

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY  
JANUARY 24, 2023 6:00PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Due to the weather, the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was postponed from January 23 to January 24, 2023. Mr. Widmer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm in the Main Library of Kingswood Regional High School.

**Members Present:** Tom Bickford, Brodie Deshaies, Stefanie King, Dr. James Manning, James Pittman, Charlene Seibel, John Widmer.

**Members Absent:** Wendi Fenderson, Dana Streeter

**Also present:** Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION – Kingswood Regional High School, Library Conference Room**

**Motion:** At 6:05pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss legal matters.

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

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

The Board Members and Administrators moved to the Library Conference Room. Legal matters were discussed.

**Motion:** At 6:50 pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

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

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Members Present:** Tom Bickford, Brodie Deshaies, Stefanie King, Dr. James Manning, James Pittman, Charlene Seibel, Kelly Tivnan, John Widmer.

**Also present:** Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kaitlyn Hills, Student Videographer, staff, community members.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Add 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Rights Petition Warrant Article item per Superintendent request.

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**PUBLIC INPUT** - None

**NEW POSITION REVIEW**

Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Katey Hills, answered questions from the Board regarding the math coaches and Curriculum Project Manager Position. Discussion included ESSER funding, the curriculum project timeline and completion, competencies, standards, depth of knowledge, assessment, and communication with families. Ms. Hills explained that the project's purpose is to put into place the competency-based system, which will then produce the data with which to evaluate the academic progress of students. This project requires approximately one more year of implementation with the Project Manager, which is beyond the two-year availability of ESSER Funds. Mr. Widmer thanked Ms. Hills and Mr. Famulari for attending the meeting in support of the positions.

**POP WHALEN PETITION WARRANT ARTICLE**

Board discussion included the Petition Warrant Article, the town Of Wolfeboro's Warrant Article, the MOU, conflicting information, unanswered questions, and the timing of events as they occurred. Mr. Widmer expressed the Board's full support of all GWRSD sports programs, including the hockey program. Victor Drouin described the history, timeline, proposed access, and fees to use the Pop Whalen locker rooms. He encouraged the Board to support the Petition Warrant Article as presented. Linda Murray explained the financial goals of the fundraising efforts by the town of Wolfeboro for the building and the Friends of Pop Whalen for the locker rooms. Continued discussion included the definition of "lifetime" use of the facility, use by community members of surrounding towns, and whether there is a legal opinion on the Petition Warrant Article as written.

**Motion:** To release the legal opinion on the Petition Warrant Article to the public.

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

**Discussion:** In discussion, the Ms. Seibel made note that this release should be pending the approval of legal counsel. The Board agreed to amend the motion to reflect this detail.

**Motion:** To release the legal opinion on the Petition Warrant Article to the public pending approval of legal counsel.

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

**Discussion:** The need for clarity to all communities, the error in splitting the \$300,000 amount into two payments, the issue of security cameras, taxpayer payment for a municipal building available to multiple towns, availability of locker rooms without the agreement, how to vote on this item.

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

**Motion:** To leave the Petition Warrant Article as it is written with no recommendation for or against.

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

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**Discussion:** The Petition Warrant Article is not legally written, it can be rewritten at the Deliberative session.

**Vote:** Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, no; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

**FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS WARRANT ARTICLE**

**Motion:** To support the Warrant Article.

**Moved:** Mr. Deshaies - **Second:** Ms. Seibel

**Discussion:** The symbolic importance of the Warrant Article, the policy in place to prohibit censorship, the current Right To Know request regarding access to objectionable titles.

**Vote:** Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, abstain (Conflict of Interest); Dr. Manning, abstain; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

**KINGSWOOD COMPLEX SRO WARRANT ARTICLE**

Police Commissioner Steve Wood apologized for the lack of specific information in support of the SRO Warrant Article discussed at the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Principal Donnelly spoke to the value of the SRO in the building to teach safety in the classrooms, establish relationships with the student population, and provide support to the school administration. Principal Hunt explained that the SRO relationship begins with students at the elementary level, and continues during Middle School and High School to develop a strong community. Lara Crane of the Guidance Department stated that the invaluable SRO resource creates a safe, responsive community with connections and Assistant Principal Grady Charland added that the SRO program builds trust and engagement with students. Wolfeboro Police Corporal Boucher shared an example of a positive student experience that was a direct result of the relationship built by the SRO. Discussion included the data that was provided by the Police Department on offenses that have been handled by the SRO program, an invitation to training on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and how surrounding towns can support their own Elementary buildings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** At 10:00 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary  
Approved by School Board: 2/06/2023