

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
JUNE 7, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Middleton Representative: Kelly Tivnan

Also Present: Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, WCTV and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA REVIEW

Kathy Cuddy-Egbert updates Board on Building and Maintenance Committee Meeting that took place earlier that day and that those minutes could also be approved. Board will need to read these and they will approve at next meeting.

Kathy Cuddy-Egbert introduces School Board Clerk Michelle Capone, who is also filling in for Linda Murphy, School Board Secretary.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert addresses a question raised by a member of the public about the Oath of Office. A concern that a voice could not be heard when the Oath of Office was being given. Michelle Capone, School District Clerk will address. Ms. Capone states that it is customary for Oaths of Office to be given orally and simultaneously. Ms. Capone confirmed this with the Secretary of State's Office. Should there be any other questions she encourages the community to reach out to the Secretary of State's Office.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Jack Widmer explains that the reorganization usually happens in April but because the voting wasn't finalized until May the reorganization was delayed until the June Meeting. The Board needs to appoint Chair and Vice Chair.

Jack Widmer entertains motion for Chair.

Motion: To nominate Jack Widmer as Chair. There were no other nominations.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a roll call vote with Mr. Widmer abstaining.

Motion: To nominate Jim Pittman as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a roll call vote with Mr. Pittman abstaining.

Committee Assignments, Jack Widmer asks board members to notify him of which committees they would like to be on.

ACCEPTANCE of MINUTES/MANIFESTS:

Motion: To accept the minutes of the May 7, 2021 Finance Committee Minutes as presented.

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

Vote: Motion carried on roll call vote 4-0-0 (Dr. Manning, Mr. Pittman, Mr. Widmer and Mr. Streeter)

Motion: To accept the minutes of the May 10, 2021 School Board Meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Motion carried on roll call vote 7-0-0 (Ms. Fenderson and Ms. King abstaining)

Motion: To accept minutes of the May 24, 2021 School Board Meeting with one correction.

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

Vote: Motion carried on roll call vote 8-0 (Ms. King abstaining)

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$1,362,792.78) and payroll (\$1,925,144.15) manifest totaling \$3,287,936.93.

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

Vote: All voted in favor

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Project/Student Presentation

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert gave a background of China trip and connections made to create a curriculum. This will allow students to come to United States and receive a diploma from both Kingswood High School and Huangdai High School as the district has SEVIS Certification. The ability of students to work with students from China is priceless.

The Kingswood students that collaborated on the project were Tyler Olkkola, Marcella DeNitto, Jill Caravella & Ms. Jennifer Murray-DeCarmo, as their Advisor. Tyler gave an overview of their invitation to join the Youth Ambassador Summer Project with students in China. Students named the project "Green Home". They chose to look at environmental issues throughout the globe. The group chose to look at how COVID reopening was handled in China and here. Chinese students, Carole Liu, Claire Zhu, Edison Sun and Advisor Mr. Tianfeng Lu and Project Coordinator Dr. Paul Wang. The students gave an overview of the differences between GWRSD school and schools in the United States. The students gave an overview of Suzhou City, called the Venice of the east and of Huangdai High School with a population of 1,668 students. Students in China must test to attend high school and pay a fee. The cost being \$200.00 to attend.

A dual curriculum was developed to allow Clair to join Kingswood Regional High School next year. Students gave highlights of the project focusing on reopening policy/protocol differences between China's central government and our local government. Especially the mandatory reporting by students to the Chinese government of whereabouts for tracing purposes. Also, there is a lot of top-down pressure from the government on the reopening plan. A slide show showed video responses and look at Huangdai High School. In China no student under 18 is vaccinated.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert asked the students what the biggest challenge was. Language was the biggest challenge and the ability to communicate via e-mail because of the government restrictions. Direct communication was not allowed.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert stated the parents of the students that were going to join KRHS are reluctant because of COVID but Claire's family is still interested. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert thanked Ms. Murray-DeCarmo.

NH Learning Initiative: Ms. Cuddy-Egbert gave an overview of the NH Learning Initiative (NHLI) and how it is somewhat related to the ESSER (Elementary and Secondary Student Education Recovery) Plan grant funds. The funds can be used for professional development; to assist the administrators with the district's curriculum. The initiative will also work with grade level teachers throughout the system looking at what and how learning is being applied and to develop a K-12 systemic approach. The district has very capable students and committed families and strong community support. The district wants to see students achieve greater depth of knowledge and greater application of their skills. It can be done slowly without NHLI, but Ms. Cuddy-Egbert prefers to make more rapid progress.

ESSER Plan

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert passed around the framework of how grant funds from the ESSER Plan will be used. Grant Funds to be used for projects the district wouldn't normally be able to do. There are three funds:

ESSER 1:

Tied to personal equipment and items to be purchased to get the district through and open during the pandemic and already expended.

ESSER II:

- 1) Tangible items that will have long term benefits (i.e., sidewalks, boiler at middle school, school busses)
- 2) Supplies such as reading materials, STEM supplies, music supplies i.e., instruments, technology. All schools are offering a robust program this summer using ESSER funds.
- 3) Curriculum Project: The committee is looking for a motion to support the framework, particularly positions required to implement the curriculum project. Committee is looking at Math Project in every school for two years, Curriculum project in High School for two years, to hire three literacy project managers in schools and a nurse. Effingham Elementary School does not have a fulltime nurse.

Mr. Widmer feels it's important to mention the total funds in grant are \$2,913,925.00 which will go a long way to cover projects described. More funds, over \$6 million, are to come and the Building and Maintenance Committee will discuss how and what these funds can be used for projects in the future.

Motion: To accept the ESSER Plan as presented.

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

Disc: Ms. King asks what is "CB learning"? Ms. Cuddy-Egbert explains it is curriculum based.

Vote: Motion carried on roll call vote 8-0 (Ms. King abstaining)

ESSER III:

Potential long-term projects including solar energy and heating ventilation and cooling.

Election Results

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert went over results of the election:

School Board Member at Large Tim Eldridge prevailed with 1446; School Member New Durham, Stefanie King prevailed with 1310; School Board Member Tuftonboro Jack Widmer with 2080; Randy Walker Moderator with 2236.

Article II Turf Field: Yes 1735 – No 1154

Article III Repairs and Improvements: Yes 2007 – No 892

Article IV Operating Budget: Yes 1869 – No 1006

Vaccinations

Board members have received questions if vaccinations would be required for staff employment or students. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert was surprised by the question as board has not discussed and there has been no plan to require them.

Alumni Association /Stipend

No member of the Alumni Association able to attend but sent letter updating board on their work this past year and the awarding of scholarships. Scholarships of \$1,000 each were given to a 2021 graduate as well as two graduates of the class of 2019. The Alumni gave overview of the major fundraiser golf tournament. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert requests continued \$5,000.00 board support for Alumni Association.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's recommendation for offering a \$5000 stipend to the KRHS Alumni Association for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote

COVID-19

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the latest COVID-19 CDC guidelines don't find screening necessary so she would like to drop screening immediately. The district's Covid Advisory Task Force is in favor to drop screenings.

Motion: To discontinue the COVID screenings immediately.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote

CDC and DHHS and Academy of Pediatrics recommendations still same as last meeting for wearing masks indoors. Acknowledges parents will be concerned and district will do best to hold summer school activities outside. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert asks board that if guidelines change from CDC or DHHS that masks are no longer required indoors, and that the fact that getting board members together in the summer is difficult, would they vote to allow her to follow CDC and DHHS guidance.

Motion: To authorize the superintendent to change mask protocol during the summer should CDC and DHHS change guidelines.

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

Discussion: Ms. King asks what happens if they change the requirement back. Superintendent would have ability to change back.

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote

Jack Widmer speaks to requests from home school families to know what the district will require in regard to mask wearing. He said he anticipates school will be back to normal without masks required with cleaning and air protocols in place.

Legislative update

Focus is on the Governor's state budget. Some legislation has been rolled into the budget, a lot without public comment. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert encourages the public to look at this budget.

School Board Ethics

Annually, at the reorganization of the Board, School Board members sign the School Board Ethics Policy form. All members signed the Ethics Policy form.

School Boards Association

Mr. Widmer said the annual meeting will be held in fall so that the association is able to address any upcoming legislation or resolutions.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Widmer read a note that each board members received from the Kingswood High School student body thanking the board for their hard work. He also read a card from Effingham Elementary School staff thanking administration and board for all their hard work. Mr. Widmer said notes of sympathy were sent to Peg Stevens and to Alicia Hernandez on passing of loved ones.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs (Wendi Fenderson). The committee met with Ellen Hume-Howard and John Vander Els from the NHLI, a nonprofit in NH, on the project. Ms. Fenderson personally thanked the teachers and parents and administration in the district on an amazing job done during this difficult time. Committee would like to retain NHLI to help implement and work with K – 12 curriculum and competencies. Additional staff will help implement curriculum in a more expedient manner. This will help move curriculum and learning to next level.

Building and Maintenance (Tim Eldridge). The committee, Kathy O'Blenes, Business Administrator and Kathy Cuddy-Egbert met and discussed the ESSRA Grant and what piece would be used for projects going forward.

- Solar project at Effingham Elementary and reports from Barrington Power were discussed. Discussed installing plaque at site.
- Discussed maintenance projects for summer including roofs, pass throughs, windows, etc.
- Dr. Manning informed committee that Brookfield signed agreement to install broadband which will help students with online learning,
- Discussed culvert issue on McManus Road and Air Circulation in buildings.

Human Resources: No report

Finances: No report

Closing Activities

Advanced Planning Jack Widmer reviews upcoming events

Public Input Jack Widmer requests that during public input members of the school district speak first.

- Jessica Williams, Wolfeboro spoke to minutes of May 10th, questioned procedural issue going into non-public session. Ms. Williams speaks to Kathy Cuddy-Egbert's response to her e-mail in which Mr. Cuddy-Egbert responds. Ms. Williams has objections to School Board Member sitting on WCTV board it creates conflict of interest. Ms. Williams states she couldn't hear Mr. Widmer taking oath. Mr. Widmer notes that in future oaths will be taken individually. Ms. Williams reads excerpt from NH State Constitution Bill of Rights Article 38 Social Virtues. Ms. Williams notes NH State flag RSA 189:17 states you must fly NH flag which district isn't doing. Ms. Williams states if any board member has relative working for the district, they should recuse themselves from voting. Ms. Williams thinks Mr. Widmer shouldn't be lobbying motions to board members, members should put forth their own motions. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert states no permanent positions being created with ESSR funds. Ms. Williams speaks about masks and board taking advice from CDC and NHHS who are advisory only and number of children in NH with COVID. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert SAID this board follows these guidelines. Ms. Williams Objects to minutes of May 10th meeting. States unlawfully and procedural entered non – public session and asks to have board correct this. Mr. Widmer informs Ms. Williams legal counsel has been contacted and legal opinion is minutes are perfectly fine as written. Mr. Widmer states Ms. Williams can contact her legal counsel also. She again states meeting during deliberative session was adjourned incorrectly. Mr. Widmer again stated how Deliberative Session was adjourned by Moderator Randy Walker and board then went into non-public.
- Kelly Colby Seavey addresses board. She speaks to her time as resident, her appreciation of board and the support that the board has from the larger community.
- Paul Derosier, Wolfeboro, asks "why wasn't school called off today" daughter had difficulty with heat. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert responds that yes it was hot and that parents have right to keep child home.
- Teshia O'Keefe, Wolfeboro, thanks Ms. Cuddy-Egbert for their phone conversation. She said it was respectful and cordial. Spoke on mask issue and Ms. O'Keefe feels GWRSD should end mask mandate. Ms. O'Keefe feels unfinished learning and learning recovery equals damage control. We won't be able to measure for long time. If NH Catholic schools can announce that in the fall masks are not required why then why can't GWRSD do this.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (RSA91-A:3, II)

Motion: At 8:27pm motion made to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A;3 II to discuss legal and personnel matters.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote

The Board left the stage and entered a classroom. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented a teacher nomination, two resignations and an enrollment request.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented two letters of resignation from Jack Kelly, DPT/Step Counselor and Kyle Strauch, Automotive Technology Instructor.

Motion: To accept Superintendent's nomination of Rachele Harvey as Kindergarten Teacher at Ossipee Central School for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 3/Step 1: \$44,680

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

Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert brought forth a request from a family who is building a home in Brookfield, to enroll their children in the Governor Wentworth School District in September.

Motion: To allow children to enroll in the district for the 2021/2022 school year while home is being built contingent upon receiving contractor's schedule and family must be residing in home by December 31, 2021. Enrollment will be tuition based as of January 1, 2022 if family is not in home.

Moved: Charlene Siebel - **Seconded:** Dr. Manning

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: At 9:20pm to come out of non-public session

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

Vote: Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 9:23pm motion made to adjourn meeting

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

Vote: Roll call vote unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



School District Clerk (filling in for School District Secretary)

Approved by GWRSD School Board 08.16.21