

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2019
NEW DURHAM SCHOOL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

Members Present: Krista Abear, Julianne Cardinal, Timothy Eldridge, Wendi Fenderson, Dr. James Manning, Dana Streeter, Stacy Trites, John Widmer and Student Representative Connor Demasi

Middleton Representative: Kelly Tivnan

Also present: Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Kelly Colby-Seavey, New Durham School staff and parents, Peter Pijoan NH Community TV, Ed Comeau/NH Government Oversight and community members.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

No changes

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the notes from the October 7, 2019 Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

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

Vote: Ms. Fenderson abstained with all other members voting in the affirmative

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 7, 2019, school board meeting.

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

Vote: Ms. Fenderson abstained with all others voting in the affirmative

Motion: To approve the manifests as presented (\$3,131,636.00).

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

V. PUBLIC INPUT

David Bickford, Town of New Durham, said he attended the Town of New Durham's Budget Committee meeting and the selectmen read a letter about not being able to use the school for voting. Mr. Bickford asked if the board could explain this. Mr. Widmer said it is going to be discussed tonight. Mr. Bickford also said that he would like to see employee salaries posted in the annual report.

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Connor Demasi gave a detailed account of school events. His report is attached.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Principal Colby-Seavey

Ms. Colby-Seavey welcomed everyone. She gave a detailed state of the school report. She thanked the school board and the taxpayers for being so supportive. She invited the board to Thanksgiving luncheon on November 22nd and then turned the meeting over to Ms. Hastings, Ms. Reed and grade 5 students who did a presentation on the Toolbox initiative. Toolbox is a program that supports children in understanding and managing their own emotional, social, and academic success. The foundation of Toolbox is 12 human capacities that reside within all of us. Through its simple and profound metaphor of Tools, Toolbox brings forward a set of skills and practices that help students access their own inner resilience at any time, in any context.

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Transportation Presentation

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert introduced Transportation Supervisor Maryann Belanger as a great supporter of students and parents and one who knows the transportation business very well. She said Ms. Belanger has a very difficult job and is always patient and kind and is excellent at resolving conflicts. Ms. Belanger gave an overview of the transportation department and the fleet of busses. She said there is a driver shortage but she has been able to have a driver in every seat. On occasion a couple of the people from the office and shop, who are certified to drive, are called on to drive. She said there is a recall on the padding in the back of the seats, which pose no safety risk to children, so the busses will keep rolling until the recall is fixed in December. Ms. Belanger said she thinks it best that the District continue to lease three busses a year and that we purchase a new van. In September the department logged 99,321 miles. She said the brine on the roads in the winter months accelerates rust. Transfinder is the software used for school bus tracking and routing solutions. They also have GPS and cameras. Peter Pijoin asked if the busses have seat belts and Mrs. Cuddy-Egbert said no this is not a requirement. She did say that the GPS is helpful because it provides location and speed. Mr. Eldridge said rust is a huge problem for people in the bus industry and the district may want to consider increasing the number they purchase.

Recall on Bus Seats

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said Ms. Belanger talked about the bus seat recall and reiterated that there is no need or requirement to take the busses off the road. The recall affects certain Thomas Built bus models made between 2014 and 2020 and the seats don't have enough padding on them. The bus vendor will be on site the first week of December to take care of the recall.

Letter from Community Member

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert read a letter from community member, Eric Moran, asking the school board to consider implementing the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program. Mr. Moran said LEAD is an evidence based program that will help educate and empower our students to make better choices and hopefully stay drug free. His is afraid that medicated assisted treatment and the legalization of marijuana is going to impair our youths' future. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said she will have Katey Hills, District Curriculum Coordinator, look into the LEAD program to compare it to what the district is currently offering.

Summer Use of Parking at Kingswood Complex

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert read a letter from Kathy Eaton, Owner of Wolfeboro Trolley Company, Inc. Ms. Eaton is trying to address the need for off-site parking in the Town of Wolfeboro during the summer months to help alleviate traffic congestion. Ms. Eaton asked to have a shuttle stop at the Kingswood Complex in July and August and a shuttle will run from the complex to downtown every half-hour from 8am to 6pm. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said they are discussing the logistics; insurance being one, and it is understood that the Governor Wentworth Regional School District is not liable for damages that may occur while the vehicles are left unattended. There is no smoking, vaping or alcohol allowed on school grounds and the district also needs to consider wear and tear on property. Ms. Eaton said she is already in contact with her insurance carrier.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to draft an agreement between the Governor Wentworth Regional School District and Wolfeboro Trolley Company, Inc. defining the logistics for "Molly the Trolley" to shuttle people from the Kingswood Complex to downtown Wolfeboro during the months of July and August with 2020 being a year trial year.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

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Town of Wolfeboro Advisory Committees

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said the Town of Wolfeboro asked the district for representatives to serve on the Wolfeboro Town Planning Committee (Kathy O'Blenes) and the NHDOT Route 28 Improvement Project Advisory Committee (Maryann Belanger). She thanked both for volunteering.

School Calendar

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert talked to both the Town of New Durham and the Town of Effingham regarding the district's dilemma with the school calendar for next year with Labor Day being observed so late. It is difficult for families when school ends very late in June. She said the Town of Effingham is changing the location of voting next year to 68 School Street. She talked with Scott Kinmond, Town Administrator for New Durham, and he said he would talk to the Board of Selectmen. Following this, Ms. Cuddy-Egbert received a letter from the Selectmen expressing disappointment to the school board's decision not to allow voting at New Durham School and their reasons why. They prefer to keep voting in the school. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said when she talked to Mr. Kinmond the Federal election is the biggest problem due to a higher voter turnout. Dr. Manning said the Secretary of State sets the parameters and New Durham School may be the only building large enough to meet the parameters. Community member Ellen Phillips spoke in favor of keeping voting at the school; especially for Federal elections. Mr. Bickford said in the past they held elections at the library and some at the fire station. Maybe the church would be a possibility. The district will hold off this month on making a decision on the 2020-2021 school calendar and is requesting the town to consider all possibilities.

School Board Vacancy

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said Jim Pittman expressed interest in the Effingham School Board vacancy. His interview will be held November 18 at 6:00 pm at the SAU Office. A second person expressed interest but it was after the deadline.

Town of Ossipee Payment Schedule

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert shared a Petition for Writ of Mandamus prepared by Attorney Loughman which outlines the district's reasoning for pursuing a judge's order to have the Town of Ossipee Selectmen's Office pay to the school district its tax revenue based on the schedule that was set by the district and has been in existence for years.

Motion: To continue to move forward with the Writ of Mandamus against the Town of Ossipee which will require them to pay their share of funds as required by the district and required under RSA 198:5.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said a community member also shared with her a Facebook post showing a letter from the Ossipee Selectmen to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) requesting that the DRA set a zero tax rate because they believe it is unlawful for them to be collecting taxes. She said she made a 91-A Request to DRA and received a copy of their response to the Ossipee Selectmen which she read to the school board. Mr. Comeau said the letter was rescinded today. Mr. Widmer said that is good news but they still are not paying the set amount.

Field Trip

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert informed the Board of an overnight field trip for LRTC marketing students to attend a conference in Manchester, NH.

Legislative Update

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said many of the bills that had been submitted were voted inexpedient to legislate. This week they will address RSA 161:13 Commission to Address Child Hunger in New

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Hampshire and RSA 190:8 establishing a commission to study teacher preparation and education programs. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said with the change in adequacy due to compromise budget some of our towns will see some tax relief. Funding increase amounts are as follows: Brookfield \$26,578 – Effingham \$85,695 – New Durham \$41,767 – Ossipee \$287,834 – Tuftonboro \$0 – Wolfeboro \$0.

NH School Boards Association (NHSBA)

Mr. Widmer said he has two meetings in Concord this month. A meeting at the NHIAA and a NHSBA meeting to discuss the resolutions.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said get well wishes were sent to Deb Yurick and he also read a lovely note from Bridget Edwards.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Ms. Fenderson said the discussion regarding the policy on athletic teams is ongoing. Mr. House attended the meeting today and he is doing a great job.

Buildings & Maintenance

Ms. Cardinal said the committee met today and the Effingham Solar Power project is moving forward. Barrington Power has been chosen and the next step is to schedule a presentation with the Town of Effingham. They will also present at Deliberative Session because the long-term lease and easement agreement with Barrington Power requires approval from the voters. The project will appear as an article on the district warrant.

Finance

Mr. Widmer said the finance committee meetings are scheduled for November 12, 13, and 14 at Crescent Lake School.

Human Resources

No report

X. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

Mr. Widmer read upcoming events from the bottom of the agenda.

Public Input

None

Closing Comments by Board Members

Ms. Abear said she went to Middleton Elementary School with Ms. Cuddy-Egbert to see the building and to get a sense of the community and she said she loved it. She said the kids are cute and wonderful the teachers are great. It was a wonderful visit and Middleton should be proud of the school and the professionals in the building. She told Principal Colby-Seavey that it was nice to hear her state of address about New Durham School. It was wonderful and the students were as well. Ms. Abear said the situation with the Ossipee saddens her to the core and there has to be a way to work it through. Mr. Streeter thanked Principal Colby-Seavey for the school update. He said he is interested in the new venture with student behavior and social and emotional development. It is so critical the pressure points and how to handle yourself. He said he also feels bad about the Ossipee situation. He thanked staff and students for the presentation, as well as Wolfeboro Trolley and Mr. Moran for his presentation about project LEAD. Ms. Trites said she loves the toolbox messages. She said these are what we also look for in adults. Nice to instill them in kids at an early age. She thanked Ms. Belanger

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for the transportation update. Mr. Eldridge thanked Principal Colby-Seavey and the staff for staying through the meeting. Toolbox is a fantastic program and he also expressed appreciation to Ms. Belanger. Mr. Eldridge said he is glad to be able to work on an agreement with Wolfeboro Trolley and he said he is excited to go see the play. Ms. Cardinal was also glad to hear the play announced. She thinks students and others are most likely to use the summer shuttle service and she said she will be taking the toolbox home with her. Mr. Manning thanked Principal Colby-Seavey and he said he hopes to see the toolbox in Ossipee. He also said the trolley shuttle is a great idea. Ms. Fenderson said it is great to be in New Durham and it is wonderful to see the teachers. Thank you. Ms. Tivnan said the students have been working real hard at play rehearsal and they are excited for the show. Connor Demasi said the trolley shuttle is a great idea. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said it was a great toolbox presentation and she thanked Principal Colby-Seavey, the staff and students. Mr. Widmer thanked Principal Colby-Seavey and Mr. Moran for his presentation. He said whenever we can enhance what we are doing it is great.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 8:45 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote

The board unanimously agreed to accept the resignation from William Douglass with gratitude and appreciation for his service to the district.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's recommendation for Grady Charland to assume some of the duties of Assistant Principal at Kingswood High School for the balance of the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Grady will receive a \$20,000 stipend for the additional responsibilities.

Moved: Ms. Trites – **Seconded:** Dana Streeter

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert informed the board of a legal issue.

Motion: 9:35 PM a motion was made to come out of non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

XI. Vote: It was a unanimous vote

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board 12.09.19

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Connor Demasi
Student Representative Report

Quarter 1 ends this Friday

Fall Sports are over - Playoffs for Cross-Country, Volleyball, and Field Hockey

26th annual Pizza Barn Bowl

Red Ribbon Week / Drug awareness week comes to an end

Back Hall Mall is back, run by Peer Outreach

NH Technical Induction Ceremony / CTSO induction breakfast - big success

Disaster! Play by KRHS comes the weekend before Thanksgiving