

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER  
APRIL 5, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

**Members Present:** Krista Abear, Julianne Cardinal (6:54pm), Timothy Eldridge, Dr. James Manning, James Pittman, Charlene Seibel, Dana Streeter, John Widmer

**Excused:** Wendi Fenderson

**Middleton Representative:** Kelly Tivnan

**Also present:** Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Administrators Guy Donnelly, James Reilly, Bruce Farr, Mary Dolan-Meyers, Brian Beaverstock, Patricia Morrissey, Kelly Colby-Seavey, Andrea Fournier, Ryan Gilpatrick, WCTV, Scott Geissler and community members.

**II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**Motion:** To enter non-public session to discuss personnel. Ms. Tivnan, WCTV, Scott Geissler and community members were asked to leave the room. The administrators were asked to stay.

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

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

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert reviewed a nomination list of professional staff with the Board and the administrative team. Mrs. Cuddy-Egbert nominated the staff as presented for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Motion:** To accept the Superintendent's 2021-2022 nomination of professional staff as presented.

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

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-0-0

The administrators were excused and the School Board reviewed a list of administrative nominations for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Motion:** To accept the administrative nominations (GWAT and non GWAT) as presented for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

**Vote:** Motion passed 8-0-0

**Motion:** At 7:12 pm a motion was made to come out of non-public session.

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

**Vote:** All voted in favor

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Ms. Tivnan, WCTV, Scott Geissler and community members re-entered the meeting.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 7:16 pm.

**IV. AGENDA REVIEW**

Add 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Youth Survey as an action item.

**V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/MANIFESTS**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of the March 8, 2021 Academic Affairs committee meeting as presented.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried 3-0-0 on a roll call vote

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of the March 8, 2021 School Board meeting as presented.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried 8-0-0 on a roll call vote

**Motion:** To approve the accounts payable and payroll manifests totaling \$2,622,726.41

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

**Vote:** Motion carried 8-0-0 on a roll call vote

**VI. PUBLIC INPUT**

- Steve Johnson, Wolfeboro, asked if the Board is going to allow public input at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. Mr. Widmer said yes, we follow the same RSA but the topic could be legal, personnel or a student matter. Mr. Johnson also asked when the mask mandate would be lifted. Mr. Widmer said they will continue to watch local COVID numbers and the nationwide data. It is a safety issue and the District will continue from a safety standpoint requiring masks.
- Jessica Williams said she would like the meeting minutes to reflect that he police said it would be in her best interest to comply with the District's rules requiring masks in all school buildings. She said the State does not mandate masks if you can socially distance. She asked at what point will the District stop harassing people. Ms. Williams said she was sitting quietly by herself when she was asked to put a mask on. When will the kids be able to take their masks off? Maybe you should change the venue of the meeting. Ms. Williams said she was at the Board meeting earlier before they entered non-public session, she again commented on the mask mandate and on the District's pandemic policy.
- Ms. Seibel read portions of the School Board Policy on Public Participation reminding the audience that the Board will not hear personal complaints Visitors should not expect the board to respond immediately to their comments or questions, since the board may not have discussed or taken a position on the matter.

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- Bree Burbank from Ashburn Virginia, said she was there on behalf of her daughter who attends school here. She feels the District has pursued excessive precaution around mask wearing and is concerned the District will continue to pursue excessive precautions around travel guidelines discriminating against her daughter. She continued to ask questions about the travel guidelines and was informed that the topic is on the agenda for discussion and action this evening.

**VII. SUPERINTENENT'S REPORT**

Preliminary Review of Election Results

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert shared the preliminary results from the March 9 elections. She said the Town of Effingham deferred voting until May 11<sup>th</sup> so official results will not be available until after this time. Mr. Widmer thanked Ms. Cardinal and Mr. Eldridge for their continued service while we await the final results.

COVID-19 Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said today was the first day for all in with students who chose in person over remote. The students were delighted and everything went smoothly.

**Vaccination Clinic.** Ms. Cuddy-Egbert thanked Carroll County coordinator Victoria Page and also Andrea Keslar, Nicole Hoyt, Mr. Donnelly, Heather Cummings, the maintenance staff, and the community volunteers for making the clinic very successful. The second clinic is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said she has heard from other District's that their staff were not feeling well after the second vaccine and some schools had to close. To avoid a "morning of" closure in our District, provide families with plenty of notice, and to not extend the school year any later in June, she proposed a remote day on April 20<sup>th</sup>. All teachers would prepare an asynchronous day in the event they are unable to teach remotely due to illness. There was Board discussion.

**Motion:** To make April 20, 2021 a remote learning day for students.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote 8-0-0

**Travel Guidance.** Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said many families have been asking when the travel policy will change; especially with April vacation approaching. The CDC and the NH Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) guidelines are different regarding travel quarantine. Three options were discussed. Following CDC guidelines, following DHHS guidelines and a remote week following vacation week to keep everyone safe. The Board had a lengthy discussion on the three options as well as a discussion about screening.

**Motion:** To follow the NHDHHS travel guidelines. Domestic travel within the U.S. outside of New England no longer requires quarantine but one would need to self-quarantine for 10 days after the last date of any international travel (except for essential travel to/from Canada\*), or travel on a cruise ship. This motion will invalidate the School Board Temporary Emergency Policy EBCF.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote 8-0-0

End of Year Events

**Joint Boards.** Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said plans are in place to safely hold the Joints Board meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>; although it will be different from past meetings.

**Graduation Activities/Dates.**

May 27, Academic Awards at the Arts Center. Invitation only.

June 3, Scholarship Night at the Arts Center. Invitation only.

June 5, parade from elementary school to high school for seniors to receive caps and gowns.

June 6, Baccalaureate on the field.

June 8, Senior Athlete Awards Night at the Arts Center.

June 9, Prom

June 10, Lakeside Graduation at the Arts Center.

KRHS Graduation, either June 11 or June 12. Friday, June 11 at 6pm outside and if it is raining the alternative date is Saturday, June 12 at 10 am. If weather is still inclement in the morning it will be Saturday evening at 6pm on the field or at the Arts Center.

Area Agreement with Milton School District Explorations Committee

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert shared a letter with the Board from the Superintendent of SAU 64 that the Milton School District Explorations Committee is exploring options with neighboring School Districts to determine the feasibility of an AREA Agreement for the purpose of sending their high school and middle school students. The Board said there is much to consider such as our enrollment in these grade levels as well as the distance. The Board agreed to have a general discussion with them about the process and what they're looking for in an actual agreement and then come back to the board with a recommendation one way or the other.

School Board Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022

**Motion:** To adopt the 2021-2022 school board meeting schedule with the location of the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to be determined.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote 8-0-0

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Youth Survey

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert explained each year the District is required to conduct a survey of students who participate in the Ossipee Central afterschool program. The surveys are part of the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant through the NH Department of Education. It is conducted in order to adhere to the grant provisions.

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**Motion:** To move forward with the NH Department of Education older youth and younger youth surveys for the Ossipee Central School afterschool program which is supported by the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote 8-0-0

Legislative Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert gave a brief overview of educational related bills. She said right now the focus is the Governor's budget so not a lot is happening in the legislature.

NH School Boards Association

Mr. Widmer said the association had a Zoom meeting with staff members representing the Washington delegation. He said there was positive feedback about what's happening with education in Washington.

**VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

No report

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Academic Affairs

Mr. Eldridge said Susan Merrell, Guy Donnelly and James Reilly discussed staffing and reallocation of staff to provide stronger support in math and literacy. He said they also discussed an athletic program assistant position for the middle and high school under the direction of the athletic director. This will combine a clerical and stipend position into one to provide more centralized support.

**Motion:** To move forward with the Athletic Program Assistant as presented.

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

**Vote:** Motion carried 7-0-1 on a roll call vote with Mr. Pittman abstaining.

There were no other committee reports.

**X. CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

Advanced Planning

Activities and upcoming events were read from the agenda.

Public Input

- Bree Burbank wanted to clarify that the Board voted this evening to follow the NHDHHS travel guidelines. Mr. Widmer said yes.
- Steve Johnson asked a question on policy and guidelines. He would like to know how members of the community can keep up with changes as they are made if there is not an active link where people can view them. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said information is available on the website. Mr. Johnson asked if the public would be able to provide input on an area agreement. Mr. Widmer said yes, if the Board decides it would like to

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enter into an agreement then the communities would have an opportunity for public input.

- Jessica Williams said the CDC does not recommend temperature screening so she hopes scanners are not installed at front doors.

**XI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**Motion:** At 8:31 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss legal, personnel and student matters.

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

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

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert shared retirement letters. A personnel and student matter were discussed.

**Motion:** To accept the retirement letters from Katie McCarthy, Lee Anne Velez and Bruce Farr with regret, but with sincere appreciation for their service to the District.

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

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

**Motion:** At 9:11 pm a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

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

Community members in the lobby were invited to rejoin the meeting.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** 9:13 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 05.10.21