

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC
JUNE 8, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM with video viewing.

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

Student Representative: Connor DeMasi

Excused: Krista Abear

Also present: Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, CLS Principal James Reilly and IT Director Paul Michalski

Mr. Widmer read a declaration that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order this public body is authorized to meet electronically. He said the body will utilize Google Meet and all members of the Board have the ability to communicate during this meeting through this platform. The meeting will also be video streamed for community members. Mr. Widmer provided a phone number if community members choose to participate via telephone. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. All votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. He began the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. Each member stated their presence. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert and Paul Michalski were at the SAU Office, James Reilly was at Crescent Lake School and all other participants said they were meeting remotely from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

III. HONORING OF RETIREES

The School Board could not honor the retirees this year in the traditional way so a prerecorded video was shared via streaming.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert thanked Scott Giessler for his expertise and help with video-taping special end of year events and Paul Michalski for his assistance with broadcasting our meetings.

IV. AGENDA REVIEW

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert added school facility approval, legislative update and summer food service program.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the notes from the May 11, 2020, Buildings and Maintenance Committee meeting.

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

Vote: Approved by roll call vote JC, TE, JM, JP.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020, School Board meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

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Manifest Approval: Manifest approval during the COVID-19 pandemic will be via email since we are unable to obtain signatures with remote meetings. Ms. O'Blenes said she will email this month's figure to the Board because due to an absence for a family emergency the figure is not available tonight.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Widmer provided a phone number for community members to call for public input and said emails may be sent to him or the Superintendent.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Connor DeMasi gave an outlines of the events leading up to graduation. Mr. Widmer thanked Connor for his service as student representative. He told Connor that he will be presented with a gift from the Board when he receives his diploma.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NELMS Update

KRMS Principal James Reilly said that the middle school has been working off the full NELMS report. Some specific focus areas this year include: building the schedule, teaming, and governing democratically climate culture efforts toward student choice and data compiling with hopes to improve student learning and participation. The staff utilized time during A Block which was a great opportunity for students to work across grade level and teams. Mr. Reilly said the entire team leader group attended the NELMS conference which was beneficial as they reviewed data. He said they will continue with work on general school wide expectations, curriculum and instruction and technology. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said she is very appreciative of the work the team has done to bring a culture of kindness to middle school. Also the way they are bringing together the school as a community.

IT Update

IT Director Paul Michalski talked about remote learning services. He said it went pretty well but there were a few hiccups along the way. Moving forward there are plans to make the infrastructure better looking into a better way to secure Wi-Fi access. He said hotspots and finding good cell signal in some areas was difficult. This is a big project getting Wi-Fi to these areas. During remote learning they had approximately 50 requests for hotspots. They have been working on clever badges; a free product for schools which is a powerful piece of software he is very excited about. Students will be able to log in simultaneously to their device and to their learning software with one simple scan. Mr. Michalski was pleased to announce his department is fully staffed. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said Internet access is an issue and we need connectivity through public utility but we don't know if this will come to fruition. She said she is very appreciative for all Mr. Michalski's and his departments work.

Kingswood Alumni Association Update

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert read a letter from the alumni association outlining their endeavors during the 2019-2020 school year. She recommended continued funding for 2020-2021.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's recommendation to continue funding for the KRHS Alumni Association for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote.

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COVID-19/Reopening Task Force

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said a task force has been established for the reopening of school. Because we do not know the projectory of the virus it is unknown whether it will be a traditional opening, remote learning or a combination of the two. She said 31 people are volunteering on the task force; a cross section districtwide K-12 to get input and a plan in place. There will be six subcommittees and currently there are seven meetings scheduled. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said she is very appreciative to all who are participating on the task force. A July board meeting may need to be called to listen to what the group has put together. They will try to get a feel for what we are dealing with in our local community as well as what is happening nationwide.

Graduation

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said Connor did a great job describing graduation. She will be at the Arts Center on Friday and Saturday with Principal Donnelly as they have a detailed schedule for distributing diplomas and taking student/family pictures. She is looking forward to the parade and graduation.

Wolfeboro Capital Improvement Program Committee

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said the Wolfeboro Planning Board reached out to the District regarding the GWRSD representative to the Town of Wolfeboro Capital Improvement Program Committee. They would like an annual appointment. She recommended that Kathy O'Blenes continue to serve on the committee as she is this year's representative.

Motion: To appoint Kathy O'Blenes as the District Representative to the Town of Wolfeboro Capital Improvement Program Committee for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

NH School Boards Association (NHSBA)

Mr. Widmer said the NHSBA continues to offer online webinars.

School Facility Approval

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said that the NH Department of Education does periodic reviews of facilities and KRHS was inspected on December 9 and was found to be in compliance.

Legislative Update

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said the legislature will convene June 11 at the Whittemore Center and on June 16 the Senate will convene at the State house. She summarized a couple of bills she is watching. Mr. Widmer said HB 1558 may be another unfunded mandate so it will be interesting to watch.

Summer Food Service Program

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said the food service program will continue over the summer with no interruption. End 68 Hours of Hunger will also provide meals. Ms. Cummings said Knights Against Hunger will also be distributed at the same time so there will be three different programs available to support children's nutrition over the summer. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert announced that Assistant Food Service Director Karen Michalski will be assuming the Food Service Director position due to Cindy Joseph's retirement.

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IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said congratulatory wishes to Mattie Majeski on the birth of her daughter. Condolences were also extended to the family of Bill Lander on his passing and Krista Abear on the loss of her mother. Mr. Widmer added that he received a heartfelt note from a parent of a senior who would like to recognize and thank Principal Donnelly for planning all the graduation festivities for the senior class. He has done an excellent job.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

No report

Buildings & Maintenance

It was reported that progress is being made with the tree clearing at Effingham Elementary School in preparation for the solar panels.

Finance

No report

Human Resources

No report

XI. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

Mr. Widmer read upcoming events from the agenda. The next scheduled board meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 10th in Brookfield but site and method of meeting will be determined. It was noted this evening the Board may need to meet in July to discuss the findings/recommendations of the Reopening Task Force Committee.

Public Input

None

Closing Comments by Board Members

Ms. Fenderson expressed her appreciation to IT, Food Service, teachers, support, administration, her fellow board members and the graduates for rolling with the punches. She is very proud of the District. Mr. Widmer agreed and said he could not be more proud being a member of this community. Dr. Manning thanked Connor DeMasi and said he is wearing his lacrosse shirt this evening just for him. Ms. Seibel echoed previous comments.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 8:59 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel and legal issues. Livestream stopped.

Moved: Dr. Manning – Seconded: Ms. Seibel

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Letters of retirement/resignation and staff nominations were shared with the Board.

Motion: To accept the resignation letter from Lauren Plonski with appreciation for her service to the District and release her from her 2020-2021 contract.

Moved: Mr. Eldridge – Seconded: Dr. Manning

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Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept the retirement letter from Lise Tierney with appreciation for her service to the District and release her from her 2020-2021 contract.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – Seconded: Mr. Eldridge

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Lois-Jean Stevens as Preschool Coordinator at 100% 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 Jennifer Robinson as a 100% Grade 4 Teacher at Crescent Lake School for the 2020-2021 school year. Track 2/Step 5: \$46,411.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – Mr. Eldridge

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Brendan Donahue as a 100% Social Studies Teacher at KRHS for the 2020-2021 school year. Track 1/Step 1: \$41,718.

Moved: Mr. Eldridge – Dr. Manning

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: 9:15 PM a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Livestream began. The Board had a brief discussion on where to have the August meeting if they are not allowed access to the Brookfield Town Office building.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 9:21 PM a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board 07.14.20