

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2022

In accordance with the provision of Senate Bill 2 (RSA 40:13) adopted by the school district, the first session of the annual meeting (deliberative session) of the 2022 school district was called to order at 10:00AM by Moderator, Randy Walker. The Moderator welcomes those in attendance and invites those wishing to participate to stand as he leads in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator reviews the emergency evacuation procedures and location of exits in the building.

The Moderator introduced those sitting at the head table: Dana Streeter, School Board Member from Ossipee; Stefanie King, School Board Member from New Durham; Charlene Seibel, School Board Member from Wolfeboro; Dr. James Manning, School Board Member from Brookfield; Wendi Fenderson, School Board Member-at-Large from New Durham; James Pittman, Vice Chair, School Board Member from Effingham; John Widmer, Chair, School Board Member from Tuftonboro; Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Superintendent of Schools; Chris Boldt, Esq., Attorney; Kathy O'Blenes, Business Administrator; Linda Murphy, School Board Secretary; Michelle Capone, School District Clerk. Heather R. Cummings, Assistant Superintendent of Schools who is up in the booth overseeing the slide show. introduces Kaitlyn Murphy, a resident of Wolfeboro, who he has appointed Assistant Moderator for the meeting.

The Moderator reviews the purpose and rules governing the meeting.

The Moderator recognizes those in attendance who are not residents of the district, by a show of hands, reminds these attendees they are not eligible to vote on any issues.

Voters are reminded that the articles themselves will be voted on in conjunction with each town's voting on Tuesday, March 08, 2022. This meeting will address Articles II-VIII and any new business to come before the assembly.

Voting on Article I for School Board Members will happen at the polling booth on voting day. The Moderator states there are two contested races this year, an opening for the At-Large position with Brody Deshaies and Jessica L. Williams, both from Wolfeboro, and the Effingham seat with Jim Pittman and Nate Williams.

The Moderator recognizes Board Chair Jack Widmer.

Mr. Widmer begins by remembering the loss of Board Member Krista Abear in December. She was a much loved, dedicated teacher, coach, and colleague as well as a Board Member for the past three years. Mr. Widmer asks for a moment of silence in remembrance then thanks the attendees for that minute.

Mr. Widmer thanks those who took time to attend. He speaks to the challenges faced by the school community and thanks everyone for their support, acknowledging that everyone's intentions are in the right place.

Mr. Widmer proceeds to give the State of the School's address highlighting the resilience of students and staff, much loved traditions and celebrations returning, classes in full swing again with modifications if necessary.

Mr. Widmer turns the meeting back to the Moderator Randy Walker.

The Moderator reads Article I.

#### ARTICLE 1:

To choose the following school district officers:

- |                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| (a) School Board Member-At-Large   | 3-year term |
| School Board Member from Effingham | 3-year term |
| School Board Member from Ossipee   | 3-year term |
| (b) School District Moderator      | 1-year term |

Running for re-election is Jim Pittman also running is Nate Williams

Running for re-election from Ossipee is Dana Streeter

Running for Member-At-Large are Jessica Williams and Brody Deshaies both from Wolfeboro

No discussion on Article I, the Moderator reads Article II:

#### ARTICLE II:

The Moderator reads Article II:

To see if the Governor Wentworth Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board and the Governor Wentworth Support Staff Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels: Fiscal Year 2023 Estimated increase \$193,860; Fiscal Year 2024 \$197,917; Fiscal Year 2025 \$207,381 and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$193,860 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Board Member Wendi Fenderson speaks to this article highlighting the incredible job support staff have done during difficult circumstances and being short staffed with 30 positions unfilled. She discussed the low unemployment rate and how it effects hiring. The goal is to make compensation more competitive with the surrounding area and to increase amount support staff contribute their insurance without less take home pay. The salary increases and insurance contribution increases over the three-year period is explained.

The Moderator ask if there is any discussion on Article II.

There is no discussion the Moderator moves to Article III.

The Moderator reads Article III:

Shall the Governor Wentworth Regional School District, if Article II is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article II cost items only? (Majority vote required)

Board Member Fenderson addresses Article III.

The Moderator asks if there are any questions on Article III.

There are no questions.

The Moderator reads Article IV:

To see if the Governor Wentworth Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board and the Governor Wentworth Administrative Team which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2023	\$ 47,664
2024	\$ 53,660
2025	\$ 53,907

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$47,664 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. The School Board recommends the appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

Board Chair Jack Widmer addresses this article. He recognizes the terrific job being done and that the district is lucky to have a seasoned and competent Administrative Team committed to the district for years. The goal of this article is to keep salaries competitive with other schools in the state, retain our administrators, and increase the insurance copay. Mr. Widmer reviews the salary increases and insurance copays for Administrators.

The Moderator asks if there are any questions on Article IV.

There are no questions on Article IV.

The Moderator reads Article V.

ARTICLE V: Shall the Governor Wentworth Regional School District, if Article IV is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article IV cost items only? (Majority vote required)

Board Chair Jack Widmer addresses Article V.

The Moderator asks if there are any questions on Article V.

There are no questions on Article V.

The Moderator reads Article VI.

ARTICLE VI: To see if the Governor Wentworth Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to be added to the Turf Field Capital Reserve Fund previously established and furthermore to name the school board as agents to expend. This sum to come from the June 30, 2022 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022. No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Board Vice Chair Jim Pittman addresses Article VI and the districts reasoning and approach to funding the replacement of the Turf field. The district has been able to extend the life of the field to 15 years with \$650,000 in reserve towards the \$750,000 replacement cost. Passage of this article will bring the reserve up to \$710,000 and with continued support should allow the district to replace the field without asking taxpayers to budget additional funds for this purpose.

The Moderator asks if there are any questions on Article VI.

There are no questions.

The Moderator reads Article VII.

ARTICLE VII: Shall the Governor Wentworth Regional School District raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for repairs and improvements of buildings/grounds at the Kingswood Regional High School, Kingswood Regional Middle School, Lakes Region Technology Center, Kingswood Arts Center, Carpenter School, Crescent Lake School, Effingham Elementary School, New Durham School, Ossipee Central School, Tuftonboro Central School and the SAU 49/Transportation Facility? The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Board Chair Jack Widmer addresses Article VII reviews projects completed this past year and identifies capital improvement projects scheduled for the upcoming year and why these projects have been identified for completion in the upcoming year.

The Moderator asks if there are any questions on Article VII.

There are no questions.

The Moderator reads Article VIII.

ARTICLE VIII: Shall the Governor Wentworth Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$57,762,625? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$57,328,983 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. \* NOTE: This warrant article (operating budget) does not include appropriations requested in ANY of the other warrant articles. The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Chair Jack Widmer addresses Article VIII. An overview of ESSER FUNDS (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds) and how they can be used is given. ESSER I, ESSER II and ESSER III must be used by 2024. Public input on the use of these funds can be done through the GWRSD website where there is an email for public input.

These grants can not be used to reduce the tax rate and unspent funds must be returned to the Federal Government. The district plans to use all funds.

A review of the goals in budget preparation, the process and what factors play into costs that the board has little no control over. An overview of the various parts of the budget is given. The General Fund is explained, the different expense categories, debt service, and revenue categories. An example of the projected local and state combined tax rates is shown and explained. Mr. Widmer explains the portions of a tax bill in where the district towns compare to the rest of the state.

An explanation of the default budget is given.

The Moderator asks if there are any questions on Article VIII.

There are no questions.

The Moderator reads Article IX.

ARTICLE IX: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Moderator Walker asks if there is any other new business. Seeing none, asks for a motion to adjourn. Motion made and seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27am

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle J. Capone  
School District Clerk  
Approved by School Board 02.15.22