

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MARCH 9, 2020
OSS�PEE CENTRAL SCHOOL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Members Present: Krista Abear, Timothy Eldridge, Dr. James Manning, James Pittman, Dana Streeter, Stacy Trites, John Widmer

Excused: Julianne Cardinal, Wendi Fenderson

Student Representative: Connor Demasi

Middleton Representative: Kelly Tivnan

Also present: Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Principal Andrea Fournier, Assistant Principal Meaghan Cooper, Elissa Paquette/Granite State News, 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 minutes from February 1, 2020 Deliberative Session.

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

Discussion: Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said there are a few minor changes that need to be changed.

Vote: All members voted in favor to approve the amended minutes.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 3, 2020, School Board meeting.

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

Discussion: Mr. Pittman noted two changes.

Vote: All members voted in favor to approve the amended minutes.

Motion: To approve the manifests as presented (\$4,029,854.12).

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Ed Comeau said there was a stakeholder meeting in reference to the Ossipee fire; how to go forward putting things in place to help families. He asked if affected students are still being transported to school. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said many things are in place (transportation, breakfast, lunch, fundraising for clothing, backpacks with food for weekends and counseling). Mr. Comeau suggested that someone be appointed to the committee being formed to figure out transportation, housing etc.

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Connor Demasi gave a detailed account of school events.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Principal Fournier

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said Ms. Fournier had planned to talk about the support for the families affected by the fire. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said she is excited to see what the kids have prepared tonight. Ms. Fournier began by saying the community has come together to support those affected by the fire in every way possible. There have been numerous donation sites, monetary donations and the generosity of School District's transportation department. This is how we work together as a

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community to support our families. She said one way students are supported at Ossipee Central School is the motto being Safe, Responsible, Respectable. Grade 6 works hard to honor this and some students have become peer helpers to guide younger students. Ms. Fournier introduced Grade 6 Teacher Ms. Lefebvre and several grade 6 students who presented a Science, Engineering and Energy project. They displayed pasta cars which they started from a sketch and they explained how they purchased pasta to build their cars, the building stage and race day! The students also learned about double elimination brackets all while using Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Amicus Brief Con Val Lawsuit

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert introduced John Tobin. Mr. Tobin and Attorney Natalie Laflam explained the Amicus Brief that is being submitted in support of the ConVal case. They are educating District's to see if they will sign on to show support for the ConVal case and challenge the State's funding formula. The Superior Court agreed the formula was flawed. The brief is due April 16 and they want to show how the formula affects all Districts and that tax rates vary. The legislature will need to design a remedy if ConVal is successful. The State has retreated from 2008-2018. He said there is an equalized value disparity and the teacher gap on salaries has grown. The problem is getting worse. This brief is an opportunity to inform the court this is a problem. The District would not be a party to the suit and therefore will not directly benefit. The District will benefit if the formula changes. Mr. Tobin said the goals are to 1) have the State pay for true cost of education and 2) the tax rate needs to be the same. The legislature needs to come up with a remedy. They will draft the brief by March 24 and will need feedback by April for an April 15 filing.

IT Update

Paul Michalski, District Information Technology Director, gave a detailed report on the District's infrastructure. In the past year the IT Department has worked on Wi-Fi fiber connections back to the high school. He said they are down to one firewall and backup (from 6). They have increased data speeds, installed virtualized services and have a backup and recovery system in place.

21st Century Community Learning Centers – School's Out! Survey

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert explained each year the District is required to conduct a survey of students who participate in the Ossipee Central afterschool program. The surveys are part of the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant through the NH Department of Education. It is conducted in order to adhere to the grant provisions.

Motion: To move forward with the NH Department of Education older youth and younger youth surveys for the Ossipee Central School afterschool program which is supported by the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant.

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

Vote: All voted in favor

Wood Estate Expendable Trust Fund

Motion: To approve the request to expend \$9785 from the Wood Estate Expendable Trust Fund to bring "Camp Invention" to Ossipee/Effingham and New Durham Schools for one week (5 days) this summer.

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

Vote: All voted in favor

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert briefed the Board on letters that have been sent to parents/guardians/staff. She said she is suspending field trip approval. She also asked for authority to

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close schools if COVID-19 becomes an emergency. The decision would be made in conjunction with the State Office of Health and Human Services.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to close schools if COVID-19 becomes an emergency situation.

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

Vote: All voted in favor

Legislative Update

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said there will be a crossover of bills from the house and senate on March 26th. Many bills have been found inexpedient to legislate. She said she will have more information at the April meeting.

NH School Boards Association (NHSBA)

Mr. Widmer said the NHSBA Board will be interviewing candidates to fill Board vacancies. They will also meet with representatives from the U.S. Delegation to find out what is happening from a Washington standpoint.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said get sympathy wishes were sent to Kelly Colby-Seavey and Kristin Johnson on the passing of loved ones.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Ms. Abear said the committee is presenting several policies for a first reading (DAF, DID, DJ, EH-R, GADA, GBEC). They also are presenting EEAEAA, Bus Driver Drug-Free Policy and JJIBB, Interscholastic Athletics for approval.

Motion: To adopt Policy EEAEAA, Bus Driver Drug-Free Policy as presented.

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

Vote: All voted in favor

Motion: To adopt Policy JJIBB, Interscholastic Athletics as presented.

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

Vote: All voted in favor

Buildings & Maintenance

No report. Committee will be meeting April 6.

Finance

No report but reminded everyone voting is tomorrow.

Human Resources

No report

X. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

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Public Input

Principal Fournier addressed a question regarding the Schools Out! Survey. She said there is a leadership board and an advisory board that reviews the results from the survey. The information is used for program approval and to make any changes to refine the program.

Closing Comments by Board Members

Mr. Widmer thanked Ms. Trites all she has done for the board over the years. He said it has been a pleasure working with her. Ms. Trites said this has been a great meeting to end on. First the pasta cars – so many different aspect of learning and great presentation! She said she also knows enough about IT to know we are making strides in right direction. She was pleased to hear the outcome from after school survey, the Board approving funding for STEM education from Wood Estate, and finally authorizing the athletic policy. Ms. Trites said it has been an honor and privilege and told everyone to keep up the good work. Dr. Manning thanked Ms. Trites for her service. He told Ms. Fournier that the pasta cars exhibit was cool and the kids did a great job. Mr. Eldridge thanked Ms. Fournier and staff. He said each school shows a different program. They are all fantastic and he like the fact that this presentation was hands on and it was good to see the students getting into the nitty gritty. He said the Lip Sync was fantastic and he thanked Ms. Trites for her service. He asked Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert about the overseas project of student/staff sharing. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said it has been approved and we are still on track and she is thankful we don't have teachers there now. She told how one of our classes sent messages to students abroad telling them to hang in there. Mr. Pittman talked about the Schools Out! Program and said Jen Berkowitz's enthusiasm is genuine. Ms. Abear said nothing excites her more than to see kids learn and articulate what they are learning. She said the pasta care presentation was wonderfully exciting; the awareness from students' and problem solving. She said she did not quite understand the Amicus Brief and Mr. Widmer told her the draft brief they receive before the next meeting may answer her questions. Ms. Abear said she is amazed with all the work IT has done and she feels secure with Paul Michalski as Department Head. Mr. Streeter thanked Principal Fournier, Ms. Lefebvre and the students. He said there were so many lessons put together for STEM as well as the personal skills; great to see kids working together making decisions. He thanked Ms. Trites and said the Ossipee Schools Out! Program has always been a success and it was great to see the positive survey results. Connor DeMasi said he loved the pasta cars and how the students learned from what did not work. He thanked Ms. Trites and wished her the best. Ms. Tivnan said the pasta cars were really cool. Also, this past weekend she saw the high school competition play and they did a really good job. Good luck with the competition! Ms. Cuddy-Egbert told Mr. Comeau that at the stakeholders meeting the District had three representatives; there was quite a response to the fire. She told Ms. Trites she will be missed.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 9:01 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

Motion: To allow students three students to remain at Ossipee Central School through the remainder of the school year.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

The Board received a retirement letter from Alice Bartlett (June 2020) with gratitude and appreciation for her service to the District.

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert updated the Board on a legal issue.

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Motion: 9:33 PM a motion was made to come out of non-public session.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 9:33 PM a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

XI. Vote: It was a unanimous vote

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board 4/9/2020