

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – TOWN OF BROOKFIELD, TOWN HALL
AUGUST 7, 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, James Pittman, Mary Schillereff, Charlene Seibel, John Widmer

Members Absent: Dana Streeter(6:06), Dr. James Manning

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

Motion: At 6:00 pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel matters.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Superintendent Arakelian presented summer hires and a resignation.

Mr. Streeter arrived at 6:06pm.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's hiring of the following individuals for the 2023-2024 school year: John Duplinsky for the position of Science Teacher at KRHS; Stacy Long for the position of Business Teacher at KRHS; Dakota Benedetto for the position of Art Teacher at KRMS; Mark Cahill for the position of Culinary Arts/Hospitality Instructor at LRTC; Scott Sawyer for the position of Work Based Learning Coordinator at LRTC; Paul Yergeau for the position of Automotive Technology Instructor at LRTC; Brianna Foy for the position of Elementary Classroom Teacher at NDS; Sasha Hoage for the position of Grade 6 Teacher at OCS; Emily McLeod for the position of SPED teacher at OCS; and Ashley Davis for the position of Elementary Classroom Teacher at TCS.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Motion: To accept the resignation of Jessica Heald.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Motion: At 6:16 pm a motion was made to come out of non-public session.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Kelly Tivnan and community members joined the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 7:00pm the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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AGENDA REVIEW

No Discussion

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 School Board meeting.

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

Discussion: none

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Mr. Widmer announced that Dr. Manning is excused from the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$5,889,878.66) and payroll (\$4,983,961.63) manifests totaling \$10,873,840.29

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

Discussion: none

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

PUBLIC INPUT

Katy Peternel, Wolfeboro - Introduced herself as a State Representative.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Authorization to Suspend

Superintendent Arakelian read the annual statement authorizing the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent to suspend students for up to ten days in accordance with RSA 193:13-I (b) and continue a suspension of a pupil for a period in excess of ten school days.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent to suspend students for up to ten days in accordance with RSA 193:13-I (b) with the suggested edit to specify the dates of the school year.

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

Discussion: Add the specific dates of the school year.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

The form was distributed for signatures.

Authorization to Sign Assurances for Grants

Superintendent Arakelian read the annual statement authorizing the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Administrator, and/or Curriculum Directors to sign the assurances for all grants and requests to and from trust funds.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the Business Administrator, and/or Curriculum Directors to sign the assurances for all grants and requests to and from trust with the suggested edit to specify the dates of the school year.

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

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Discussion: Add the specific dates of the school year.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

The form was distributed for signatures.

Ratification of Nominations

Superintendent Arakelian announced that the board members voted to approve the Superintendent's summer hires during the non-public session.

SRO MOU

Superintendent Arakelian presented the SRO MOU as edited in collaboration with the Wolfeboro Police Department.

Motion: To approve the proposed SRO MOU and allow the SAU to make suggested administrative revisions upon agreement with the Wolfeboro Police Department.

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

Discussion: Board members offered additional edits and discussion included the use of the term "MOU" throughout the document, the addition of page numbers, and "scope of assignment".

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Carpenter Playground

Superintendent Arakelian shared that the old playground structure has been removed and installation of the new playground structure is planned before the start of school. Once installed, the board will be asked to accept the "gift" of the playground at the September School Board meeting.

Food Service Costs

Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes explained that the District will need to raise the cost of student lunches this year in order to comply with a Federal mandate. The proposed pricing is \$3.00 for elementary lunches and \$3.50 for middle and high school lunches for the 2023-2024 school year. Discussion included the historical balance for unpaid lunches, reporting requirements, the application process for free and reduced lunches, the Community Eligibility Provision, the disincentive of a surcharge for online payments, and the idea of providing free lunch to all students. Ms. O'Blenes highlighted that the District does a phenomenal job of supporting families in need with programs like End 68 Hours of Hunger and Knights Against Hunger.

Motion: To approve food service pricing of \$3.00 for Elementary student lunch and \$3.50 for Middle and High School student lunches.

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

Discussion: see above

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer read thank you notes from KRHS Gold Scholar Tyler Olkkola and retiree Jeanne McEvoy. He also shared that notes of condolence and congratulations were sent out to District staff and a thank you note was sent to Dr. Peternel for his donation of a telescope.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee: no report

Building & Maintenance Committee: Mr. Pittman reported that the next meeting is scheduled for 9/26 at the SAU Building at 4:00pm.

Finance Committee: Mr. Widmer commented that the Food Service Program will be a good topic for the November finance meetings.

Human Resources Committee: no report

ADVANCED PLANNING

Upcoming events were read from the agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT

Kayla Hewitt, Wolfeboro, offered the suggestion of the ability to donate funds towards unpaid lunch balances online.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Sincere thanks were expressed to the town of Brookfield for hosting the meeting; appreciation for the ability to visit the schools in the district; compliments to the SAU/Administrators for their work to fill district vacancies; appreciation for the sharing of budget reports; and compliments to the custodial staff of the district for maintaining the buildings in the district to a very high standard.


ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 7:53 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by GWRSD School Board **09/11/2023**