assurances for all grants and requests to and from trust.

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

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

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Widmer said expressions of sympathy were sent to Chuck DiCecca, Jill Daley-Gibson and Lynn Peterson on the passing of loved ones. Get well wishes were sent to Amy Ahn and congratulatory wishes were sent to Jaclyn Benson on the birth of her child. He also read the committee structure for the School Board for the 2021-2022 school year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Human Resources Committee: Mr. Widmer said the support staff agreement is up for renewal this year.

**ADVANCED PLANNING**

Upcoming events were read from the agenda.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

- Juanita Hill, Melvin Village, spoke in length on how masks are ineffective and unhealthy. She is also against the vaccination and referenced many sites she would like people to visit to read information. She also would like to see the District post the studies on how they determine the masks mandate.

**Motion:** To extend public input by ten minutes.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a voice vote.

- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro, said parents make medical decisions for their children. We still have a pandemic, and the Delta variant is more susceptible, but the PCR tests are also unreliable. She asked that the District rethink the quarantine for the vaccinated/unvaccinated.
- Angela, New Durham, spoke against mask wearing.
- Heather Haskell, Ossipee, would like masks optional. She said her child cannot wear a mask so what options do these children have. She would like students/families surveyed to see what their preference is on mask wearing.
- Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro, provided COVID stats said masks are needed for those children who are not vaccinated. If the transmission level is up everyone wears masks and if it is down they can be optional.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**Motion:** At 9:08 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:** Ms. King

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

The Board left the multipurpose room and entered a classroom. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented resignations, nominations and discussed legal and personnel matters.

**Motion:** To accept with regret and sincere appreciation the resignation letter from Jennifer Berkowitz.

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**Moved:** Dr. Manning – **Seconded:** Ms. Abear  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept with appreciation the resignation letter from Kaela Croteau; contingent on the District finding a suitable replacement.

**Moved:** Dr. Manning – **Seconded:** Ms. Abear  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept with appreciation the resignation letter from Brendan Donahue with congratulatory wishes for future endeavors.

**Moved:** Dr. Manning – **Seconded:** Mr. Streeter  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept with appreciation the resignation letter from Ryan Gilpatrick.

**Moved:** Ms. Abear – **Seconded:** Dr. Manning  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept with appreciation the resignation letter from Emma Tierney.

**Moved:** Ms. King – **Seconded:** Dr. Manning  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Shelby Alessandroni as a classroom teacher at Crescent Lake School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 1/Step 1 - \$42,552

**Moved:** Ms. King – **Seconded:**  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Victoria Bardin as a classroom teacher at New Durham School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 4 - \$47,339

**Moved:** Dr. Manning – **Seconded:** Ms. King  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Karen Beaverstock as a classroom teacher at New Durham School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 13 - \$73,918

**Moved:** Ms. Abear – **Seconded:** Dr. Manning  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Duncan Cole as middle school ELA teacher (1-2 year position) for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 1 - \$44,680

**Moved:** Dr. Manning – **Seconded:** Mr. Pittman  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Justine Crockwell as a classroom teacher at New Durham School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 1/Step 4 - \$45,212

**Moved:** Ms. Fenderson – **Seconded:** Dr. Manning  
**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Courtney Drew as a classroom teacher (1-2 year position) at Ossipee Central School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 1/Step 1 - \$42,552

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

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**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Shelly Ispan-Laing as high school Guidance Counselor for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 1 - \$44,680

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Nicole “Nicky” Gerome as middle school Social Studies Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 3 - \$46,808

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Melanie Jones as a classroom teacher at Effingham Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 13 - \$73,918

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Emily Mason as STEP Counselor/DPT at Ossipee Central School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 1 - \$44,680

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Patrick McCafferty as a classroom teacher (1-2 year position) at Crescent Lake School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 1/Step 1 - \$42,552

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Griffin Nyhan as high school Project Manager-Literacy Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 1/Step 1 - \$42,552

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Allison O’Donnell as middle school Art Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 13 - \$73,918

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Jason Ouellet as high school Social Studies Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 1/Step 7 - \$47,180

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Susan Randall as a Special Education teacher (.5) at New Durham School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 13 - \$36,959

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Torri Richards as a Math Project Manager at New Durham School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 4/Step 14 - \$85,013

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

**Vote:** Motion carried 5-2-0 on a roll call vote with Ms. Fenderson and Ms. King voting against the motion.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Kathryn “Katie” Small as Principal (.7) and DPT (.3) at Tuftonboro Central School for the 2021-2022 school year. \$99,767

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

**Vote:** Motion carried 6-0-1 on a roll call vote with Ms. Abear abstaining.

**Motion:** To accept Superintendents nomination of Kathy Tetreault as Principal of the Lakes Region Technology Center for the 2021-2022 school year. \$101,063

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Legal and personnel matters were discussed.

**Motion:** To allow children to enroll in the district for the 2021-2022 school year while family is transitioning into their new home in New Durham from out-of-state. Complete move in expected on or before September 28, 2021.

**Moved:** Dr. Manning - **Seconded:** Ms. Abear

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** At 10:54 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 went back to the multi-purpose room. No one from the community remained and there was no further business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** 10:56 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board 09.13.21