

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
AUGUST 3, 2020**

I. CALL 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, Curriculum Coordinator Kaitlyn Hills, administrators, staff, community members and WCTV.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

III. AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Widmer moved two items of business listed on the agenda, Authorization to Suspend and Authorization to Sign Assurances for Grants, so the Board can act on them before the presentation from the Reopening Task Force. This eliminates the need for public input prior to the presentation and provides an opportunity for public comments after the presentation.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 14, 2020, School Board meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

Motion: To approve the June 2020 manifests as presented (\$4,022,380.54).

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

Motion: To approve the July 2020 manifests as presented (\$7,989,455.50).

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Authorization to Suspend/Authorization to Sign Assurances

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert explained annually the board must authorize the superintendent and the assistant superintendent to suspend students for up to ten days in accordance with RSA 193:13-I (b) and continue a suspension of a pupil for a period in excess of ten school days. They must also authorize the superintendent, assistant superintendent, business administrator and/or curriculum directors to sign the assurances for all grants and requests to and from trust funds.

Motion: To authorize the superintendent and assistant superintendent to suspend students from school for up to ten days in accordance with RSA 193:13-I(b).

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

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Motion: To authorize the superintendent and assistant superintendent, business administrator and/or curriculum directors to sign the assurances for all grants and requests to and from trust.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

Reopening Task Force Plan

Superintendent Kathy Cuddy-Egbert thanked everyone for attending. She said the pandemic has put forward some very tough choices for school reopening. Based on emails received there are many different opinions and very little agreement. She said there has been no decision by the school board and that the information presented tonight is a proposal by the Task Force Committee comprised of the following subcommittees: Health and Safety, Food Service/Transportation, Physical Plant, Teaching and Learning, Mental Health/Social Emotional and Technology. She thanked committee members for volunteering to and then presented the committee's proposed plan. Three options were proposed to the School Board for opening school. Option 1: in-person and blended learning; Option 2: remote learning; and Option 3: parents may wish to homeschool. The reasoning for the options was explained and Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said another survey will be sent after the Board makes a decision. Time was provided for in-person attendees and those watching remotely to provide input and ask questions. This segment went for approximately an hour. Questions/concerns raised: how will holidays be handled if they fall on a Monday, will Magic Moments be running for students in LRTC classes (not likely but ongoing conversations with Children's Center), there were concerns over masks being worn all day and whether there are long term effects from mask wearing (not known) and what the consequences will be if a student keeps taking their mask off (work with kids to reduce anxiety around mask wearing, criteria will be developed for mask break, and staff will work with students on handwashing), decision on sports (not yet the School Board is going to schedule another meeting) there were concerns with no in-person singing in chorus and non-playing of wind instruments (will be retooling the music curriculum), will carpooling be allowed (not recommended), concern with congestion drop off at schools (plans being worked on), concerns with congestion while moving classes at high school and what will lunch in cafeteria look like (social distancing of 6 feet in cafeteria), who will be checking student temperature (looking at a program where parents would take temperatures and send to school nurse), how will clubs and the theater program be executed (yet to be determined; guidelines will be coming from the State), set up of lunch rooms and if parents can send their children with food (yes, parent can send child with food; lunch rooms will be set up for social distancing), concern with plexiglass dividers at students' desks and have face shields been considered (mask wearing will be required; a shield would add another layer of protection), questions regarding VLACS courses and will credit be given, question on how will honor and advanced placement courses be taught to remote students, how will clinical and labs be done if class sizes are reduced (under review; clinical hours at LRTC), if students start remotely, with home education or at a private school when will they be able to reenter the schools for in-person learning (good transition would be at the beginning of a marking period), will chrome books be issued to all students, parents would like more information about who will be teaching remote learning, will substitutes be hired before the school year begins and be trained with proper COVID classroom expectations (yes, there will be training for substitutes), will additional custodians be needed to keep up with the cleaning and sanitizing (may need to add 10-15 hours per week to deep clean), is there any support for parents who have to work, District teachers as well, and if parents decide to home school are there financial resources (audience member mentioned Children Scholarship Fund of NH, can a child go five days a week if there is room or if they need special services (case managers will review student needs), thoughts on milestone or when a decision will be made to move to full-

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time in-person schooling (plan indicates a review in 4-6 weeks), and there were comments that the CDC issues guidelines not mandates. The comments were mixed regarding remote schooling and holding it in-person as well as feelings on how the remote learning went in the spring. Mr. Widmer thanked everyone for participating and said the Board will take the concerns and comments into consideration. He said no decision will be made tonight because there is too much to absorb and think about. He said the Board will meet again this week on Thursday, August 6 at 7:00 PM to try and choose the best option for students and families.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said expressions of sympathy were sent to Sandie Hill and Robin Cornwell on the passing of loved ones and congratulatory wishes were sent to Kyle Strauch on the birth of his son.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Maintenance was the only committee to report saying that the solar panel foundations have been started in Effingham and the panels should go up next week.

VIII. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning: School Board will meet on Thursday, August 6 at 7:00 pm and then again on September 14 (if a meeting is not needed sooner).

There was no public input at this time or closing comments by Board members.

IX. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 9:00 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel.

Moved: Dr. Manning – Seconded: Ms. Seibel

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Staff nominations were shared with the Board and a personnel issue was discussed.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Kimberly Waite as Special Education Teacher at Carpenter School for the 2020-2021 school year. Track 4/Step 14: \$83,346.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – Mr. Eldridge

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Kellie Cavagnaro as Spanish Teacher (one year position) at KRHS for the 2020-2021 school year. Track 3/Step 5: \$46,933.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – Mr. Eldridge

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: 10:02 pm a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

The Board briefly discussed athletics but decided to further discuss this at another meeting; date to be determined.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 11:07 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board 08/24/2020