

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC
MAY 11, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Also present: Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, KRHS Principal Guy Donnelly and Guidance Director Lara Crane, Computer Technician Alisa Lampron

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 livestreamed for community members and Mr. Widmer also 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 Alisa Lampron were at the SAU Office 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. AGENDA REVIEW

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert added to the End of Year Events: last day of school and alternative care site.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 9, 2020, School Board meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: To approve the electronically signed manifests as presented (\$3,361,974.18).

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

Discussion: Mr. Pittman said it appears as though there may be duplicate copies in the manifest. Ms. O'Blenes said she would look into it and email the board.

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Widmer said at this time the Board will allow 15 minutes for public input via phone calls. The first caller asked how parents/community members could comment on graduation since there is not a public session listed on the agenda after the Board discusses this topic. Mr. Widmer said that emails can be sent to him or the Superintendent. The Board will try and find a solution that will work for everyone. Mr. Widmer also received an email and the person said that you are only able to login with a District email.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert read a very nice letter sent to staff from Mr. Widmer on behalf of the Board. Mr. Widmer said he is proud of everyone in the District.

2019 Risk Behavior Survey

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said the Risk Behavior Survey results were recently released. There are 90 questions; 30 cover topics on drugs and alcohol and the remaining topics include questions on dating violence, health habits, and home life. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert is going to ask the wellness committee and the administrative team to review the results and their findings will be forthcoming. She said the results were also shared with Team Wolfeboro who will look at the drug and alcohol portion as part of their mission; which is a separate organization from the District.

COVID-19/Remote Learning Update

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert reported that attendance has not fallen to a significant extent and one school has seen an increase. She said she appreciates the parent support for kids and teachers. The virtual classroom improves each week as adjustments are made across the grade levels. Clubs are happening remotely and every effort is being made to save the traditional end of year events (remotely); including summer school.

End of Year Events

Grading. Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said there will be differences this year due to the changes in instruction. A few changes at the high school include: there will be no final exams, students will have to petition for credit status and there will be no GPA assignments or rank for semesters 3 and 4. Lara Crane, KRHS Guidance Director, explained the extensive research behind this decision. To name a few, they reached out to other schools/colleges that have already been faced with grading. They also attended workshops and lectures and found many models; pass/fail was the primary language being used. They realized significant equity issues and wanted to make sure no long term harm would be done to our students for a situation they had no control over. The model the high school came up with 1) maintain current grades 2) choose credit only or 3) no credit. The issue for our high school is we have a weighted GPA ranking system which is almost impossible to convert so this is why they decided to turn off adding quality points to quarters 3 and 4. Mr. Donnelly said the conversation on equity was the topic they kept coming back to which is so hard with remote learning. He said this decision was made with empathy and fairness for all 850 students in the building. Ms. Crane said many schools and colleges are on board to hold students harmless for a situation they had no control over.

Special Events. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert read a list of upcoming events. An event list will be posted on the District website.

Graduation. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said with the restrictions on gatherings the administration started planning a virtual graduation. A survey was sent to parents and students with split feedback on a virtual graduation or planning a traditional face-to-face ceremony on August 1. There was much discussion. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert and Mr. Donnelly explained what a virtual graduation would look like. Mr. Donnelly said the idea and planning of a virtual graduation has been a team effort with great input.

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Motion: To approve a virtual graduation for the Class of 2020 scheduled for the evening of Saturday, June 13 at Castle in the Clouds.

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

Discussion: Mr. Eldridge asked about an alternative date if the weather is bad. Mr. Donnelly said the rain date would be Sunday, June 14.

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Last Day of School. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert proposed the last day of school be June 5 for seniors and June 12 for grades K-11. There were various questions from the Board on required days, hourly requirement, sending District schedules, support staff schedules as well as how the food service program will be handled. Everyone was pleased to hear the food service program will continue to operate as is, with two sites, through the summer. Support staff will also be offered professional development to meet their required hours of employment. Mr. Eldridge and Ms. Fenderson said they support an earlier closing because when nice weather arrives students may not be as focused with remote learning. It has been mentally tough on families. Mr. Widmer said he is receiving emails supporting a shortened school year.

Motion: To make June 5 the last day of school for all students grades K-12.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Alternative Care Site. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said that Huggins Hospital is using Kingswood Arts Center as an alternative care site in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency. Thankfully, they have not needed to use the facility to date but they will keep their equipment set up throughout the summer should the area experience a surge.

Proposed Board Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert presented a proposed board meeting schedule similar to the current schedule. Mr. Widmer said he feels it looks fine and if the Board needs to change it as the year progresses they will.

Motion: To move forward with the Board meeting schedule as presented for the 2020-2021 school year.

Moved: Mr. Eldridge – **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 and said Mr. Pittman attended the New Board Member Orientation seminar. Mr. Widmer is also on a NHIAA Finance Committee and he said NHIAA was fortunate to apply for the payroll protection plan and received money that will be used to pay back school spring sports programs to schools and for officials' fees that had been paid up front.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said sympathy wishes were sent to Nathan Whitworth and Mary Knudsen on the passing of loved ones. He also said Board committee assignments are done and his goal was to keep each committee to four members to avoid confusion on quorums. If a vote is taken at a committee meeting, and a visiting member of the Board is in attendance and they are not a

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member of the committee, they should refrain from voting until the topic is presented to the full board.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

No report

Buildings & Maintenance

Ms. Cardinal said Barrington Power has submitted the paperwork for interconnection to Eversource for the solar project and the District was told the rebates have been submitted as well. The committee has started working on a 5 and 10 year capital improvement plan with maintenance department.

Finance

No report

Human Resources

No report

VIII. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

Mr. Widmer said the next board meeting is scheduled for June 8th and he expects another remote meeting.

Closing Comments by Board Members

Mr. Pittman said there is a silver lining with remote meetings because he can hear what everybody says. Mr. Eldridge asked if the Board could get the usual end of year activity list. Mr. Widmer thanked everyone for input tonight. He said there was great discussion and good decisions were made.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 8:42 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: Ms. Seibel

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Letters of retirement/resignation were shared with the Board.

Motion: To retract the 2021 intent to retire letter from Billy Palmatier.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – Seconded: Dr. Manning

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

The Board received a retirement letter from Carol Viens and notices from Mary Knudsen and Diane Wheeler are “fully retiring” from their part time positions after previously retiring full time from the District. They also received resignation letters from Elizabeth Majeski and Peter Howard. All letters were accepted effective at the close of the 2020 school year with gratitude and appreciation.

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert presented a leave request to the Board.

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Motion: To approve a leave of absence without pay to Emily Hastings for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Nominations were presented to the Board.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Emma Tierney as a 100% KRMS Art Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year, Track 3/Step 1 – \$43,804. Emmanuelle McGowan as a 100% KRHS Art Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year, Track 3/Step 5 – \$46,933. Marie Reichheld as a 100% Preschool Teacher at Ossipee Central School for the 2020-2021 school year, Track 3/Step 1 – \$43,804. Elissa Quinatoa as a 100% KRHS Spanish Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year, Track 3/Step 11 – \$63,620. Jessica Reed as a 100% KRMS Language Arts Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year, Track 1/Step 3 – \$43,804.

Moved: Dr. Manning– Ms. Fenderson

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion: 9:37 PM a motion was made to end non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda item for next meeting: Year-end funding.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 9:37 PM a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board 6/8/2020