

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
NOVEMBER 9, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Members Present: Krista Abear (remote), 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, staff members, community members and WCTV.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

No changes

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To accept the October 5, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

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

Vote: Motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept the October 15, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

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

Vote: Motion passed on a roll call vote with Julianne Cardinal, Wendi Fenderson and Dr. Manning abstaining and all other members voting in the affirmative.

Motion: To accept the October 26, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

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

Vote: Motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To approved the accounts payable and payroll manifests totaling \$4,618,786.51.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VI. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Technology Update

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the District Information Technology Department has been working incredibly hard to connect families to the Internet for remote learning during the pandemic. Paul Michalski, Information Technology Director, said in the spring, at the beginning of COVID, the technology department had to shift gears to support remote learning. It was not without challenges but things are easier now. The District has 125 hot spots. Clever badges was introduced at the elementary level and web filtering is in place. He said help tickets are up by 600 because IT is helping parents and students. Mr. Streeter asked if there were unanticipated costs with the Chrome Books and Mr. Michalski said \$75,924 was for replacement Chrome Books. He hopes to get Chrome Books on a five year replacement cycle.

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Use of Facilities by Outside Groups

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said due to COVID-19 pandemic outside groups have not been allowed to use school facilities since March. Visitors are also limited. With winter approaching, she asked the Board how they would like to handle requests from outside organizations whether it be parks and recreation or community groups.

Motion: To hold off on allowing outside groups access to buildings and grounds until the middle of January when the topic will be reevaluated by the Board.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

NH Future Leaders Program

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert introduced Lieutenant Cody Wood of the NH Army National Guard. She said he is here to introduce the District to the Future Leaders of NH Program for grades 9-12. Lieutenant Wood gave an overview of the program. He outlined program values, plan of execution and the 2020-2021 goals for KRHS. Lieutenant Wood answered questions from the School Board.

Motion: To table the vote on the NH Future Leaders Program until the December meeting to allow time for the Board to get a better understanding of the program and to see if it will duplicate programs the District already has in place.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

School Athletics

Aaron House, Director of Athletics, presented a proposal for winter sports, similar to the fall local schedule. Mr. House said he would like to continue the athletic programming this winter in a safe and responsible manner with the flexibility to change course as needed.

Motion: To support the Athletic Directors request to move forward with winter sports as presented.

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

Discussion: Mr. Pittman said he wants to maintain the control of social distancing. Texts sent by community members were read aloud. Ms. Boudman said she would like to see students participate at the high school or club participation but not both. She also feels the hockey arena does not have sufficient air circulation.

Vote: Motion passed 5-4. Ms. Abear, Ms. Seibel, Mr. Streeter and Mr. Widmer voted against the motion.

Discussion on Full Reopening/Guidelines

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said we currently have three learning options: full open, hybrid and remote. She provided a rubric explaining the categories: community transmission, COVID positive results in schools, staff absenteeism, student absenteeism and the ability to implement mitigation. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert does not know how many families would decide to be fully remote if there is a decision to open fully but based on the percentage from the survey it may be a large group. Approximately 1/3 returned the survey. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert reviewed District cases to date and numbers of people who have had to quarantine. She said our schools have been able to stay open because of contact tracing and social distancing. Because of social distancing quarantine

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for students and staff has been limited for each occurrence. The goal is to safely keep school open as much as possible. COVID has had a strong financial impact on the District. The District received \$464,998 in CARES Act money but we are approximately \$173,664 behind.

Motion: To return to school full time right after the Christmas break.

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

Discussion: There was a lengthy discussion on social distancing guidelines and the exact opening date.

Motion Amended: To reopen school fully on January 19th.

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

Vote on the Amendment: Amendment to change original motion passed 5-4. Ms. Abear, Ms. Seibel, Mr. Streeter and Mr. Widmer voted against the amendment.

Modified Motion: To fully reopen school on January 19th with 3 foot social distancing.

Vote: Motion failed 6-3. Ms. Cardinal, Ms. Fenderson and Mr. Eldridge voted in favor of the modified motion.

NH School Boards Association

Mr. Widmer said Delegate Assembly will most likely be held as a remote meeting.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said expressions of sympathy were sent to Steve and Michelle Capone and Terry Flynn Sullivan on the passing of loved ones. Congratulatory wishes were sent to Kaela Croteau on the birth of her daughter.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Ms. Fenderson said several policies are being presented for approval. Five policies are all federal requirement changes under Title IX. The other policy change removes blizzard bag days with a change to remote learning days.

Motion: To approve the revisions as presented on Policy AC: Nondiscrimination Opportunity, ACAA: Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students, ACAA-R: Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures, ACAB: Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees, ACAB-R: Employee Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures. The changes are all federal requirements under Title IX.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To approve the revisions as presented on Policy JHBB: Attendance Policy on Days Designated a Remote Learning Days.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

The committee presented policy EHAB, Data Governance and Security for a first read. MS. Fenderson said the policy is tied to the District Data Governance Manual which indicates the District is committed to protecting our students' and staffs' privacy through maintaining strong privacy and security protections.

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Ms. Fenderson said Policy JCA, Change of School or Assignment. This policy authorizes the superintendent to reassign a student from the public school to which they are assigned to another public school, or to approve a request from another superintendent to accept a transfer of a student from another school, if the superintendent finds it is in the best interest of the student. Policy JEC, Manifest Educational Hardship will be stricken since it will now be covered in Policy JCA.

Ms. Fenderson also informed the Board that Susan Merrell and Katey Hills presented to academic affairs providing the committee with an overview of how remote learning went during the first quarter. They addressed the strengths, challenges/barriers and action steps. They are looking at different opportunities to enhance remote learning and identify students who may be struggling to complete assignments during remote days. She said the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health is a concern nationwide and has been and will continue to be addressed by the District.

Buildings & Maintenance

Ms. O'Blenes said Effingham Elementary School is generating power.

Finance

Mr. Widmer said the finance committee will meet November 17, 18 and 19 for a budget overview.

IX. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

Upcoming events were read from the bottom of the agenda.

Public Input

Page Moore, student body representative at high school, addressed her peers concerns to the Board regarding remote/hybrid learning. Now that schools may not open full time until after Christmas break, she asked if there is a possibility for modification to our hybrid system? Students in different grade levels and different level classes feel that hybrid is very confusing. Going from online to in-person and the self-teaching is not being as successful as they would like. It is discouraging to students so going forward is there a way to make changes to learning so that students are more successful and they feel there is more clarity. She said students do appreciate being able to be in school the amount that they are. Miss Moore thanked the Board for all the hard work they have put in.

Closing Comments by Board Members

Mr. Pittman said this is a little off topic but wanted to recognize the passing of Alex Trebek. A truly great man who instilled the pursuit and appreciation of knowledge to so many people for so many years. Many contestants said that hearing him on that show set them on a path of education and career pursuits.

X. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 9:34 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss a legal matter and personnel.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

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Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert informed the Board of a legal matter and read a retirement letter from Terry Flynn Sullivan which was accepted with sincere appreciation for her service to the District.

Motion: At 9:52 pm a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Streeter asked for clarification on the remote/hybrid model and it was explained we are in this learning method indefinitely because the vote to resume to full time face-to face learning on January 19th failed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 9:53 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 12.07.20