

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
MARCH 8, 2021**

I. 4CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Middleton Representative: Kelly Tivnan

Also present: Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, WCTV, Scott Geissler and community members.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

No changes

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To accept the minutes of the February 17, 2021 School Board meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Motion carried 7-0-2 on a roll call vote with Ms. Cardinal and Dr. Manning abstaining

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (1,299,765.98) and payroll (2,097,256.39) manifests totaling \$3,397,022.37

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

V. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VI. SUPERINTENENT'S REPORT

COVID-19 Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said COVID cases continue to decline across the State. Administration has been planning for full in person learning. Schools with a smaller population may be able to adhere to 6 foot social distancing but in our larger populated schools there may be cases where it is 3-5 feet. All the mitigation strategies we have been practicing since opening will be in effect. NH Department of Health and Human Service contact tracing guidelines will be followed. Parents who are able to transport are encouraged to continue doing so we can provide the maximum amount of space on buses. Food service lunches in terms of distancing is a big challenge but creative solutions are being considered. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said each school will have mask break procedures. The District will hold a vaccination administration clinic for staff on March 22nd and 23rd in coordination with the Carroll County Public Health Coordinator.

The School Board discussed a full reopen with the fully remote option through the end of the school year. Ms. Fenderson said she is in favor of a March 22 start date.

Motion: To set April 5, 2021 as the start date for full in school learning along with the fully remote option through the end of the school year.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
MARCH 8, 2021**

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

Vote: Motion carried 8-1-0 on a roll call vote with Ms. Fenderson voting against the motion.

Wood Estate Expendable Trust Fund

Motion: To approve the request to expend \$14,101 from the Wood Estate Expendable Trust Fund to bring “Camp Invention” to Ossipee/Effingham, Tuftonboro and New Durham Schools for one week (5 days) this summer.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote 9-0-0

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the survey was discussed at last month’s school board meeting and the Board decided unanimously to delay the Youth Risk Behavior Survey for one year. Team Wolfeboro has asked for reconsideration because the State has delayed the 2021 survey to the fall of 2021.

Motion: To potentially hold the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in the fall. Determination will be made after a review of our students’ progress and what the pandemic status is.

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

Vote: Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote 9-0-0

Grant Award

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert announced that the District has been awarded a grant from the NH Department of Education, Office of Student Wellness. The Grant is called the Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B). MTSS-B puts into place proven school and community based behavioral health practices so every student can achieve health and wellness and be successful in school. The grant will cover the cost to hire a student wellness coordinator to oversee and manage the grant and develop a data-driven comprehensive plan. The grant is \$100,000 and it will be open for two years with additional money available to the District.

Motion: To accept the MTSS-B grant money from the NH Department of Education, Office of Student Wellness.

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

Vote: Motion carried 9-0-0 on a roll call vote

School Board Reorganization/Meeting Location through June

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said with the Town of Effingham’s decision to delay town voting until May 11 we will not have the final voting tallies until after the vote so we will be unable to seat any new members until all voting is done. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said Ms. Cardinal agreed to continue as the New Durham representative until her replacement can be sworn in. Board reorganization will take place in June instead of April. The Board decided to hold the April meeting at the Kingswood Arts Center. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert will also brainstorm on the joint boards meetings and report at the next meeting.

Legislative Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said there are many bills around schools this year and some regarding school choice and voucher bills are concerning. She reviewed several bills (SB 130 relative to education freedom accounts, HB 455 relative to the ability of a parent to enroll a child in the public school of

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
MARCH 8, 2021**

their choice, HB 388 relative to changing a pupil's school or assignment because of a manifest educational hardship, HB 182 relative to approval of coursework completed at other approved schools, HB 152 relative to the apportionment of costs in cooperative school districts, HB 164 relative to reporting statistics on student behavior, and HB 198 relative to an exception to the opportunity for public education without discrimination.

NH School Boards Association

Mr. Widmer said the NHSBA has been very busy. They are accepting scholarship applications, school board of excellence applications as well as ongoing training sessions. Mr. Widmer said they are also busy working on the bills that Ms. Cuddy-Egbert mentioned.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said expressions of sympathy were expressed to the family of Thomas Lovett, Samantha Smith, James Reilly and Christine Dearborn on the passing of loved ones. Also get well wishes were expressed to Lloyd Wood on his continuing recovery.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Ms. Fenderson said Curriculum Coordinator Katey Hills and Crescent Lake School Principal Brian Beaverstock attended the Academic Affairs Committee meeting this evening. Ms. Hills discussed the NWEA testing conducted over the winter. In math we had 134 participate and 128 in reading. Remote students were unable to participate and the State is looking for a solution. Grade 11 will be taking SATs in April as well as the State Science Assessment in June.

Ms. Fenderson said the District is working on assessments for grades K-8. Ms. Fenderson said Crescent Lake School has introduced the "daily check-in and mood meter". Each day students receive an email from Principal Beaverstock with a link to the daily check-in form which practice mindfulness, promotes students to identify and name how they are feeling, presents simple and quick strategies for students to use to calm and focus, and provides a direct path in a safe manner to ask for assistance of help.

Ms. Fenderson presented the revisions to Policy BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings, for approval.

Motion: To approve Policy BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings, as presented.

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

Vote: Motion carried 9-0-0 on a roll call vote

IX. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

The April 5 school board meeting will be held at the Kingswood Arts Center.

Public Input

- Jessica Williams said the State of Emergency and NH mask mandate is due to expire and if the Governor does not renew what is the policy of the school board? She asked about the revised pandemic policy wanting to know if the Board was violating its own policy by starting school on April 5 instead of March 22 because the guidelines do not state that teachers need to be vaccinated. Ms. Williams's last comment related to procedures for public meetings and she said the Board needs to call the public body back to the meeting when they are finished with non-public session. Mr. Widmer responded by saying we will continue with protocols in

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
MARCH 8, 2021**

place, vaccinations are another layer of safety and they will let her know when the Board comes out of non-public session.

- Steve Johnson asked a few questions about the Student Wellness Coordinator position. He asked if instructions or any formats came with the award, what type of person the District is looking for, is the \$100,000 the salary for two years and if this would be a permanent position. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the \$100,000 is for this year but we do expect that as we develop activities we will be applying for additional funds. She said she anticipates the position for two years but it is not classified as a permanent position.
- Tom Bickford, Wolfeboro, asked if communications around a full opening could be improved because he has not heard anything since the February 8th meeting target date. He asked what consideration will go into full opening. Going forward he would like to see more information available on the website.
- Tracy Donovan-Laviolette, Middleton, asked if the Board would be discussing activities for the senior class. She supports having events (ie: banquet, scholarship night, graduation). The reply was that the Board will be discussing these at the upcoming meeting. Ms. Donovan-Laviolette asked with the April 5 full reopen what percentage of staff signed up for the vaccination? Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said a large majority of the staff has signed up. Some have already received the vaccine.
- Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro, thanked the Board for approving a full return for students. She asked if a sub plan is in place if staff vaccines are administered mid-week because some people get side effects. She also thinks screening is really important at the high school, when students enter the school, because students and family members may not be vaccinated for a few months. She asked if the school board will consider inviting representatives in for a meeting with families to have an exchange on how legislation effects the District. Ms. Boudman also asked if there is a place where parents can have access to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

X. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 8:11 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert shared a resignation and a retirement letter as well as a staff nomination. Contracts were discussed.

Motion: To accept the resignation letter from Angela Bergeron and the retirement letter from Teresa Kretchmer with sincere appreciation for their service to the District.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Ashley LaRoche as 100% Districtwide Occupational Therapist for the 2021-2022 school year. Track 2 Step 6 which is \$59,573).

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
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Motion: At 9:07 pm a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Public were invited to rejoin the meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 9:08 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 04.05.21