

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – OSSIPEE CENTRAL SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Present: Tom Bickford, Brodie Deshaies, Stefanie King, Dr. James Manning, James Pittman, Mary Schillereff, Charlene Seibel (6:05), Dana Streeter, John Widmer

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

Motion: At 6:01 pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II to discuss personnel and student matters. The group moved to Room 135.

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

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

Ms. Seibel arrived at 6:05.

Personnel and student matters were discussed.

Motion: To accept the retirement of Cynthia Hambrook effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year with appreciation and gratitude.

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

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

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's recommendation to allow a Wakefield student to enroll at KRHS on a tuition basis.

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; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

Motion: To grant the Superintendent additional suspension authority up to and including the date of the next Board meeting regarding a current student suspension.

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

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

Motion: To not reopen the GWSSA CBA contract this year, with the understanding that the Board will prepare a financial impact analysis, a job opening analysis, and a wage assessment prior to the next CBA negotiations.

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

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

Motion: At 6:56 pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

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

Kelly Tivnan, Elliott Giessler, and community members joined the meeting in the gymnasium.

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

AGENDA REVIEW No Changes.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Principal Andrea Fournier welcomed the Board and community to Ossipee Central School for the evening. She reviewed current student enrollment and described the safe and collaborative environment in place to ensure their academic success while adhering to the school's motto to be "Safe, Responsible, and Respectful". Wildcat Pride Assemblies, the 6th Grade Spirit Squad, Social Emotional Learning and Responsive Classroom techniques all aid in accomplishing this as well. The School's Out program recently had a very successful event attended by community families that included a visit by the local fire department. Officer Llewellyn, of the Ossipee Police Department, greets students and families in the morning and her presence allows students and staff to feel comfortable with law enforcement in the building. Upcoming events include a Title 1 Night, winter concerts, as well as Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Principal Fournier introduced Mrs. Morrill and her fourth grade students who shared a math sorting activity with the School Board members along with math coaches Talia Arsenault and Christie Diamond. The math coaches and Mrs. Morrill described the Eureka Math Squared program and practices.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 2nd, 2023 School Board meeting with edits.

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

Discussion: Mr. Deshaies requested his name be added to his request during the Chairman's Report and Ms. Seibel submitted a written statement to replace the existing reference to her comment in Closing Comments.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, abstain (not present 10/2)

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 3rd, 2023 Building & Maintenance Committee meeting with edits.

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

Discussion: Discussion to be added to minutes by Ms. O'Blenes.

Vote: Mr. Deshaies, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes

Motion: To table the minutes of the October 17th, 2023 School Board meeting.

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

Discussion: Mr. Deshaies stated that the ~~discussion was~~ meeting minutes were not in compliance with policy BEDG. Discussion included the reason for the non-public meeting, whether some of the items should have been discussed in non-public, and Board member requests to change votes during the meeting. Mr. Widmer instructed Board members to contact the SAU with specific edit requests.

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$2,063,532.64) and payroll (\$2,734,576.26) manifests totaling \$4,798,108.90 for October, 2023.

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

Discussion: none

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Bob Libby, Ossipee – Read a personal statement regarding bus behavior concerns.

Terri Luaghy, Middleton (GWRSD Bus Driver) – Described support staff duties and summarized a letter sent to the SAU from GWSSA requesting a wage increase. Mr. Widmer requested that she share the information she mentioned about Conway wages with the SAU office.

Tim Bohmiller – Referenced a letter from the teacher's union in support of the Support Staff Association.

Susan Rogers, Tuftonboro – Described her education, her hourly wage, and requested the balance due to the town of Wolfeboro for the emergency services from the October 9th event.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Elliott Geissler, shared information on the conclusion of the fall sports season, winter sports tryouts, upcoming dates for the performance of Beauty and the Beast, the holiday concert, Parent/Teacher conferences, mid-term grades, and the overall positive culture of the student body.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Assessment Presentation

Dr. Katey Hills presented a Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment update celebrating early successes with improved reading for K-3 early adopters, updated K-8 math primary resources, math launch days, and targeted coaching cycles of student sense-making activities in math. She shared information and resources available on the GWRSD website and assessment data that shows both strengths and areas in need of improvement. She explained the use of ExactPath to address learning gaps, shared two books available to staff, literacy committee work, professional development, and student wellness as related to academic achievement. She included upcoming budget requests to continue with extensions of math coaches and the curriculum project manager positions for the 2024-2025 school year.

Superintendent District Update

Superintendent Arakelian highlighted the recent Safety and Security Taskforce meeting held on November 2nd, the SAFE grant Request for Proposals currently being submitted by six schools, the budget process underway, and the upcoming performance of Beauty and the Beast by the Kingswood Theater Program as submitted in her written report to the Board.

Field Trips

Superintendent Arakelian presented three out of state field trips to the Board. A KRHS Literature Class will visit the Holocaust Memorial in Boston in November, Crescent Lake School Band and Chorus students will visit the Charles Playhouse in Boston for a performance in February, and Effingham Elementary School's fifth grade students will travel to The Ecology School in Saco, Maine for three overnights in June.

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KRHS Graduation Survey Results

Superintendent Arakelian presented the results of the survey sent to KRHS Senior families which showed that the majority of respondents preferred to hold graduation outside on Alumni Field on Friday, June 14th at 6pm with a rain date of Saturday, June 15th at 10am.

Superintendent Goals

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed her proposed three-year goals of Competency-Based Learning, Safety & Security, and Long Range Planning to the Board.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent Goals as presented.

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

Discussion: Ms. King requested the incorporation of emotional and psychological safety to the second goal of Safety & Security. Mr. Bickford requested an explanation of Competency Based Education, which Superintendent Arakelian provided.

Motion: To table the Superintendent Goals.

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

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

Motion: To waive the Superintendent Evaluation and Goal Setting deadline date and to extend the deadline until the December meeting.

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

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

Portrait of a Learner Survey for Students

Motion: To approve the survey to be sent to students.

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

Discussion: Board members asked questions about survey questions, which were answered by the Assistant Superintendent.

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

LRTC Automotive Donation

Motion: To accept the donation of a vehicle to the LRTC Automotive program from Jennifer Ouellette.

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

Discussion: Ms. Seibel asked the value of the donation. Mr. Widmer explained that it is strictly a donation with no stated monetary value. Mr. Deshaies stated that an item's monetary value isn't required for the Board to accept a donation and, in his opinion, a hearing may only be required for a cash donation.

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

2023-2024 Calendar Update

Superintendent Arakelian explained that the date of the NH Primary has yet to be announced, but once it is, the school calendar will need to be adjusted in response.

Motion: To allow a change to the calendar once the date of the NH Primary is released.

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

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

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8:43pm - 5 minute recess

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

NHSBA

Mr. Widmer reported that he attended the NHSBA Delegate Assembly. Mr. Deshaies requested a list of the adopted resolutions.

Strategic Plan

Ms. Schillereff summarized the work of the team at their October 10th and October 24th workshops that included focus on academic achievement, parent, family, community communication and engagement, creating a sense of belonging, and student wellness and nutritional security. An analysis will be performed to identify important stakeholders to be included in gathering information and a community survey will be created and distributed. There were no questions from the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee:

Ms. Seibel described the process of approving policies. She noted that revisions agreed upon by ~~concession~~ consensus at the 10/2 meeting were not incorporated into the policies presented at tonight's meeting.

Motion: To adopt policies ACN and FF with suggested edits.

Moved: Ms. King – **Second:** Ms. Seibel

Discussion: Ms. King requested notification time change from 2 weeks to 1 month, strike "endeavor to", and remove "if feasible" from policy ACN. Discussion included legal ramifications of changing notification times and language to support building flexibility while supporting nursing mothers, and the understanding that this new policy is a priority for adoption.

Motion: To adopt policies ACN and FF with suggested edit to strike "if feasible" in policy ACN.

Moved: Ms. King – **Second:** Ms. Seibel

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

Ms. Seibel presented policies DAF, DDA, DDA-E, DFA, DFE, DH, DIA, DIAA, DIE, DJE, DKB, DM, DN, EH, EH-R, EHAB, and IIC as 2nd Reads for Revision.

Motion: To approve revised policies DAF, DDA, DDA-E, DFA, DFE, DH, DIA, DIAA, DIE, DJE, DKB, DM, DN, EH, EH-R, EHAB, and IIC as 2nd Reads.

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

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

Ms. Seibel presented policies AEB, AEB-R, DFF, DFF-R, and JHBB as 2nd Reads for Withdrawal.

Motion: To withdraw policies AEB, AEB-R, DFF, DFF-R, and JHBB as 2nd Reads.

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

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

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Building & Maintenance Committee:

Mr. Pittman reported on the recent video conference with TRANE regarding the 2024 ESSER III project. He reviewed the estimated numbers for each project school, equipment lead time, and final drawings that need to be submitted for approval. The next video conference with TRANE will be on November 21st, and the next committee meeting will be December 7th at 4:00pm at the SAU. Mr. Deshaies asked if the Board will vote on the plan before it goes to the state (Mr. Widmer confirmed a previous vote had taken place) and if the Wolfeboro Heritage Commission will be involved in Carpenter School renovation plans (Ms. O'Blenes confirmed contact with the town of Wolfeboro). Ms. Schillereff applauded the work of all parties to improve the air quality with HVAC in the building.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Widmer reminded the Board that the Finance Committee meetings are scheduled for November 14th, 15th, and 16th at Crescent Lake School at 6:00pm.

Human Resources Committee:

No report.

ADVANCED PLANNING

Upcoming events were read from the agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

CLOSING COMMENTS

Charlene Seibel and Jack Widmer statements:

CS – It is my understanding that the October 9th event required our staff and students to disassemble....

JW – That's not on the agenda today.

CS – Mr. Chair, I believe the production of Beauty and the Beast was very much on the agenda, and I'm providing information based on constituents' concerns...

JW – I would prefer that you keep your comments strictly on the agenda.

CS – Okay, May I proceed?

JW – Okay, last time, go ahead. Again, I think we need to have the School Board Association come back in and explain the proper protocol and also the proper position of School Board members on what their responsibilities are. And, I think we should have them come back in and talk about that again. Thank you.

CS – Thank you for that reminder. I think that in the effort to serve transparency, it is important for the public to know that based on a public statement at the October 2nd meeting, I think that there was a reasonable expectation that various student activities and programs were not going to be disrupted and I was made aware that our staff and students had to disassemble the set that they had built and that there were secret service agents in the Arts Center on Wednesday and Thursday of October 4th and 5th during rehearsals. I heard from various constituents that this was unnerving and alarming to some students who texted their concerns to their families. And speaking only as an individual board member because, per our Board Code of Ethics, the Board has not voted to designate me as a spokesperson, as someone who has appreciated the rich history of the theater program at the high school, I am just wanting to apologize to the families and staff who were blindsided by this disruption. I feel that it was very appropriate and I do not feel that when unanticipated consequences interfere

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with what our students have been working hard to produce I do not think that that is something that as a Board member that I am comfortable with keeping silent about.

Ms. Schillereff thanked Dr. Hill, the math coaches, and the students for a fun math activity and for the assessment presentation shared tonight by Dr. Hills.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 9:30 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, yes; Dr. Manning, 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: **12/6/2023**