

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
JANUARY 10, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. A moment of silence was observed for Krista Abear.

Members Present: Wendi Fenderson, Stefanie King, Dr. James Manning, James Pittman, Charlene Seibel, Dana Streeter, John Widmer

Excused: Timothy Eldridge

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 said she received a request to discuss remote meetings. Ms. King asked if the discussion on the 2022-2023 calendar could be moved up in the agenda and discussed after the agenda item voting at New Durham School.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/MANIFESTS

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021, Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

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

Vote: Minutes were approved 2-0-0 (a quorum of the committee)

Acceptance of the December 6, 2021, Academic Affairs Committee meeting was postponed until next month (committee quorum needed).

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 2, 2021, School Board meeting.

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

Vote: Minutes approved 6-0-1. Ms. King abstained.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 6, 2021, School Board meeting.

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

Discussion: Changes to pages 2 and 4.

Vote: Amended minutes approved 6-0-1. Ms. King abstained.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 3, 2022, Superintendent Search Committee meeting.

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

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

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$1,876,043.08) and payroll (\$2,725,391.03) manifests totaling \$4,601,434.11.

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

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

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
JANUARY 10, 2022**

PUBLIC INPUT

- Larry Borland, Wolfeboro, introduced himself as a retired pediatric anesthesiologist/pediatric critical care physician and a prior elected school board official in Pennsylvania. He said he would like to offer his time and expertise to the Board and Administration.
- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro, spoke against cloth masks and board policies that she feels are discriminatory.
- Nicole Zoltko, New Durham Town Administrator, said the town would like to use New Durham Elementary School for local, state and federal elections, and to open dialogue between the school board and the Town in hopes of working more collaboratively in the future.
- Meghan Anderson, Wolfeboro, and a high school coach, spoke on quarantine guidelines and the number of school days students may miss even though they test negative. She said we follow NH DHHS guidelines, which were revised on January 7, and they still need board approval. This delay on a vote keeps students out longer. She would like to see the Board move more quickly to adopt revised protocols.
- Brie Clough, Tuftonboro, said mitigation strategies are harmful and the general welfare of staff and students should be discussed. She said masks should be optional, and parents should be able to decide whether their child(ren) wear masks.

Student Representative to the School Board

Fallon Peacock gave a detailed report of school happenings at the high school and tech center. Student council distributed 150 gifts under the Wish Upon a Star program, Mr. Meyer's class raised funds for the Kentucky tornado victims Red Cross Disaster Relief fund, and planning has begun for winter carnival and prom. Drama will be holding auditions for their next play and winter athletes continue to be resilient despite the increase in COVID cases.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Wolfeboro Trolley Company/Park and Ride Shuttle from KRHS

Wolfeboro Trolley Company would like to renew the partnership plan to run a Park and Ride Shuttle from Kingswood Regional High School to downtown Wolfeboro in July and August from 8am-6pm.

Motion: To approve the request for Wolfeboro Trolley Company to run a Park and Ride Shuttle from Kingswood Regional High School to downtown Wolfeboro in July and August from 8am-6pm.

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

Vote: Motion passed 7-0-0 on a roll call vote. Mr. Streeter voted against the motion and Mr. Pitman abstained

KRHS Basketball Mask Exemption

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said since the Board granted the boys and girls basketball teams a mask exemption there have been COVID clusters so she asked the teams to wear masks until the Board could discuss the topic.

Motion: To rescind the Board's prior decision for the basketball programs, and make masks mandatory at all times while playing or while on the bench

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

Vote: Motion passed 6-0-1 on a roll call vote. Ms. King abstained.

Town of New Durham/Voting at New Durham School

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said representatives from the Town of New Durham are here tonight to ask that the School Board rescind the action taken to not allow the town to use New Durham School for

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
JANUARY 10, 2022**

voting. This is a hardship to the town and the voters. There was a lengthy discussion on the history of the Board's decision to stop voting in the schools. Town officials explained why they do not have an alternative voting location.

Motion: To change the 2021-2022 school calendar, moving the March 25, 2022 no school day to March 8, 2022, districtwide, so the Town of New Durham can use New Durham Elementary School for voting on March 8.

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

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

School Calendar 2022-2023

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented a 2022-2023 school calendar for review and discussion. There was discussion and changes were made to the draft calendar to make November 8, 2022, and March 14, 2023, no school days (election days).

Motion: To approved the amended 2022-2023 draft calendar.

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

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

Motion: To strike Columbus Day on October 10 on the school calendar leaving it as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

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

Vote: Motion passed 6-1-0 on a roll call vote. Mr. Streeter voted against the motion.

Budget Adoption Hearing 2023

Mr. Widmer presented 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 \$6,576,227.83 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 3.25%.

Adopt Budget 2022-2023

Motion: To adopt the 2022-2023 budget as presented.

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

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

Adopt Warrant 2022-2023

Motion: To adopt the 2022-2023 warrant as presented with minor amendments.

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

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

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
JANUARY 10, 2022**

School Board Spokesperson for Articles

At Deliberative Session Ms. Fenderson will address Article II and III, Ms. Seibel Article IV and V, Mr. Pittman Article VI, Mr. Eldridge Article VII and Mr. Widmer Article VIII.

COVID-19 Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said we have seen a rise in school cases, and that they are expected to continue to increase for 4-6 weeks, and then hopefully we will begin to see a decline.

DHHS Quarantine Guidelines/Stay Open Plan

NHDHHS Guidelines

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented the key points and recommendations on the NH Division of Public Health Services January 6 alert on updated isolation and quarantine guidance. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert would like to incorporate the updated language on isolation and quarantine guidance into the Stay Open Plan.

Motion: To adopt the language on isolation and quarantine guidance into the Stay Open Plan.

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

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

Remote Meetings

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said she received a request that the school board have a remote option at school board meetings. The board discussed the snags they have encountered with two-way communication, between two rooms, and the logistical challenges during the emergency order with remote meetings. The consensus was that remote meetings are burdensome.

NH School Boards Association

Mr. Widmer said there are a couple of upcoming committee meetings.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Ms. Seibel said they had to postpone today's meeting for the lack of a quorum so student dress code and professional dress code will be on the next agenda.

Buildings & Maintenance

No report

Finance

Deliberative Session Saturday, February 5.

Human Resources

No report

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
JANUARY 10, 2022**

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

Mr. Widmer read upcoming events from the agenda. The February 7 meeting will be held at Kingswood Arts Center.

Public Input

- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro, said now that the name Columbus Day has been removed from the school calendar will staff still be paid for this day? Will the language be changed in contracts? She expressed concern for the legal fees incurred because of the mask mandate.
- Brodie Deshaies, Wolfeboro, said the loss of State revenue will be huge for many community members. He told how Krista Abear was an inspiration to him and she contributed to his passion for local and state government.
- A New Durham resident asked if children aged 5-11 who are not eligible for a COVID booster are considered fully vaccinated under quarantine guidelines.
- Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro, asked if we know what the tax impact on the District budget is for the school vouchers and paying for private education. She asked if one town could vote in the affirmative for a bill and the other against it, but Mr. Widmer said District votes are combined as a cooperative school district.

Closing Comments by Board Members

- Ms. King thanked Scott Geissler for the technology set up for board meetings and to him and Norm Adjutant for the outstanding production of Mamma Mia.
- Ms. Seibel wanted a false statement about her corrected. She said at a previous board meeting when she used the words breathtakingly ignorant and profoundly insensitive she was not referring to anything having to do with masks, she was referring to comments made during public input calling our music room a shower room (reference to the gas chambers used in the Holocaust). Also, Ms. Seibel said her masks are exclusively made by a Vermont Company. They are three layers of tightly woven cotton with a pocket for a filter.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 10:15 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.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented staff resignations, retirements, and the board discussed a legal matter.

Motion: To accept the resignation letter from Melissa Lefebvre effective February 11, 2022.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept with regret and sincere appreciation the retirement letter from Charles Edson effective January 28, 2022.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept with regret and sincere appreciation the retirement letter from Ann Gehring at the end of the school year, June 2022.

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

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
JANUARY 10, 2022**

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept with sincere appreciation the retirement letter from Susannah Halpern at the end of the school year, June 2022.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept with sincere appreciation the retirement letter from Patti Kohut at the end of the school year, June 2022.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept with sincere appreciation the retirement letter from Susan Lander at the end of the school year, June 2022.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept with sincere appreciation the retirement letter from Jeanne McEvoy at the end of the school year, June 2023.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept with sincere appreciation the retirement letter from Tom Merrell at the end of the school year, June 2022.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept with sincere appreciation the retirement letter from Sharon Thomassian at the end of the school year, June 2022.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Motion: To accept the resignation letter from Nicole Gerome, and allow her out of her contract, with the stipulation that she does everything to make the transition as smooth as possible with her replacement.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

The school board discussed the collective bargaining agreement between the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board and the Governor Wentworth Support Staff Association.

Motion: To ratify a three-year agreement with the Governor Wentworth Support Staff Association.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

Motion: At 10:54 pm a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
JANUARY 10, 2022**

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 10:55 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Murphy".

School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 02.15.2022