

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Excused: Charlene Seibel

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 added the following under COVID Update: mask mandate, social distancing cohort groups, and travel advisory. She also added graduation date, location of next meeting and winter sports to the agenda.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/MANIFESTS

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 January 10, 2022, School Board meeting.

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

Vote: Minutes approved 6-0-1. Mr. Eldridge abstained.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 5, 2022, School Board meeting.

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

Vote: Minutes approved 6-0-1. Mr. Eldridge abstained.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 5, 2022, Deliberative Session.

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

Vote: Minutes approved 6-0-1. Mr. Eldridge abstained.

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$4,644,261.09) and payroll (\$1,761,474.28) manifests totaling \$4,405,935.37.

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT

- Dan Batten, Ossipee, spoke against board mandates.
- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro, spoke against the mask mandate and said she has a petition for a special meeting to make the use of face coverings optional districtwide.
- Jeremy Abbott, Wolfeboro, spoke about rights for people.
- Katie Allar, Wolfeboro, asked for mask choice.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

Student Representative to the School Board

Fallon Peacock gave a detailed report of school happenings at the high school and tech center. She said Student Council has been organizing the winter carnival events and the National Honor Society will be holding Kingswood and Kids (games, crafts, snacks). Fallon said second semester is underway; they are halfway through the school year. She said Poetry Out Loud is progressing and she provided an update on athletics and happenings at the tech center; indicating there is a big interest in the upcoming class registration.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

System of Care Grant – Sarah Skoglund

Sarah Skoglund, District Wellness Coordinator, explained that her position is funded by the System of Care Grant through the NH Department of Education (DOE), and that she is working closely with the DOE to address goals outlined in the grant to support the social and emotional health of our students. This year her focus is supporting schools in the development and implementation of a multi-tiered system of support for a behavioral health and wellness model. She said this is a framework for delivering services to improve the mental, emotional, and behavioral health function for all students based upon their level of need. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert thanked Ms. Skoglund for her presentation and told the Board that Ms. Skoglund will be looking for a Board representative to serve on a community advisory committee.

Remote Meeting Attendance

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said she received a request that the school board have remote meeting attendance accommodations. Discussion followed.

Motion: To have the academic affairs committee review the public input policy and the board meeting policy at their next meeting.

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

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

Wood Estate Expendable Trust Fund Application

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the high school is requesting the following resources from the Wood Estate Expendable Trust Funds for student scholarships: \$10,000 to award to the Class of 2022 (10 @ \$1000) and \$11,000 to the Class of 2021 (11 @ \$1000).

Motion: To approve the distribution of \$21,000 from the Wood Estate Expendable Trust Fund for high school scholarships.

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

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

NHCF Grant Letter

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the District received a \$6,000 grant from the Bald Peak Community Fund for the Knights Against Hunger which provides food assistance for middle and high school students.

Deliberative Session Review

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said it was a quiet Deliberative session. She read the March 8, 2022, voting locations and times for each town. Mr. Widmer thanked everyone for all the hard work.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

Mask Mandate

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said there has been a dramatic drop in COVID cases. She said the Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS) is providing less guidance and is now linking to Center for Disease Control (CDC). Discussion continued on the pros and cons of masking and the pros and cons of when to make masks optional. Guidelines are continually being reviewed, and changed, with the exception of the travel advisory. It was also noted that the mask mandate on public transportation is still in effect through March 18, 2022, and may be extended.

Motion: To suspend the mandatory mask mandate and make them optional effective March 7, 2022. Masks may be optional earlier if CDC/DHHS guidelines change. The Board will revisit if the District experiences a number of COVID cases

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

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

Social Distancing/Cohort Groups/Travel Advisory

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented changes to social distancing and cohort groups. She said six feet in the lunchrooms and music rooms will no longer be required. The District will maintain a three-foot distance between students in classrooms and cafeterias. Cohort groups will no longer be required. The District will still operate under the current DHHS) travel advisory. However, if the advisory changes, we will operate under the updated guidance.

Motion: To implement the changes to the stay open plan presented by the superintendent on social distancing, cohort groups, and if the travel advisory changes to implement these as well.

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

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

Winter Sports

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the District was able to return to winter traditions this year with outdoor winter sports and parent chaperones. She gave a summary of events from each school and thanked the volunteers, staff, and the transportation department for making the program possible

Graduation Date

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said administration prefers to hold graduation outside so families are not limited o tickets. She proposed Friday, June 10 at 6:00pm, and if the weather is inclement to hold it Saturday, June 11 in either the morning or evening.

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

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

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

March School Board Meeting Location

The March meeting will be held on the 14th at one of the schools. Location to be determined.

NH School Boards Association

Mr. Widmer said there is a group of state associations in the process of forming a new Association for State School Board Associations. There are discussions to have it member owned and to provide the same types of services provided by the National Association.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Expressions of sympathy sent to Lois-Jean Stevens and Gabrielle Wells on the passing of loved ones, and get-well wishes to Chuck DiCecca.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Ms. King presented changes to policy GBEBAR, Guidelines for Professional Dress and Policy JICA, Student Dress Code for approval. She also presented JICA-R to be stricken.

Motion: To approve the changes to Policy GBEBAR, Guidelines for Professional Dress, as presented.

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

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

Motion: To approve the changes to Policy JICA, Student Dress Code, as presented with modifications.

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

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

Motion: To strike Policy JICA-R, Student Dress Code.

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

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

Buildings & Maintenance

Mr. Eldridge said the committee has not met. He gave an update on several recent projects the maintenance department has been very busy working on at our schools (walk in cooler failed, boiler not firing, frozen pipes, septic pump failed, HVAC drive failed).

Finance

Mr. Widmer announced that the districtwide mailer will be going out before voting explaining the warrant articles.

Human Resources

No report

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

Mr. Widmer read upcoming events from the agenda and said the next meeting will be held March 14th with location to be determined.

Public Input

- Katie Allar, Wolfeboro, asked that the mask mandate end now.
- Nick McNally, Tuftonboro, said parents feel like the Board is not listening and meeting participants are being segregated due to mask mandate. He presented to the school board secretary signed petitions pursuant to RSA 195:13 for a special meeting to see if the voters will vote to make face coverings optional for all students at the sole discretion of their parent or guardian and to make face coverings optional for employees and visitors on school district property and attending school sanctioned event.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

- Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro, was attending from the music room and said that she could hear crystal clear and the viewing is actually better. She expressed concern that if masks are optional we may have more staff out and substitutes are limited. She asked if ESSER funds can be used to hire additional support and to increase the substitute teacher pay.
- Teisha O'Keefe, Wolfeboro, said she appreciates mask becoming optional on March 7th but said it has taken too long and in her opinion March 7th is not good enough. She feels that masks have damaged kids so the social emotional position is appropriate.
- Brett Williams, Wolfeboro, started to make personal comments about a substitute so Mr. Widmer ended Mr. Williams public participation.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 8:45 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel matters.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

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

Motion: To accept the nomination of Lindsay Libby as 100% grade 6 teacher at Ossipee Central School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 2 \$45,744 (prorated)

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

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

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

The school board discussed the superintendent's contract for the current school year.

Motion: To compensate Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert for 44 days of accumulated vacation time.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

The Board was informed the superintendent search has narrowed the candidates to two finalist.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

Motion: To accept the search committee's recommendation to bring two candidates forward. Caroline Arakelian and Stephen Zadravee.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

The Board discussed additional pay for teachers and paraprofessionals covering another class during prep time or during breaks.

Motion: To compensated teachers or paraprofessionals who cover a classroom during their prep time or breaks \$15 per hour for this coverage through the end of the school year, June 2022.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

Motion: At 9:38 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 School Board meeting resumed the meeting in the Arts Center. There was no further business.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 9:39 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 03.14.2022