

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2020
KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Middleton Representative: Kelly Tivnan

Excused: Wendi Fenderson, Student Representative Connor Demasi

Also present: Superintendent Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Curriculum Coordinator Kaitlyn Hills, Elissa Paquette/Granite State News, Peter Pijoin 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 December 9, 2019 Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019, School Board meeting.

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

Motion: To approve the manifests as presented (\$3,987,976.90).

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

Vote: It was a unanimous vote

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Ancil, Town of Wolfeboro, asked if the Board has had any conversations about increasing the daily pay for substitute teachers. He said \$75 per day is low especially with the vast shortage of subs. Mr. Widmer told Mr. Ancil his concerns are valid and the Board will review sub pay as part of the budget process.

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

No report

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Kaitlyn Hills

- Math Presentation. Ms. Hills said the shifts in the math curriculum continue to be very positive. The math coach continues to work with students and also provides professional development to teachers. Ms. Hills said there is also a cohort in the Lakes Region where teachers get together four times a year. It is encouraging to see ongoing engagement with math.
- Drug and Alcohol Presentation. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said she asked Ms. Hills to look at the District's drug education program versus the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program. Ms. Hills did a side by side comparison and showed what topics LEAD program

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covers as well as the grade level the topic is being taught in the District. The programs are very similar. The goal is to provide drug and alcohol education through social-emotional learning and by making healthy choices. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the District also provides additional services for students at risk.

Ms. Abear asked Ms. Hills a math related question. She said a huge change at the middle school relates to Algebra and for students to receive credit they need to take quadratics. She asked how many students are interested in quadratics. Ms. Hills said she does not know the exact number because the middle school just sent a letter to grade 8 parents so we will know what the interest is in time for high school scheduling.

Final Budget Presentation

Mr. Widmer gave an overview of the proposed 2021 budget. The budget as a whole has a decrease of .92%. The successful negotiation of three contracts last year (teachers, support staff, and administrators) in which all three groups picked up a portion of their health insurance premiums which made a significant impact on lowering the proposed budget. Three new positions are proposed. An art teacher at the High School which has been requested now for four years. The art department continues to grow and there are students who are waiting to take art classes but can't because there are not enough options in the schedule, there are also students ready to take a third level of art but there is no class for them to take. A student support center position at the Middle School is included in the proposal. This position will make someone available to work with students to help them control behaviors so they can be successful in school. Technology continues to expand districtwide and a technology assistant is needed to keep everything up and running throughout the District. Also included in the budget is a 20% increase in the diagnostic prescriptive teaching position at Ossipee Central School and a 10% increase in the diagnostic teaching position at Crescent Lake School. Both increases are needed due to an increase in the number of special education students and the severity and complexity of their needs. Other increases: health services increased due to our contract with Huggins Hospital, snow plowing, and repair and maintenance primarily due to maintaining the busses. Mr. Widmer said the District will again present warrant articles for Capital Improvements and a Turf Field Capital Reserve.

Preparation for Deliberative Session

Motion: To adopt the 2020-2021 Budget as presented.

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

Vote: All voted in favor; including the Chair

Motion: To adopt the 2020 School District Warrant.

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

Vote: All voted in favor of the amended warrant; including the Chair

At Deliberative Session Mr. Widmer will read the State of the School address, Ms. Trites will present Article II, Ms. Cardinal Article III and V, and Mr. Widmer Article IV. If the meeting needs to be changed due to inclement weather it will be held February 3rd because it needs to be held within 72 hours.

School Calendar 2020-2021

Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert said the Town of Effingham, at the request of the District, has confirmed that they will hold voting outside of the school. The Town of New Durham's current option for voting outside the District is the fire station which can accommodate the requirements for the local elections however they would need to either get a waiver or have two different location for federal elections due to the volume. The Board of Selectmen do not wish to change the location for

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either election. The Board decided to draft a calendar for the next meeting closing schools for federal elections and remaining open for smaller primaries.

February 11, 2020 – No School Day

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert informed the Board that the union asked if February 11th could be a professional development day for teachers if we have another blizzard bag day (currently scheduled day out for staff). The teachers prefer to have the professional development day in February versus the end of the school year. The Board was in agreement with this change.

Field Trips

Egbert Superintendent Cuddy-Egbert advised the Board on upcoming overnight field trips.

Grant Audit

Ms. Cuddy-Egbert said the District had a grant audit by the NH Department of Education and everything was in top shape.

Lastly she read a letter of appreciation from Len Martin's daughter.

NH School Boards Association (NHSBA)

Mr. Widmer said he will be the District's representative to the Delegate Assembly on January 25th.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer said get sympathy wishes were sent to Jack Robertson, Bert and Carolyn Ramsey, and Patti Edson on the passing of loved ones. Congratulatory wishes were also sent to Bobby Burns on the birth of his son. Mr. Widmer also extended appreciation to everyone for the condolences sent to him on his mother's passing.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Ms. Abear said that the committee met and will present two policies for a first read at the next meeting (the athletic policy as well as the drug-free employment policy). She said the committee also addressed the late, late bus and the data does not support this bus run.

Buildings & Maintenance

No report

Finance

Nothing to add to the earlier budget presentation.

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

Mr. Pittman said he appreciates the level of order by the Board. Mr. Streeter thanked everyone for all the work they did on the budget. Ms. Abear acknowledged all the hard work by Ms. Hills on the

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math presentation as well as the drug and alcohol presentation. Also, she is pleased Mr. Anctil brought up the substitute teacher rate since it has not been addressed for years. Mr. Eldridge, Ms. Cardinal and Dr. Manning agreed with above comments. Ms. Trites shared with her fellow Board members that she will not be seeking re-election to the Board at the end of her term. She said it was a hard decision, she enjoys working with everyone, but it is time to reallocate her time. Mr. Widmer said he appreciates everything Ms. Trites has done. Ms. Tivnan said Ms. Hills presentation was interesting. She also said the middle school theater will be presenting *Homework Eats Dog* on February 14th. Ms. Cuddy-Egbert told Ms. Trites she will be missed.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 8:30 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 received retirement letters from: Kristen She (2020), Cynthia Joseph (2020) and Kathleen Roseen (2021) with gratitude and appreciation for their service to the District.

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

Motion: 8:51 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: 8:51 PM a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

XI. Vote: It was a unanimous vote

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board 02.03.2020