

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
REMOTE MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE  
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

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

**Excused:** Julianne Cardinal

**Middleton Representative:** Kelly Tivnan

**Also Present:** Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes and Timothy Goodwin from WCTV.

The Board is authorized to meet electronically in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order and Board exposure and quarantine due to COVID-19. The body utilized Google Meet and all members of the Board had the ability to communicate during this meeting using this platform. The meeting was also livestreamed for community members and they are able to utilize the two public participation segments of the meeting by providing email correspondence to [sau49@sau49.org](mailto:sau49@sau49.org) or [jwidmer@sau49.org](mailto:jwidmer@sau49.org) within 48 hours of the meeting. Correspondence will be included with meeting minutes as an addendum. All votes taken by roll call vote.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. AGENDA REVIEW**

To make VI. F. COVID-19 Update an action item. Also under VIII. A. Academic Affairs add Policy JCA for approval.

**IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** To accept the November 9, 2020, Academic Affairs Committee meeting notes as presented.

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

**Vote:** Motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote of the Academic Affairs Committee.

**Motion:** To accept the November 9, 2020, School Board meeting minutes as presented.

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

**Vote:** Motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Motion:** To accept the November 17, 2020, Finance Committee meeting notes as presented.

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

**Vote:** Motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote of the Finance Committee.

**Motion:** To accept the November 18, 2020, Finance Committee meeting notes as presented.

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

**Vote:** Motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote of the Finance Committee.

**Motion:** To accept the November 19, 2020, Finance Committee meeting notes as presented.

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

**Vote:** Motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote of the Finance Committee.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
REMOTE MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE  
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

**Motion:** To approve the accounts payable (1,370,889.33) and payroll (2,234,154.67) manifests totaling \$3,605,044.

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

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

**V. PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Widmer announced that the Board will accept emails up to 24 hours after the meeting (changed later in the meeting to 48 hours). He said texting during the meeting is too difficult. Emails can be sent to SAU 49 or to Mr. Widmer's email address.

**VI. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

Preliminary Adoption of 2022 Budget

Mr. Widmer gave an overview of the proposed 2022 budget and process. District enrollment is down which impacts the District's revenue because we receive less in adequacy money, also known as grant money, from the State of NH. The budget as a whole has an increase of 4.16%. No new positions are being brought forward to try and keep the budget down. Mr. Widmer said the District will again present the Turf Field Capital Reserve and Building and Maintenance warrant articles. The building and Maintenance warrant article has been decreased from \$200,000 to \$150,000. Ms. Abear asked if the budget includes an increase to the substitute teacher rate and Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said they are considering an equitable rate. Mr. Widmer said the NH Retirement System employer contribution rates are set every two years and are based on a biennial actuarial valuation. He said it is a very high rate for an unfunded balance representing a 25.54% increase. Ms. Seibel asked what the staff health insurance contribution rate is and teachers pay 7% and in the 4<sup>th</sup> year it will go to 10%, support staff 10% and the administrators contribute 3%. Mr. Eldridge strongly recommends that the Buildings and Maintenance Warrant Article get raised back to \$200,000.

American Education Week

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert read a letter presented to faculty and staff for American Education week (November 16-20). She said words alone seem inadequate to express gratitude for all the work everyone does and has done during these unprecedented times.

Robotics Education Development Program Grant

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert announced that the State of NH Department of Education Robotics Education Development Program grant was awarded to the high school for \$4650 for the school year 2020-2021. She thanked Jim Sydemore for his efforts.

**Motion:** To accept the Robotics Education Development Program grant awarded to Kingswood Regional High School in the amount of \$4650.

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

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

Superintendent Services – Wakefield School District

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the District received a request from the Wakefield School Board for the District to consider the possibility of the Wakefield School District obtaining SAU services from the SAU 49 District Office.

**Motion:** To notify the Wakefield School Board that at this time the SAU 49 staff is providing services for the Governor Wentworth Regional School District and the Middleton School District.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
REMOTE MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE  
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

The School Board feels the SAU Office is working at full capacity and is unable to consider offering services to their District.

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

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

School Calendar 2021-2022

A draft calendar was shared with the School Board. It will now be shared with the union and sending Districts.

**Motion:** To delay voting on the calendar until the January meeting.

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

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

COVID-19 Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert reported that she is very pleased to be able to keep schools open thus far (instrumental due to social distancing and a hybrid schedule). Staff absences have been hard but manageable. The trajectory is slow right now but there are worries that the student absence rate will increase. It has been steadily increasing since Thanksgiving. Mr. Widmer suggested that the District continue with hybrid learning until the Christmas break and move to full remote learning for two weeks following Christmas break. Perhaps have a target date for a full in-person return. The Board had an in depth conversation about staff and student absentee rates and the various learning options as well as time frames. From feedback received from parents there is no clear consensus for any one direction.

**Motion:** To go full remote effective December 14, 2020 through the Martin Luther King holiday.

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

**Discussion:** Board members provided feedback on the timeline and whether to remain with the hybrid learning model or to go to full remote. Ms. Seibel said the Board needs to revisit winter sports. Mr. Widmer said this will happen after the vote on the learning model.

**Vote:** Motion failed 5-3. Mr. Eldridge, Mr. Pittman and Ms. Seibel voted in favor of the modified motion.

**Motion:** To continue with hybrid learning until the Christmas break and after the break go fully remote for two weeks; until after the Martin Luther King holiday.

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

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-2. Mr. Eldridge and Ms. Fenderson voted against the motion.

Winter Sports

There was discussion on whether to continue with winter sports, cancel the activities or wait to vote at the January meeting. Some activities are easier to mitigate than others. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said tryouts are scheduled prior to the January board meeting.

**Motion:** To discontinue winter sports, with regret, immediately for all teams.

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

**Vote:** Motion passed 7-1. Mr. Eldridge voted against the motion.

NH School Boards Association

Mr. Widmer said seven resolutions will be presented at this year's Delegate Assembly. They voted to hold next year's Delegate Assembly in the fall (last Saturday in September).

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
REMOTE MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE  
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

**VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Widmer said get well wishes were sent to Lloyd Wood. Effingham Elementary students also sent handwritten/illustrated cards to the Board with how happy they are with the solar project.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Academic Affairs

Ms. Fenderson presented policy EHAB, Data Governance and Security and Policy JCA, Change of School or Assignment for approval.

**Motion:** To approve Policy EHAB and Policy JCA as presented.

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

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

Buildings & Maintenance

Ms. O'Blenes said the solar power went live November 17 and to date have produced 376 megahertz. She and Mr. Eldridge did a recent walk through of the buildings. CPI will be coming up. Mr. Eldridge suggested Ms. O'Blenes talk with the finance committee about the project list because many of the project keep getting moved and he fears they will eventually turn into big projects. Ms. O'Blenes will gather information for the finance committee.

Finance

No additional report

Human Resources

No report

**IX. CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

Advanced Planning

Upcoming events were read from the bottom of the agenda. The Arts Center is the best space for the January 11 School Board meeting but Crescent Lake will be the alternate site if the Arts Center is not available.

Public Input

Mr. Widmer said public comments should be emailed to SAU 49 or to his email address. The Board extended comments through the end of the day on Wednesday due to the significant power and internet outage from the storm.

Closing Comments by Board Members

No closing comments

**X. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**Motion:** At 8:55 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss a student and personnel matter.

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

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

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert informed the Board of a residency request.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
REMOTE MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE  
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

**Motion:** To allow student to attend Kingswood Regional Middle School.

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

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

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert shared a retirement letter from Torri Richards which was accepted with sincere appreciation for her service to the District.

**Motion:** At 9:04 pm a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** 9:05 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 01.11.2021

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Thank you for offering a chance to email you since you WANT to hear from the public. I am not convinced that it matters but here it goes.

First I will start with thanking those who voted to keep the schools running until Christmas break. Being a mom of two special needs kids you (probably) have no idea how hard it is on a good day let alone being fully remote with busy jobs, no childcare and a full schedule of school meetings with teachers and therapists. It is nearly impossible. Please don't forget the children. They need some normalcy. School is a safe place, it really is. Kudos to everyone for making it the best it can be so far this year.

I am however very upset with the decision to not have winter sports. Why don't you let the parents take a vote? How about the coaches? The people who are in it....the people who are risking getting COVID for these kids to have what we all had. At the very least, why won't you let Aaron give you all the facts to let the board members make an informed decision? The decision made was not informed and it was very clear everyone came with an agenda. To my knowledge 1 fall athlete was tested positive and 1 winter coach. Do the numbers...the athletic department clearly did an outstanding job. I would go as far as to say that some of the members owe Aaron an apology.

In a few minutes time, with hardly ANY facts, I watched everyone except for Tim quickly say no to sports. There were multiple people that did not speak up with their thoughts. Doesn't everyone need to be heard? Some very swaying thoughts by others (the outspoken ones). You know who they are. I'm not even sure if they all voted. Some barely said anything.

I did hear Jack mention that people will find a way to play and go elsewhere. Wouldn't it be better to keep it all in house? Keep our community safe? Why bring in outside sources? After all, if you knew the facts you would know both COVID cases were from outside sources, not inside the community. What Jack suggested doesn't make any sense. Cancel the kids lives and let them fend for themselves finding other ways to travel to sports? Again, it makes no sense. My kids are not affected by this and I am still taking the time to write you with my extreme disappointment in the way the meeting went. If decisions are made for academics with no facts to back them up the way the sports discussion went last night went, that worries me for our kids future at this district. When you are making decisions that affect hundreds of kids I would think some more care and time should be taken.

The hockey situation was extremely unfortunate...but am I wrong, I thought this is about the kids. Kids who will no longer be able to be recruited to play in college without a season. Kids whose dreams are getting crushed. The hockey team is a week into their two weeks on quarantine and now the rug has been pulled out from not just them but the kids who haven't even started their seasons. I mean x-country skiing isn't safe? Come on! Life isn't fair but for goodness sake let the kids who can play, play. It is healthy for their bodies, it is healthy for their minds. Give it another chance. Please! Let the kids be kids, they only get one chance. But first, get the facts. As one of your board members suggested this. And everyone just ignored the suggestion. Not one person wanted the facts.

I failed to mention all of the life lessons that sports teach a person. Most people only have the skill and/or opportunity to play in middle and high school. This is their only chance to take their invaluable life skills with them wherever they go. Don't stunt their growth, give them an opportunity. The opportunity we all had.

Thank you for taking the time to read this

ADDENDUM  
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020  
PUBLIC COMMENTS

MANCHESTER NH 030

08 DEC 2020 PM 2 L



School Board  
P.O. Box 190  
Wolfeboro Falls, NH  
03896

03896-019090



REC'D DEC 10 2020

Just watched the  
school board  
meeting. This is a  
joke. 43 Kids out!  
Are kids really  
socially distancing?  
Are people wearing  
masks correctly?  
Why was the meeting  
virtual / remote?

ADDENDUM  
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020  
PUBLIC COMMENTS

REC'D DEC 10 2020

Glad everyone was  
safe at home.

It doesn't make  
sense. Does it?

Look around.

Use your heads!



**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

From: Juanita Hill

Date: Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 12:20 PM

Subject: Comprehensive Covid-19 information

To: Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert <kcuddy-egbert@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>, <jwidmer@sau49.org>, Wendi Fenderson <wfenderson@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>, Krista Abear <kabear@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>, Julianne Cardinal <jcardinal@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>, Timothy Eldridge <teldridge@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>, James Manning <jmanning@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>, James Pittman <jpittman@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>, Charlene Seibel <cseibel@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>, Dana Streeter <dstreeter@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>, Kelly Tivnan - Middleton School Board <kelly.tivnan@sau69.org>

I have no doubt that you have the best interests of our students in mind, however, I do not believe that those decisions are based on thorough factual evidence.

Please study the site attached including the "seminal report on the effectiveness of masks". My hope is that you will reconsider your decisions and get our students back in school and sports.

riseupnh.org

Thank you,

Juanita Hill

---

December 7th Board Meeting-Unanswered Correspondence

Bobbi Boudman

Wed, Dec 9, 9:42 AM (5 minutes ago)

to Jack, Charlene, Wendi, Timothy, Krista, Kathleen, Guy, jreilly, Heather, Julianne, James, James, Dana, me, Lara, Aaron

Good morning Jack,

I was expecting an e-mail back regarding the by-laws and re-voting after public input and staff/teachers were/are consulted for their professional guidance.

I am also wondering what behind the scenes steps your board took before voting and breaking the by-laws...

Have you spoken to school leadership in the high school and middle school about the school closure and denying sports?

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Have you tried to work with the leadership to find out what can be done to support our children to keep them in school and in after school activities?

Have you spoken to the school counselors to find out the impact your presumptive vote will have on our children?

Have you consulted the athletic department for guidance?

Have you discussed with local medical professionals who treat our children for physical and mental health?

Have you and the board reached out individually to constituents in your towns to seek guidance from your stakeholders?

Please let me know if the board will be throwing out the votes and re-voting after all public input has been received today and after your board has spent time consulting with the people who are there on the frontlines working with and for our children.

If you are unwilling to reply to my correspondence, then I beseech a response from my Wolfeboro representative and/or a Member-at-Large.

Thank you.

Stay safe and healthy,  
bobbi boudman

---

Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 9:18 AM wrote:

I understand the concern of covid with our students; however, doing remote and taking away winter sports is detrimental to their academic ability to perform at a Level of achievement. This is hindering their psychosocial well being by not having schools open and teaching in a normal, structured, safe environment. We can still go by cdc requirements and keep our students safe.

Children are home while parents have to work so basically we are depending on them to be adults and be achievers. This does not work for most students and parents that aren't fortunate to be able to stay at home.

The later effects on these students are going to last their lifetime.

Please address this at your next board meeting.

Thank you,  
Linda Mansfield

---

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

From: Bailey Rigg  
Date: Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 8:15 AM  
Subject: Re: School Update  
To: Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert <kcuddy-egbert@govwentworth.k12.nh.us>

Hi Kathleen,

My wife and I are very impressed with you, the school board and your administration during this rough stretch.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do as well.

Bailey and Sarah Rigg...

---

Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 10:18 PM Steve Day wrote:  
Good Evening Kathy,

My name is Steve Day and I am Carolyn Day's father. Carolyn is a senior student at Kingswood Regional High School. My wife Sarah and I just wanted to first let you know how much we appreciate all the hard work you and the entire school district is putting in to keep our children safe during the frightening COVID pandemic. We also understand the recent desire to suspend winter sports. Especially since sports such as basketball and indoor track which are indoors and in enclosed areas putting athletes, coaches and parents at risk of COVID exposure. However, we were wondering if you and the school district might reconsider the recent decision to cancel all of winter sports. Carolyn is on the cross country ski team which, much like the fall cross country running team, is, by nature, a socially distance-friendly activity. I know it would mean alot to Carolyn if she could participate in some of her senior year sports, even if the season is truncated, but at the same time we also acknowledge that the school district's first priority is safety. On behalf of my wife we would like to kindly ask you to reconsider cancelling/suspending the cross country ski season this winter. We would be totally fine with prohibiting parents from attending ski meets - we just would like Carolyn to experience a safe yet fulfilled senior year - a balance, as I am sure you can appreciate.

Thank you in advance for even considering our request.

Best Regards,

Steven and Sarah Day

---

Winter sports

Sheri Hotchkiss  
Tue, Dec 8, 8:54 PM (12 hours ago)  
to sau49

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

I have heard the school board canceled winter sports last night. I saw a petition online that said we had 24 hours to comment from the meeting. I did not hear about this decision until I was at work and did not have time to send an email until now and 24 hours have passed. I understand these are unprecedented times but I am upset this decision was made. My son participates in outdoor sports where masks have been worn by choice before COVID was even an issue. Sports keep him active and outdoors all winter. Now he will spend every afternoon inside sitting around because it's hard to get teenage boys to go play outside. Exercise does so much for his mental and physical health. Very disappointed that they did not delay the start or look at each sport and if the risk was low consider it. We also thought winter sports were a go, bought ski gear and fan gear. I think so far the school board has done an excellent job keeping our students safe while letting them get back to some normalcy. I do wish, however, they would have explored more options before canceling the winter sports season before it even started.

Sincerely,

Sheri Hotchkiss

---

Winter sports

Tue, Dec 8, 5:58 PM (15 hours ago)  
to sau49@sau49.org

I am emailing you tonight to ask that the school board please reverse their decision to cancel winter sports. My children play many sports during the school year and basketball is one of the most important to them. As with any sport we know the risks we are taking even without covid. If the parent or child thinks that the risk is not worth it then they do not have to participate. In signing up the students and parents understand the risks associated with playing a sport with or without Covid. For many of these kids this is something that gives them normality and something to look forward to. Many of these children for the last 10 months have not had much to look forward to. Participating in sports is good for their physical and mental health. Our family along with many others are pleading with you to please reconsider your decision.

Respectfully,  
Jacklyn Broza

---

Winter sports "ruling"

Mark DeNitto  
Tue, Dec 8, 5:44 PM (15 hours ago)  
to sau49

Good evening,

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This is insane! WHY NOT HAVE US SIGN A WAIVER if the board is afraid of being held responsible?! How can the board make this decision to cancel the entire winter sports season with ZERO input from the parents?!?! This is a PUBLIC school, not a private club!!

We are the only district in the state that has made such a sweeping decree! This will have a devastating impact on our children's athletic futures going forward— not to mention college recruitment! All factors have NOT been thoroughly or responsibly considered here!

ALL EVIDENCE, if any of the board members care to inform themselves about it, clearly indicates that schools and school sports have the LEAST impact on causing the spread of corona virus!! Quite the contrary! In fact, on the vast majority of teams across the U.S.A. including NH, our athletes are the healthiest and most responsible -- physically and emotionally!

This decision needs to be overturned! And there are hundreds of parents in this community who agree with me!

Please reverse this decision for the sake of our children!!

Thank you,  
Mark

---

Winter Sports

John Wyers  
Tue, Dec 8, 5:39 PM (15 hours ago)  
to sau49

Even though I'm an employee with the GWRSD I am writing as a private citizen to express my opinion on the cancellation of winter sports:

What are we doing to our kids? What are we protecting them from exactly? Covid 19? The question is why? The data clearly shows that school age children are overwhelmingly unaffected by the corona virus and are much more likely to die or suffer ill consequences from other causes. The most recent graph I've seen shows zero deaths for any school age person.

Life is more than biological processes. Someone in a coma has that. By cancelling activities such as winter sports, we're depriving our children of one more thing that makes life worth living at all. The people making these decisions have already lived their lives. It's time we allow our kids to live theirs.

---

Tue, Dec 8, 2020 at 5:33 PM Mark DeNitto wrote:

Kathleen,

This is insane! How can the board make this decision to cancel the entire winter sports season with ZERO input from the parents?!?! This is a PUBLIC school, not a private club!!

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

ALL EVIDENCE, if any of the board members care to inform themselves about it, clearly indicates that schools and school sports have the LEAST impact on causing the spread of corona virus!! Quite the contrary! In fact, on the vast majority of teams across the U.S.A. including NH, our athletes are the healthiest and most responsible -- physically and emotionally!

This decision needs to be overturned! And there are hundreds of parents in this community who agree with me!

Please don't respond with a "I know this must be frustrating" line. This is an abominable decision made by an ignorant few that someone in a position to have them reconsider must do something about -- for the sake of our children!

Thank you,  
Mark

---

School Board Decision

Jeremiah Burke  
Attachments  
Tue, Dec 8, 5:22 PM (15 hours ago)  
to sau49@sau49.org, Kirsten, Jeremiah

Dear School Board,

I am writing you to express some concerns that I have with the recent decision to cancel winter sports and go fully remote the beginning of January. My perspective is of a parent, a GWRSD graduate and a local business manager. I don't believe that this decision represents what is best for the students and families within the district. As a parent of kids in the middle school that perform better in their studies, growth and maturity it is devastating to them to hear that winter sports is canceled without what seems to be good effort to offer some alternative or other solutions. I know that there are many voices coming forward that really represent the families. If you have students and parents that want winter sports and coaches that want winter sports then why did you cancel them? As a local business manager I see firsthand the difficult situation of which is hybrid learning. I have employees that have to try and figure out how to balance their kids remote learning at home and coming to work to earn a paycheck. This is a real life problem that you have created for I'm sure many single parents and families across the district. I have been working around the best we can to accommodate work schedules of those effected by remote learning. You can see that to go fully remote in January even for a short two weeks has devastating impact on those that need to work to support their families. What do I say to the employee that won't be able to work for two weeks in January because he is staying home with fully remote learning ? How will they be able to feed their family, pay their rent, etc.? This impacts our local business that relies on its people to conduct daily business operations. I

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

urge you come up with real solutions for the winter sports and at MINIMUM return in January to the hybrid model after the Christmas break.

Respectfully yours,

Jeremiah Burke

---

Winter Sports

Hannah Petit

Tues, Dec 8, 4:28 PM (20 minutes ago)  
to sau49

Greetings,

I recently learned that through a board meeting held on December 7th, that the decision has been made to cancel the winter sport season for the 2020-2021 school year. While I know many individuals within the school district are opposed to the cancellation of winter sports seeing as students have already been stripped of so much this past year, I believe winter sports should not be allowed to take place. As an involved member of the community here at Kingswood Regional High School, it is my personal belief that the school needs to work to protect and benefit every student. This idea should apply even more so in the current circumstances facing the student body this year. Every student and staff member has been forced to make sacrifices due to this pandemic, and I cannot see why sports should be allowed to continue when they pose a danger to the community. I missed out on my spring softball season last year, and if the situation were to be the same come the 2021 spring season I would not argue with the school board's decision to suspend the sports program.

Cases are rising not only in the state, but in our school district. The new cases so close to home threaten the safety of students and families. While students may be allowed to opt into sports, students who do not participate in sports do not consent to exposure from their peers on sports teams. Sports may be able to take place if students were kept 6ft apart during school hours, but many students walk right beside each other in the halls and there is little regard for social distancing through the school day. Masks will only protect students so much when they are walking side by side throughout the day. I cannot stay silent when things which pose a threat to the safety of me, my friends, and my family are up for discussion. Winter sports do not just put the athletes who play at risk, but they put the whole community and school district in danger. It is not safe to allow winter sports to continue this school year and I hope the school board will stand firm in their decision for the safety of our community.

Thank you for your consideration,  
-Hannah Petit

---

Signature PDF

Peter Kelly  
Attachments

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tues, Dec 8, 4:23 PM (17 minutes ago)  
to sau49@sau49.org

Dear GWRSD School Board,  
I'm Peter Kelly from New Durham, NH. I started a petition to you, and so far, 615 people have joined me in this effort.

The petition states:

"Reverse the decision to cancel winter sports!"

Please email me back with your response and how you plan to address this important issue. I would be happy to discuss this further. The district is has blocked the ability to receive a link to the petition website.

Sincerely,

Peter Kelly

---

TO: GWRSD School Board  
Reverse the decision to cancel winter sports!  
PKContact Campaign Creator  
Campaign created by  
Peter Kelly

The board needs to vote to allow winter sports starting 01/11/2021. The board voted Monday, December 7, 2020 and we only have 24 hours to give public input. Public may provide input and comment on the December 7, 2020, agenda items before the meeting and 24 hours after the meeting by emailing sau49@sau49.org. All email correspondence will be included with the said meeting minutes as an addendum. UW study: High school sports have not spread the corona virus. <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-public-health-madison-wisconsin-high-school-sports-7f2f41be0c28e1cb6b6341ff1640e8ed>

Why is this important?

BETTER EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES  
ENHANCED SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AND SENSE OF BELONGING  
POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT/LIFE SKILLS  
HEALTHIER BEHAVIORS  
POST HIGH SCHOOL POSITIVE RESULTS  
DEVELOPING BETTER CITIZENS  
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/the-case-for-high-school-activities/>

---

Winter Sports

Tues, Dec 8, 4:05 PM (32 minutes ago)  
to sau49



**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

I was quite saddened to hear that Winter Sports was cancelled after last night's meeting.

Here is where myself, my children, and quite a few parents are coming from right now.

Sports in general are a risk, even with out Covid. Since they are not mandatory, when a Parent signs their child up for an activity, knowing the risks involved, they are accepting that risk. If a parent/child does not think that the risk is worth it, then they can choose not to participate. Again, in signing up, they are accepting that risk.

Sports benefit kids in so many ways. They are something for the kids to look forward to and to work towards. They help kids build their self confidence. They teach team work, sportsmanship, hard work, and dedication. They help with mental health.

At this point these kids (as well as the whole nations worth of kids) have been dealt a pretty raw hand. They have been pretty isolated for the better part of the last 10 months. They have had milestone events taken away from them. Dances, spring sports, graduations, and face to face school in general. Mental health is dwindling. These kids have nothing to look forward to. They are just going through the motions, and some are just barely doing that.

What is the end game? What is the end result that canceling even more is going to accomplish?

I feel that the benefits of holding a winter sports season following the CDC guidelines far exceed the risks.

I am pleading with you to please reconsider the School Board decision made last night and allow winter sports to happen. Give these kids a little light in their lives. They need it, we all need it.

Thank you,  
Angel Knight

---

Bylaw Question

Peter Kelly  
Tues, Dec 8, 3:13 PM (4 minutes ago)  
to sau49@sau49.org

Dear School Board Members,

I was sent a copy of the bylaws. After reviewing them I noticed that public input was not offered at the beginning or end of last nights meeting. It is my understanding that a vote can not take place without this. I have attached them for your ease of locating them. BEDH clearly states it is mandatory in order to hold a vote. This did not occur. I also reviewed the agenda and it was not

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

clearly stated that the board would be discussing winter sports. It is impossible to seek input if the public is not aware that the items would be discussed. I have also started a petition with well over 550 signatures requesting the decision be reversed. Watching last night's board meeting I was shocked that Charlene would treat our AD with so little respect. The board seems to lack knowledge on the number of people infected by this "outbreak". One person tested positive from exposure outside the hockey circle. As of this time no one else has tested positive. The board also potentially violated HIPAA by publicly shaming and sharing every one's quarantine status given our rosters are available on the district website. My privacy was compromised as a result of this. Thank you for that! Professionally you may have damaged the images of both the AD and everyone you called out publicly. The athletic plan appears to have controlled the spread as designed. Your lack of consideration for facts amazed me.

Sincerely,  
Peter Kelly

BEDH  
Page 1 of 1

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board encourages citizens of the District to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools and so that the Board may have an opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public. However, the Board reserves the right to meet and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters as are properly considered in non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, that the Board may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings.

1. "Public Input" will be scheduled at the beginning and end of each agenda. Public input may not exceed 15 minutes unless extended by vote of the Board.
2. Individuals desiring to speak shall give their name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
3. The presentation should be as brief as possible. Each speaker is limited to 5 minutes, unless the Board extends the time. Written remarks are encouraged.
4. Speakers may offer comments on such school operations and programs as concern them. In public session, however, the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel or complaints against any person connected with the school system. Other channels are provided for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals, which should be referred to the building principal or superintendent for appropriate action.
5. Visitors should not expect the board to respond immediately to their comments or

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

questions, since the board may not have discussed or taken a position on the matter. The superintendent, without speaking for the board, may offer clarification as appropriate. Members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board. When the board has taken a position, the chair may state the board's position. The Board vests in its Chair or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when they do not adhere to the rules established above as to content or time limitation.

Adopted: 2/3/92

Reaffirmed: 7/17/95

Revised: 11/21/05

Reaffirmed: 4/6/09

Governor Wentworth Regional School District Policy

Page 61 of 497 Pages

"Helping Each Child Create the Future"

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

REMOTE MEETING – Monday, December 7, 2020 – 7:00 PM

WCTV will broadcast on Atlantic Broadband Channel 26 in Wolfeboro and New Durham,

and on TDS Channel 27 in nearby towns with TDS service

WCTV LiveStream Link [WCTV YouTube Link](#)

Public may provide input and comment on agenda items before the meeting and 24 hours after the meeting by

emailing [sau49@sau49.org](mailto:sau49@sau49.org). All email correspondence will be included with the said meeting minutes as an addendum.

**AGENDA**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA REVIEW

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/MANIFESTS (Discussion/Action)

A. November 9, 2020 – Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

B. November 9, 2020 – School Board Meeting

C. November 17, 2020 – Finance Committee Meeting

D. November 18, 2020 – Finance Committee Meeting

E. November 19, 2020 – Finance Committee Meeting

F. Manifest Approval

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

V. PUBLIC INPUT

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Preliminary Adoption of 2022 Budget (information/Discussion)
- B. American Education Week (Information)
- C. Robotics Education Development Program Grant (Information/Discussion/Action)
- D. Superintendent Services – Wakefield School District (Information/Discussion/Action)
- E. School Calendar 2021-2022 (Information/Discussion/Action)
- F. COVID-19 Update (Information)
- G. NH School Boards Association (Information/Discussion)

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- A. Correspondence (Information)

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Academic Affairs – Wendi Fenderson
  - 1. Policy EHAB, Data Governance and Security (for approval)
- B. Buildings & Maintenance – Julianne Cardinal
- C. Finance – John Widmer
- D. Human Resources – John Widmer

IX. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

- A. Advanced Planning
  - 1. Meeting Location for January 11 Board Meeting
- B. Public Input – 15 minutes (5 minutes for individuals) unless extended by vote of Board
- C. Closing Comments by Board Member

X. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

- A. Legal
- B. Personnel
- C. Student

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING DATES AND EVENTS

December 24-31.....No School – Christmas Recess  
January 1.....No School – New Year's Day  
January 11.....School Board Meeting (location TBD) – 7:00 pm  
January 18.....No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
January 30.....10:00 am – Deliberative Session  
February 8 .....School Board Meeting (location TBD) – 7:00 pm  
February 22-26.....No School – Winter Recess

---

Winter Sports Cancellation

JohnandJulie Harrington  
Tues, Dec 8, 2:50 PM (1 minute ago)  
to sau49

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

We are extremely disappointed in the school board's rushed decision to cancel all winter sports. We need to see this decision overturned.

Our students deserve athletics. This rash Zoom decision from the school board with no input from the parents, teachers, athletic director, or coaches can not be the last word.

Individual cases are unavoidable. My understanding was that the protocols that were put in place were to mitigate the spread of the virus. The protocols worked.

My son was exposed to an infected person during a high school hockey practice on December 1st. All players, coaches, and rink staff were wearing masks on and off the ice. The players had only fifteen minutes to get ready. All players and coaches had their temperature taken and were required to present a QR code at the door, affirming they had no Covid-19 symptoms and to facilitate contact tracing. My son is now following the State's quarantine guidelines to stop the potential for the virus to spread.

The protocols worked.

The school board should have understood this. They made their decision based on incorrect information. Our kids deserve better.

John Harrington

---

Winter Sports

Alexus Booth

Tues, Dec 8, 2:15 PM (25 minutes ago)  
to sau49

SAU 49,

Myself and over 500 people that have signed the petition believe that the ruling to cancel winter sports was called prematurely. The CDC has set guidelines that can be followed to ensure safety. If fall sports were able to be held safely, so can winter sports. Especially since most of winter sports are low contact sports, and masks can be worn. Seniors are devastated that they won't be able to have their senior nights that they've been looking forward to for 3 years. With kids being in a controlled environment with precautions they have to follow ( school and sports) there is a less likely chance of infection spread, than if they were sent home with no strict guidelines and precautions. Please reconsider this decision.

---

Winter sports

Kirsten Burke

1:31 PM (3 minutes ago)  
to sau49

SAU,

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

As a parent of hybrid students who tends error on the side of caution I feel your decision to completely cancel winter sports is unwarranted. Your board is frankly completely out of touch with what it means to parent children during a pandemic. My children handle e-learning so much better when they are participating in sports. The time between football and basketball was rough for my older boys. My kids who've never struggled with learning or depression have declined in their mental health since football stopped. Teams do not need to play against outside teams or have spectators. There are ways sports could still be done while adhering to 6ft social distancing and using masks. If you can hold PE at the school you can practice drills/strength train and play against each other as a team. It's proven that children who participate in sports do better at school, have better emotional health and have a higher chance of attending college. I hope you will reconsider this decision!

---

Winter Sports at GWSD

Krystle Beaulieu - Middleton School Board  
Tues, Dec 8, 10:45 AM (54 minutes ago)  
to sau49

Good Morning-

I am writing to you not as a parent of a GWSD athlete (yet) but one of an extreme athlete even at age 10 and also as a Middleton School Board member. I understand the complexity our decisions have right now as school board members - it is not easy and it causes extreme anxiety.

My two kids live and breathe sports, especially my 10 year old son. Sports are already a major part of his identity and he is 10. His identity gives me confidence throughout the day - feeling confident in who is to his peers, his team, his teachers, and knowing he always has a sport outlet most nights saves him through this horrible time we are in. If you take that identity away from a middle schooler or high schooler that is a HUGE risk to their mental state and it WILL have major effects in the classroom. Without sports my child does not understand his day to day purpose at times. I cannot imagine taking this away from or any child out of fear. This fear is absolutely crippling our district.

I am at a loss for words honestly. We need to get this kids back to school and sports.

Best,  
Krystle

---

Board decision - athletics

Jeff Cloos  
Tues, Dec 8, 10:26 AM (1 hour ago)  
to jwidmer@sau49.org, wfenderson@sau49.org, kabear@sau49.org, jcardinal@sau49.org,  
teldridge@sau49.org, jmannings@sau49.org, jpittman@sau49.org, cseibel@sau49.org,  
dstreeter@sau49.org, kelly.tivnan@sau69.org, sau49@sau49.org

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Hello Mr. Widmer and the rest of the GWRSD Board Members,

I would like to take this moment to express my thoughts in regards to the Board decision last night to potentially cancel winter sports for the 2020-21 season. This was very difficult news to hear, and I am extremely saddened and disappointed in the result.

In recent weeks, I have been impressed with the way the Board and the Superintendent have reacted to the most recent COVID cases in the schools. There was no overreaction from either party, nor did the isolated cases have a negative effect on the student body and staff. It was handled with logic, and not a quick reaction to shut things down. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the decision to cancel winter sports was a knee jerk reaction, without logic and thought about the negative physical and mental effects on middle and high school student-athletes.

My two boys (7th and 9th) are three sport athletes, and thrived during the fall soccer season. It was such a good physical and mental outlet for them during these crazy times. They are only going to school two days a week, and being able to get outside and participate in athletics four to five days a week was so important to their physical and mental health. The thought of these boys, and the rest of the GWRSD student-athletes, not having that outlet during the winter months is scary. There are so many benefits to having an interscholastic athletic program, especially during these difficult times.

I understand the very difficult position the Board is in during this pandemic. You are trying to balance the health and safety of the GWRSD community, with the understanding that the students need to be learning and growing as human beings. I don't believe that cancelling winter sports is a good solution to this problem. I'm in full support of having COVID guidelines followed for each of the sports, similar to those set in college and professional athletics. If there is a COVID case(s), we should deal with that appropriately, whether it is shutting down that team/sport for a time period, or shutting down athletics for a time period. But, to shut down all the athletics in advance of any possible issues, is not the answer.

I recently started my own business, but prior to this school year, I was a high school athletic director for seventeen years. There is such a huge value in school-based athletics that goes beyond the wins and losses, and the development of skill. There are so many benefits to participating in athletics that are equally important to being in the classroom. In these difficult times, students need to have the social, physical, emotional outlets that athletics provides. Please allow the parents and athletes to make the choice as to whether they want to take on the risks of playing athletics as it relates to COVID. I don't feel the Board should be making that decision for them. I think you'll find the majority of families in support of continuing winter sports with sport specific COVID guidelines.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration and thank you for all that you do for our students at GWRSD.

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sincerely,

Jeff Cloos

---

Cancellation of winter sports for the 2020-2021 school year

John Raifsnider

Tues, Dec 8, 10:15 AM (1 hour ago)

to sau49@sau49.org, Kimberly

Dear GWRSD School Board –

While watching the GWRSD School Board meeting last night (12/7/2020), I was quite alarmed that the board suddenly voted to cancel winter sports. What is particular concerning is that the decision was made hastily without input from the members of the public who are most affected by this decision – coaches, players, and parents. I got the sense the board was not interested in hearing from coaches or administration on how to safely conduct a winter sports season.

As a parent of 5 children who have been or are currently being served by the district, I have significant experience in what goes into forming a well-rounded student. It's not just academics but includes the extracurricular activities that can bring our children joy, pride, and companionship. And they desperately need these things right now.

My son was able to complete his senior year of varsity soccer this fall achieving things he never thought possible. These accomplishments will stay with him for a lifetime. There were times when practices were cancelled or games were postponed due to Covid-19 but the athletes were great at adjusting and completed a very successful season.

To assume that winter sports athletes and their families are less deserving, less able to adapt to changing schedules, or less capable of judging risk is an insult and a travesty. I strongly urge the school board to immediately reinstate winter sports and allow the coaches, students and parents themselves to make the important decision whether or not to participate. These extracurricular activities can be just as important as academics in these trying times and they should only be cancelled after proper consideration and input. Last night the school board did neither.

Sincerely,

John Raifsnider

---

Public comment to GWRSD School Board

Jason Hills



**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tues, Dec 8, 8:13 AM (3 hours ago)  
to sau49@sau49.org

To the GWRSD School Board:

I am disappointed in the school board's decision to go fully remote until Jan 18th without any evidence that this is needed. Attendance was discussed with a comment about at least one class being reduced to only a handful of students because of absences, but there was no question of what the Average Daily Membership has been over the last 30 days and the number and frequency of classes that are operating at a significantly reduced size. I believe the district has an epidemiologist on retainer. This would be a great time to get an opinion from an expert, and to gather actual data on which to base such significant decisions. Neither the Board nor the superintendent are experts in communicable diseases, and so I would hope that they would consult those with greater expertise when making decisions.

Remote learning has been so detrimental to students, both our youngest learners and our oldest learners. While the hybrid model is not ideal, having students in school for a limited amount of time each week is better than going remote. I am not against going remote, but I do not believe our school numbers warrant going remote yet, given both what I have read from medical experts and your metrics that you have presented. I have yet to see a "Thanksgiving spike" in our schools and I would be hesitant to make decisions about going remote in January based on the possibility of a holiday spike. We did not see a spike due to Laconia's Bike Week, yet we delayed opening school. We have not yet and may not see a spike in our schools due to Thanksgiving, and yet we are assuming that there will be one as well as after Christmas. The school data hasn't shown this yet, but we are making plans based on assumptions.

It sounds like our greatest "spike" is due to the quarantining of the hockey teams. Other than the hockey team exposure, the protocols have shown they work with limited exposure in the buildings and the use of other mitigating factors such as masks and social distancing. If the protocols were being followed, I question why there were so many hockey players and coaches who were exposed and in close contact. The superintendent's weekly updates have shown small numbers of close contact, but then nearly fifty student athletes and coaches all with close contact begs the question of what happened. I was disappointed to hear that the Board voted to suspend winter sports, but if students can't be together academically, they certainly can't be together athletically. To be clear, I support both schools being open and athletics continuing as both are vital to our students.

Finally, I find it irresponsible and underhanded to make such a decision without holding an in-person meeting, without it being specifically listed on the agenda, and without it being identified as an actionable item on the agenda. Many people in my community are without power or the Internet, and not able to attend or even watch the meeting. I feel that members of this board are making decisions based on their own personal beliefs rather than representing their communities, and I respectfully request the Board reconsider the vote to move to fully remote and evaluate real data versus ideologies.

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jason Hills

---

MoveOn has not yet reviewed this petition. If you agree with it, please sign and share it!

Join Peter K. in signing this petition.

TO: GWRSD School Board

Reverse the decision to cancel winter sports!

PKContact Campaign Creator

Campaign created by

Peter Kelly

The board needs to vote to allow winter sports starting 01/11/2020. The board voted Monday, December 7, 2020 and we only have 24 hours to give public input. Public may provide input and comment on the December 7, 2020, agenda items before the meeting and 24 hours after the meeting by emailing [sau49@sau49.org](mailto:sau49@sau49.org). All email correspondence will be included with the said meeting minutes as an addendum. UW study: High school sports have not spread the corona virus. <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-public-health-madison-wisconsin-high-school-sports-7f2f41be0c28e1cb6b6341ff1640e8ed>

Why is this important?

BETTER EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

ENHANCED SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AND SENSE OF BELONGING

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT/LIFE SKILLS

HEALTHIER BEHAVIORS

POST HIGH SCHOOL POSITIVE RESULTS

DEVELOPING BETTER CITIZENS

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/the-case-for-high-school-activities/>

---

December 7th Board Meeting

Bobbi Boudman

Mon, Dec 7, 10:56 PM (12 hours ago)

to Jack, Kathleen, Guy, jreilly, Heather, Krista, Julianne, James, James, Dana, Charlene, Wendi, Timothy, me, Lara, Aaron

Dear Jack,

You are completely correct—you are receiving at least one letter and it's not in support as to the audacity with which you conducted tonight's meeting. First of all, the fact that you didn't allow public input goes against the bylaws (see attachment 1)-- you should throw out today's votes until all public input is received and the board has time to review citizenry comments. Based on Heather's remark about broadband outages, you should wait until Wednesday to have a re-vote on matters that were publicly presented at the December 7th meeting.

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

I gather you never read my letter dated November 10, 2020 (see attachment 2) before your comments this evening. Your blanket statement this evening that it's not fair for one sport to play this winter if they all can't play, is akin to: none of our students should go to Harvard if all our students who want to go to Harvard don't get in. So why are we not modifying indoor sports and choosing to provide a healthy outlet for the children who are in naturally Covid safe sporting environments? Personally, my child isn't swimming this year due to the risks, but will be nordic skiing due to the rewards... who exactly is my kid breathing on while wearing a mask in the middle of the woods? Swimming in a pool and spitting out water is not the same as skiing past a tree. Why would you present a vote on treating those activities similarly?

Please read my letter I sent almost a month ago and seek out the science to make good decisions for our children (physically and emotionally). I am not on the team that thinks we should just go back and if someone dies, oh well... we need to follow the best scholarship and science regarding this pandemic. I think we should also listen to our teachers before we make rash decisions about school. Our teachers and staff are on the front lines of this pandemic...why aren't they being consulted? Why aren't we parents hearing their concerns? They should be allowed to make anonymous public comments that are read at the meetings about their fears, interests, and using their knowledge as professionals.

Your board has done a great job keeping our extended community safe, and I thank you all for that! Please do the same for sports. Look at things not as a whole pie, but in pieces that can be cut up and moved outside the pie dish. Again, please read my attached letter as I do believe there is a way to keep our children mentally/physically healthy with modification.

I know you don't have a teenager in school at the moment, but our teens are struggling. Many are suicidal and are disconnected from their peers. On the days our children aren't in school, many curl up and watch YouTube all day and get no school work done or anything else for that matter (and those are the top students). Many are caring for siblings. Many are working to help pay the bills. When in school, our children don't even get to pick a friend with whom to have lunch. They sit alone. They are isolated. My son, worked out today for the first time since Nordic States last March-- and for the first time, he's emotionally doing his home work and functioning happily. Yes, sports come second—I've sure screamed about it enough through my mask at meetings, but why can't we modify? Why is it all or nothing? Why would a sport in the middle of the woods be cancelled because a sport that has vastly different Covid risks isn't altered or postponed?

Please help me understand your logic as I'm perplexed....

Stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, kiss your lovely wife!, and enjoy the holidays.

Appreciatively,  
bobbi boudman

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Attachment 1

Governor Wentworth Regional School District Policy

Page 60 of 497 Pages

BEDH

Page 1 of 1

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board encourages citizens of the District to attend its sessions so that they may become better acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools and so that the Board may have an opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public. However, the Board reserves the right to meet and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters as are properly considered in non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, that the Board may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at Board meetings.

1. "Public Input" will be scheduled at the beginning and end of each agenda. Public input may not exceed 15 minutes unless extended by vote of the Board.
2. Individuals desiring to speak shall give their name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
3. The presentation should be as brief as possible. Each speaker is limited to 5 minutes, unless the Board extends the time. Written remarks are encouraged.
4. Speakers may offer comments on such school operations and programs as concern them. In public session, however, the Board will not hear personal complaints of school personnel or complaints against any person connected with the school system. Other channels are provided for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals, which should be referred to the building principal or superintendent for appropriate action.
5. 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. The superintendent, without speaking for the board, may offer clarification as appropriate. Members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board. When the board has taken a position, the chair may state the board's position. The Board vests in its Chair or other presiding officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when they do not adhere to the rules established above as to content or time limitation.

Adopted: 2/3/92

Reaffirmed: 7/17/95

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Revised: 11/21/05

Reaffirmed: 4/6/09

---

Attachment 2

On Nov 10, 2020, at 12:50 PM, Bobbi Boudman wrote:

Dear Kathy, Heather, Jack, Wendi, Dana, Charlene, James P, Dr. James, Timothy, Julianne, Krista, Guy, and James R:

It seems that people in our town have 1 of 2 modes—those wanting every resource to stay the same during a pandemic and those wanting at home remote resources. I am grateful that the leaders of our district found a way to get our children back in school through a 3rd mode—hybrid (modification). It seems to me that modification of in-school learning has been very successful to control the virus—still not quite successful for the mental state of our children, but the few days of normalcy have helped following the mentally debilitating spring. The new normal: masks and other accommodations are worth it and the children took to change easily—as did the board.

I have watched how much better the children who have school sports have mentally bounced back. They are emotionally balanced in a way many of my son's peers and my son have not been able to achieve through the Fall. I think the push to normalcy is because so many of us have witnessed our children go from thriving to just barely surviving. We want it all and we want it now. The bad part about that is—all is going to get us nothing. And nothing puts my child and his peer back in their homes isolated and many suicidal. So for parents, we can choose a virus and take our chances, or we can watch our children slip into depression and the risks of that far outweigh this virus for our children.

So you have brilliantly modified school, but for some reason we have not modified athletics. We, are not thinking outside the court or rink. I'm not an all or nothing person—let's have it—let's just modify like you have already brilliantly done:

Hockey got its start in a warm climate in Ancient Egypt, but when it blossomed 2,000 years later, it did so on outdoor rinks. Most of our children who play hockey, have played hundreds of hours of pond hockey. Surely we can be creative and flood our football field and create an outdoor rink. There is no way we can meet our own state's guidelines for having our children play hockey at our town's rink:

<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/inline-documents/sonh/guidance-hockey-indoor-ice->

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

arena.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3ApqnnwMAEsG4ffRluqB2M3x0OwwvaN0mEWdJpTXIBHKEJvpl64t0KfnE

We won't even be able to meet the don't touch your mask guideline. Hockey is a super-spreader sport that has the potential to shut our whole school down. This is not opinion—we have the facts and data, and our own state couldn't accommodate testing and contact tracing the high numbers that just happened in the hockey community. There are hockey students in both cohorts and they spread out to various classes on various days... I'm not saying take hockey away...MODIFY.

As for the elephant in the room on masks and physical exertion that has been alluded to now various times—any nordic skier, one of the most physically straining sports there is, will tell you, you can wear a mask and exert yourself—they physically do it all winter. Any athlete in a city with dirty air has already been wearing masks for years during outside training... athletic masks existed long before Covid-19. Let's invest in those this winter. Let's move our resources where they matter most...this year, it's athletic masks.

Hoping back to modification...basketball. Basketball, like soccer, is one of our areas largest sports. We cut more children from the sport than we take for the sport. We have enough children in our GWRSD system to run our own league. Our children can have basketball and they can gain a lot of skills this winter and we can give more children the opportunity to play by creating our own league—especially at the middle school level. If we are not willing to create our own league, then just like hockey, we cannot meet the guidelines for interscholastic play. Here is what NCAA says about basketball, "The guidelines also encourage schools to separate athletes and 'essential basketball personnel' into an 'inner bubble,' or 'Tier 1,' to best monitor tracing and potential quarantine procedures in case of one or more positive tests for the coronavirus." Is GWRSD going to test? Are we going to tell our basketball players they need to learn remotely or put them all in the same classes throughout basketball season? If we are going to allow basketball, why not keep Foss Field snow free and paint the lines and create a long court? Why not play all interscholastic games outside? You know—modify.

So the crux of my letter is—100% opposite of what was stated last night....no, let's not let them play normally until we get shut down—let's modify and stay open. Let the kids play, but let them play smart...modified.

Here are the NCAA guidelines and resources. Please take time to look into the facts of hockey and basketball: <http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/covid-19-coronavirus>

I am also begging you to adopt the rule that if you are on a high school team, you cannot be on a club team. The high school rule used to be one sport per season and if you were club, you couldn't play for your high school—during Covid, let's make that a reality... why do students need to swim, run indoors, and do nordic? Are our children doing indoor track this year? If yes, then why not contract with The Nick and keep the track clear. Again...modify modify modify.

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Thank you for your time and all your efforts during this pandemic.

All my best, stay safe and healthy!

bobbi boudman

---

Public Input

Rick R

Mon, Dec 7, 8:27 PM (15 hours ago)  
to sau49

Are you taking ANY public input? How do we take our children out of Hybrid and put them into remote? Since as a Parent I have been told "you have the choice." I have lost faith in the Board based on your flip flopping on issues, such as in August when we went Hybrid and would go remote when cases spiked. THE CASES HAVE SPIKED FOR WEEKS!!!! YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING!!!

---

public input

Rick R

Mon, Dec 7, 8:11 PM (15 hours ago)  
to sau49

can school board members come into the schools to help out due to such short staffed schools? If you are not comfortable to come into the schools then why are kids and staff forced to come into COVID environments??

---

Remote school in January

JohnandJulie Harrington

Mon, Dec 7, 8:07 PM (15 hours ago)  
to sau49

Please don't do this to our kids. You're making decisions based on what might happen. If you decide to go remote, it will be so hard to go back. This is an awful idea for our students. Delay this vote until you have had public input.

John Harrington

---

COVID 19

Rick R

Mon, Dec 7, 7:58 PM (15 hours ago)

**ADDENDUM**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

to sau49

Why are the schools still open??? I am disappointed that with this "management" of the pandemic in our schools. I chose to send my children to the high school with your school board's decision to open a hybrid model with the assumption that if there were cases that the school would be closed and put into a remote situation. This has not happened. Why? What are you hiding? Who are you trying to appease? This has become out of hand. Lots of cases, lots of quarantines. You HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME with these emails that THERE IS NO CONTACT during school. This is an outrage and this needs to STOP. Kids, teachers, support ALL have contact!!!! I might believe this if there were not new cases announced every other day!!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT THIS? as of right now it seems like nothing!!!

Rick