

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
CARPENTER SCHOOL  
APRIL 3, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

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

**Also present:** Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Curriculum Director Katey Hills, Board Member-Elect Mary Shillereff, GWRSD Administrative Staff, community members

**OATH OF OFFICE**

School Board Clerk Michelle Capone administered the oath of office to G. Thomas Bickford, Dr. James Manning, Charlene Seibel, and Mary Pray Schillereff.

**NON-PUBLIC**

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

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

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

SAU Administration, School Board Members and Administrative Staff moved to the Library Media Room for the Non-Public session.

Superintendent Arakelian presented a teacher nomination.

**Motion:** To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Victoria Sandin as a 100% Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year, Track 2 Step 10.

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

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed a nomination list of professional and teaching staff. The Superintendent nominated the staff as presented for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Motion:** To accept the Superintendent's 2023-2024 nomination of professional staff as presented.

**Moved:** Ms. Seibel - **Second:** Jim Pittman

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes, abstained from voting for Michael Manning's nomination; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

At 6:21 pm the Professional Administrative Staff left the room.

Superintendent Arakelian presented a list of Administrators recommended for renomination for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Motion:** To accept the Superintendent's 2023-2024 renomination of Administrators as presented.

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

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes, abstained from voting for Michael Manning's nomination; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

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At 6:35 pm Superintendent Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes left the room during discussion of the Non-GWAT Administrator renominations.

**Motion:** To renominate the Non-GWAT Administrators for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Moved:** Dr. Manning - **Second:** Ms. Seibel

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

**Motion:** At 6:57 pm a motion was made to come out of non-public session.

**Moved:** Dr. Manning - **Second:** Ms. Seibel

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

The group resumed the public meeting in the gym at 7:03 pm. Middleton Representative Kelly Tivnan and Student Representative Marcell De Nitto joined the meeting.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **BOARD REORGANIZATION**

**Motion:** To nominate Jack Widmer as Chair. There were no other nominations.

**Moved:** Ms. Seibel - **Second:** Dr. Manning

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

**Motion:** To nominate Jim Pittman as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations.

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

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

### Committee Assignments:

1. Academic Affairs – Charlene Seibel (Team Leader), Brodie Deshaies, Dr. James Manning, Mary Schillereff
2. Buildings & Maintenance – James Pittman (Team Leader), Brodie Deshaies, Stefanie King, Dr. Manning
3. Finance – Jack Widmer (Team Leader), Tom Bickford, Jim Pittman, Mary Schillereff
4. Human Resources – Jack Widmer (Team Leader), Tom Bickford, Stefanie King, Dana Streeter
5. WCTV – Charlene Seibel

### School Board Member Ethics:

Mr. Widmer presented the School Board Member Ethics policy and asked the members to read the policy. Each member signed the policy as it was passed around.

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**CARPENTER SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

Principal Brooks, speaking for herself and fellow co-principal Mary Dolan-Meyers, welcomed the audience to Carpenter School, highlighting two of her former students, Board Member Brodie Deshaies and Student Representative Marcella De Nitto. She shared an account of recent activities and accomplishments of the Carpenter School community, to include winter fun activities, the creative artwork on display, and the arrival of spring to the area.

Principal Brooks introduced Curriculum Director Katey Hills who described the science competencies to be illustrated by the upcoming student presentation. She introduced former GWRSD student and now Second Grade teacher Danielle Rogers along with students representing all four of the second grade classes. Ms. Rogers described the process followed by the students in their exploration of observation, prediction, and evaluation of the moon as they truly became "moon fortune tellers". The students read aloud descriptions of their work and the facts they learned during the project while a handmade moon book was shown to the Board by one of the students.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

No discussion.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Described Warrant Article #9 as a means to protect books and libraries and asked the status of the letters to the Commissioner / Education Department as mandated by the passage of the Article. Mr. Widmer answered that a letter stating the positive vote will be sent out.

Rhoni Harding, Wolfeboro – Spoke against Warrant Article #9 as deceptive and providing misinformation, books containing obscenity, questioned content and curriculum, and asked how parents can opt out of materials if they don't know about the content ahead of time.

Kayla Hewitt, Wolfeboro – Welcomed people to join a newly-formed book club intended to share information in order to honest conversations about books, stating that reading the books is the solution to the problem.

Glenn Cordelli, Tuftonboro (State Representative) – Presented the Board with copies of materials claimed to be found on the Sora app and encouraged the Board to support HB 10, the Parents Bill of Rights.

Rhoni Harding, Wolfeboro – Stated that the books she has been reading are approved to be in school but have profanity in them that is too vulgar for newspaper publication, that obscenity is not protected by free speech and is illegal under federal law.

**Motion:** To extend public input by ten minutes.

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

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Pointed out that an elected official spoke to a political item, and referenced the defeat of HB 10 (similar to SB 272). She also stated that when a child goes to a teacher in confidence there is some mandatory reporting generated.

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(Unknown Name), Wolfboro – Spoke to parent rights regarding book content and the conflict presented when a student wants to be called by another name.

Glenn Cordelli, Tuftonboro – Stated that HB 10 was not defeated, but "left on the table", and that teachers are not mandated to notify parents when students confide in them.

Hudson Hammer, Tuftonboro – Attempted to read graphic material but was denied.

Kayla Hewitt, Wolfboro - Clarified that the graphic material (above) is not available at Carpenter School.

(Unknown Audience Member) – Refused to identify himself while speaking.

**Motion:** To recess.

**Moved:** Ms Seibel – **Second:**

The audience member left the floor at this time.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 School Board meeting.

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

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; [Mary Shillereff, yes] Note: Vote should have been an abstention as Ms. Shillereff did not attend the meeting ; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023 Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

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

**Discussion:** none

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

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 23, 2023 Buildings & Maintenance meeting.

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

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** Mr. Deshaies, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Jim Pittman, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes

**Motion:** To approve the accounts payable (\$1,320,649.21) and payroll (\$1,853,196.10) manifests totaling \$3,173,845.31

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

**Discussion:** none

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Superintendent Arakelian introduced Marcella DeNitto, the Student Representative to the School Board, who read an account of recent school events. Her report is attached.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent's First Year Presentation

Superintendent Arakelian presented information on her entry plan objectives, the process, document review, strategic planning, competency based education, technology goals, support staff, student behavior and mental health, student safety and security, and initiatives.

Election Results

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed the results of the March 2023 elections.

Field Trip Update

Superintendent Arakelian notified the Board that the KRHS Theater group will be attending an overnight festival in Gilford on April 7<sup>th</sup> and a group of KRHS art students will be attending an out-of-state trip to The Boston Museum of Fine Arts on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

End of Year

Superintendent Arakelian explained the calculations used to determine the last day of school, which she proposed should be Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion:** To approve the last day of school as Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed a list of traditional end-of-year events.

**Motion:** To affirm the participation of Prospect Mountain High School, Moultonborough Academy, and the Lakes Region Technology Center in the joint boards agreement.

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

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

School Board Meeting Schedule

**Motion:** To approve the 2023-2024 School Board Meeting schedule as presented.

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

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

KRHS Principal Search

Superintendent Arakelian described the process of beginning to search for a Kingswood Regional High School principal.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Widmer congratulated Marcella on her Track & Field accomplishments at the Track & Field Indoor Championships. He also shared that expressions of sympathy were sent to Lisa Goodwin and Nancy Rose and announced that an NHSBA training session will be held in the month of May, asking members to review their schedules for availability to attend.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Academic Affairs Committee:

Ms. Seibel shared that Dr. Hills reported to the committee on the replacement of a Study Hall by a film class and that additional graduation pathways are recommended. Policy IKF was discussed and revisions were recommended. Ms. Seibel presented policy JLCJA as a 1<sup>st</sup> Read for Adoption, policies EBCE-R and IKF (with edits) as 1<sup>st</sup> Reads for Revision, and policy BID as a 1<sup>st</sup> Read for Withdrawal. She requested that any edits or questions be emailed to Heather and herself prior to the next board meeting.

Building & Maintenance Committee:

Mr. Pittman reported that due to the initial lack of and subsequent election results, there was/is no necessary discussion of the Pop Whalen Petition Warrant Article. He also reviewed information on the Magic Moments playground, disposal of the Carpenter School playground equipment, the 2025 Route 28 DOT project, the Impact Fees meeting, a SAFE Grant update, the turf field discussion, and lighting rebates for the Arts Center. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> at the SAU.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Widmer thanked the voters for their support during the elections.

Human Resources Committee: no report

**ADVANCED PLANNING**

Upcoming events were read from the agenda.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

The board members commented on developmentally appropriate reading materials available to students, informed consent for parental control, thanked the community for their support of the budget and articles, expressed appreciation for the respectful engagement in civil conversations with differing opinions, thanked the Superintendent for getting to know the district, thanked Ms. Brooks and Ms. Dolan-Meyers for stepping up to lead Carpenter School, and congratulated the theater program on their accomplishments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** 8:54 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Vote:** Tom Bickford, yes; Brodie Deshaies, yes; Stefanie King, yes; Dr. James Manning, yes; James Pittman, yes; Mary Shillereff, yes; Charlene Seibel, yes; Dana Streeter, yes; John Widmer, yes

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board **5/8/2023**

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4/ 3 Student Representative School Board Report

Hello everyone,

As of right now, in the high school, our French and Spanish classes are getting ready to embark on their trips abroad. There are around 20 French students traveling to Quebec and 12 Spanish students traveling to Costa Rica. As for the Spanish students, they have the opportunity to live with Costa Ricans by each participating in individual home stays.

Additionally, testing for the seal of biliteracy is happening next week for students in French and Spanish in the highest levels. We already have ten students who have earned this honor. Last year only twenty four students in the entire state were awarded the seal of biliteracy.

As for sports, the spring season is here and all sports teams have tried out and are getting ready for their first matchups. Our baseball team also just got back from their trip to Florida where they had the opportunity to play with teams from all over the country—even as far as Alaska!

Finally, our senior scholar athletes will be recognized tomorrow in Concord by the NHIAA.