

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
ELECTRONIC MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
APRIL 9, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM and livestream began for community members.

**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, Technology Coordinator 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 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 Paul Michalski were at the SAU Office and all other said they were meeting remotely from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**II. OATH OF OFFICE**

School District Clerk Michelle Capone administered the Oath of Office to School Board members who were elected at the March 10 elections.

Mr. Widmer announced that the Board will be entering non-public session for approximately fifteen minutes. He encouraged those streaming the meeting to wait so they can view the remainder of the meeting.

**III. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**Motion:** At 7:25 pm to enter non-public session to discuss personnel.

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote

**Motion:** To accept the resignation from Jasmine Robinson, Grade 6 Teacher at Crescent Lake School, at the end of the 2019-2020 school year with appreciation for her service to the District.

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote

A nomination list of professional staff was reviewed. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert nominated the staff as presented for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Motion:** To accept the Superintendent's 2020-2021 nomination of professional staff as presented.

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote

The School Board reviewed a list of administrative nominations for the 2020-2021 school

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
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APRIL 9, 2020**

year.

**Motion:** To accept the administrative nominations as presented for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote

**Motion:** At 7:40 pm to end non-public session.

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote

At 7:41 pm livestream resumed.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

**V. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

Mr. Widmer asked for nominations for the position of Board Chair and Vice Chair.

**Motion:** To nominate Jack Widmer as Chair

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote

**Motion:** To nominate Wendi Fenderson as Vice Chair

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote

Mr. Widmer asked the Board to get their committee wishes to him and he will organize assignments before the next meeting.

**VI. AGENDA REVIEW**

Ms. Seibel asked about public comments. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said since we are livestreaming the meeting public comments will need to be sent via email to a Board member or the Superintendent and the will be incorporated into the meeting minutes.

**VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** To approve the notes from March 9, 2020 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting.

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

**Vote:** Ms. Fenderson, Mr. Eldridge and Ms. Abear voted in the affirmative.

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

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

**Vote:** Ms. Cardinal, Ms. Fenderson and Ms. Seibel abstained with all members voting in the affirmative on a roll call vote.

**Motion:** To approve the electronically signed manifests as presented (\$1,785,132.71).

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
ELECTRONIC MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
APRIL 9, 2020**

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Review of Election Results

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert reviewed the election results and said the Board had great support from the communities.

School Board Ethics

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said the School Board Member Ethics policy is signed annually by the Board when they reorganize. The next time the board physically meets the policy will need to be signed. In the meantime, Mr. Widmer took a roll call vote to approve Policy BCA-R and it was unanimous.

Amicus Brief Con Val Lawsuit

The School Board had an opportunity to review the draft brief sent by Mr. John Tobin. The Board had dialogue regarding the petition.

**Motion:** To support the Amicus Brief being filed by Contoocook Valley School District, Winchester School District, Mascenic School District and the Monadnock School District, that New Hampshire's school funding system still falls far short of compliance with the mandates of Part II, Article 83, and Part II, Article 5, of the New Hampshire Constitution and the Court's holdings in the Claremont and Londonderry cases.

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said she is impressed with the emergency operation team in the Town of Wolfeboro. If needed, the hospital will utilize several rooms at the Kingswood Arts Center for patients. She said the District will partner in other ways if needed as well. At this time it is very unclear as to when school will reopen. The Governor will have an announcement on April 17 whether or not his plan is to keep schools closed beyond May 4. It looks as though remote learning will be extended and Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said her objective is to keep kids and families safe.

Remote Learning

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said it is uplifting to see everyone working together districtwide to support students. A survey was sent to obtain feedback from parents, students, and teachers to see what we need to adjust. Remote learning has been exhausting for teachers and parents. Teachers are working very hard, spending many more hours per day planning than is typical. Parents are very supportive and complimentary of the instruction and remote services and support their children are receiving and the vast majority feel the schedule is working. Some students are doing fine and some feel it is too much. To assist the students who are having difficulty, some teachers have adjusted expectations, some are providing virtual field trips and activities, and some are providing a weekly review and small group or 1:1 instruction as part of their class time. Ms. Abear said it is important for teachers to hear that administrators and school board have faith in their professional judgment to make changes in their schedules as they feel appropriate. The survey also revealed that the only technology related needs are Wi-Fi and IT has hot spots ready to go although we are waiting on cables because the order was delivered without them. There are 33 people and we should be able to fill these needs. The administrative team will continue to review ways to modify as we continue with remote learning. Ms. Seibel said she is concerned with the mental and emotional trauma kids may face due to the pandemic. Ms. Cardinal said she has three children, one at each level, and each counselor has reached out.

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
ELECTRONIC MEETING DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
APRIL 9, 2020**

End of Year Events

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said it is unclear how long until the all clear will come to resume some normal routines. The District will not be holding the May 11 Joint Boards meeting and Dr. Manning said we still need approval for the Perkins Funds. Schools will not be able to have all graduation activities as scheduled. The administrative team will be brainstorming and discussing what ceremonies can be done differently as well as how and what end-of-school ceremonies can be held once students return to school or perhaps this summer for seniors.

State Assessments

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said New Hampshire was the last state to cancel all education assessment testing. The commissioner favors bringing back a student assessment test in the fall but discussions may be interesting because there are talks about District's submitting assessments.

NH School Boards Association (NHSBA)

Mr. Widmer said the NHSBA also signed on as a supporter to the Amicus Brief. The association is scheduling online workshops and training sessions. Mr. Widmer said he is also on the NHIAA Board and they had hoped to have shortened spring schedules but this most likely will not happen. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the high school currently has an e-sports program which was promoted through the NHIAA to make kids feel connected.

**IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Widmer said get sympathy wishes were sent to Kaela Croteau on the passing of her father and Nicole Campbell on the birth of her son.

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Academic Affairs

Ms. Cummings said the changes to the policies being presented for approval is the result of a federal audit of the food service program and they recommended that federal language be inserted into these policies. The practice remains the same but if we do not insert the language we are at risk of losing funding.

**Motion:** To approve the following policies as presented: Policy DAF, Administration of Federal Grant Funds ; Policy DID, Fixed Assets; Policy DJ, Purchasing; Policy EH-R, Data/Records Retention – for approval; Policy GADA, Employment Reference and Verification; Policy GBEC, Drug Free Workplace & Drug Free Schools.

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous roll call vote.

Buildings & Maintenance

Ms. Cardinal said the committee had hoped to meet but it did not happen. She thanked the taxpayers for their support and for the positive vote on the energy solar project.

Finance

Mr. Widmer also thanked the taxpayers for the tremendous support at the polls.

Human Resources

No report

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
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**XI. CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

Advanced Planning

Mr. Widmer said the next board meeting is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> and he expects that it will be the same format.

Closing Comments by Board Members

Ms. Seibel said it is great to be back on the Board. She said we are in very challenging times but she is grateful for the SAU, our school professionals and support staff.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

Not needed

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** 8:46 PM a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Vote:** It was a unanimous vote

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board 05.11.2020