

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BROOKFIELD, NH TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 3, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Members Present: Tom Bickford, Brodie Deshaies, Wendi Fenderson, Stefanie King, Dr. James Manning, James Pittman, John Widmer

Middleton Representative: Kelly Tivnan

Excused: Charlene Seibel, Dana Streeter

Also present: Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Student Representative Marcella De Nitto, Student Videographer, and community members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA REVIEW

DOE Technical Advisory added as informational agenda item per Superintendent request.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 Academic Affairs meeting.

Moved: Ms. King – **Second:** Mr. Bickford

Discussion: none

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. King, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 School Board Meeting.

Moved: Dr. Manning – **Second:** Mr. Pittman

Discussion: none

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, abstain; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$1,364,545.01) and payroll (\$1,977,997.75) manifests totaling \$3,342,542.76

Moved: Mr. Pittman – **Second:** Mr. Deshaies

Discussion: none

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

PUBLIC INPUT

Richard Surette, Brookfield Selectman, welcomed everyone back to the town of Brookfield, where a board meeting has not been held since 2018.

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro resident, expressed concerns regarding legislative bill HB1679 aimed at dissolving regional and cooperative school districts.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Widmer congratulated Marcella De Nitto on her status of "Athlete of the Week" at Kingswood Regional High School. Miss. De Nitto read a summary of school events. Her report is attached.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

New KRHS Athletic Team

Superintendent Arakelian explained that the KRHS Principal and Athletic Director are requesting permission to re-establish the high school wrestling team.

Motion: To approve the request to re-establish the high school wrestling team.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **Second:** Ms. King

Discussion: Discussion included the understanding that the team would be self-funded during a five-year probationary period. There are currently 8 students who have expressed interest.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Safety and Security Task Force

Superintendent Arakelian explained that she is hosting a meeting on November 9, 2022 from 3:30 to 5:00pm at the KRHS Lecture Hall. She has invited police and fire chiefs of the district towns, Building and District Administrators, and School Board members to address school safety across the towns.

School Enrollment

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed individual school enrollment numbers as of October 1st.

Budget Timeline

Ms. O'Blenes reviewed the schedule of budget preparation dates for the upcoming budget season. She will share the schedule with the district municipalities.

Winter Weather

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed the winter weather information that will be sent to families on October 5th.

DOE Technical Advisory

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed a [Technical Advisory](#) released by the DOE on October 3rd, including guidance on health and safety policies for public schools.

NH School Boards Association

Mr. Pittman shared that he attended the NHSBA meeting on October 1st. The Monadnock Regional School District presented valuable information on their policy work. Mr. Widmer encouraged board members to consider attending the annual meeting in the future.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer shared that expressions of sympathy were sent to Robert Gagne on the passing of his mother.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee: Ms. King invited Superintendent Arakelian to introduce the proposed Meeting & Policy Review Schedule. The Superintendent explained that this schedule will empower the Board to effectively process the 1st and 2nd Reads following independent committee meetings to review and edit policies throughout the year.

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Ms. King reviewed the minor edits to policy BEDH.

Motion: To approve policy BEDH as amended.

Moved: Ms. Fenderson – **Second:** Dr. Manning

Discussion: The acceptance of written public input (to include emails) is a positive addition to the policy. Confirmation of 3 minute limit per person during public input.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Ms. King reviewed the suggested edits to policy BG for 1st Read.

Ms. King introduced new policy DFGA for 1st Read. Ms O'Blenes explained that the policy is required in order to be in compliance with the district audit and gave examples of its application.

Ms. King presented that policies BGA, BGB, BGC, BGE and BGE-R are recommended for withdrawal.

Motion: To table the withdrawal of policies BGA, BGB, BGC, BGE and BGE-R until policy BG is approved for a 2nd Read.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **Second:** Ms. Fenderson

No Discussion

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Building & Maintenance Committee:

POP Whalen MOU: Mr. Pittman reported that a meeting was recently held at the POP Whalen Ice Arena. An updated MOU has been drafted to address the concerns of the GWRSD B&M committee to remove the conditional language of the current proposed agreement offered by POP Whalen. Mr. Widmer explained that many unanswered questions remain. A November deadline has been requested for answers by the organization.

Motion: To edit language in item 4a of the proposed MOU.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **Second:** Mr. Bickford

Discussion :

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Motion: To transmit this document to the town manager of the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **Second:** (none)

Discussion : Agreement details, time frame, town participation, usage opportunities.

Motion: To edit language in section 6 and 9 of the proposed MOU.

Moved: Mr. Bickford – **Second:** Mr. Deshaies

Discussion : Specific word choice, usage of locker rooms, fees, discount rates, access to free skate time and extensive lack of information. Discussion included items 7 and 5 as well.

Vote: (none)

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Motion: To approve the proposed changes to the MOU as discussed and submit a draft document to the town of Wolfeboro.

Moved: Ms. King – **Second:** Mr. Deshaies

Discussion :

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Mr. Pittman invited Ms. O'Blenes to report on the Kingswood Arts Center lighting needs. Ms. O'Blenes reported that the auditorium lights need to be replaced for approximately \$73,000.

Motion: To approve the necessary replacement of Kingswood Arts Center lighting, funding to be determined.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **Second:** Dr. Manning

Discussion:

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Finance Committee – Upcoming meeting dates 11/16, 11/16. 11/17

Human Resources – Negotiations are ongoing

ADVANCED PLANNING

Mr. Widmer read upcoming events from the agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Surette recommended that the District request a more traditional rental agreement with the Pop Whalen Organization, as most ice hockey programs typically pay for ice time only.

Nate Williams, of Effingham, expressed his preference for Blizzard Bags over remote learning on snow days because of the challenges remote learning presents for families.

CLOSING COMMENTS

- Dr. Manning thanked everyone for coming to the Brookfield meeting, and thanked Mr. Surette for hosting.
- Mr. Widmer thanked Bella Kemper for her videography of the meeting.
- Miss. DeNitto shared some Deerfield Fair results for LRTC students.
- Ms. Tivnan encouraged everyone to come see the fall musical production of Spamalot at KRHS and to check out the KRHS news program on youtube called "Knight Watch Season 10".

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion: At 8:45 pm a motion was made to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel matters.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **Second:** Ms. Fenderson

Vote: : Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

The community members left the room. Superintendent Arakelian presented nominations.

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Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Sheryl Power as a .50 SPED Counselor at KRHS for the 2022-2023 school year. Track 3 / Step 13 \$37,791

Moved: Ms. King – **Second:** Mr. Deshaies

Discussion

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Susan Ratzke-Lang as a .50 ELO Teacher at KRHS for the 2022-2023 school year. Track 4 / Step 14 \$43,463

Moved: Mr. Pittman – **Second:** Mr. Deshaies

Discussion

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Motion: At 9:00 pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **Second:** Dr. Manning

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 9:01 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Dr. Manning – **Second:** Mr. Deshaies

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. Fenderson, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board: **11/7/2022**

Student Representative Report:
Marcella De Nitto
October 3, 2022

"Homecoming was this past Saturday and everyone who attended had a good time. Spirit week is this week and today was baggy clothes day, tomorrow is country vs. country club day. Each day we count how many people dressed up and at the end of the week, we add all the tallies together to see who won spirit week. Girls' soccer and field hockey are vying for a spot in playoffs. Boys' soccer currently holds a top spot in division II. We also recently held a club fair where upperclassmen could showcase their clubs to underclassmen in order to get more participation."