

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUFTONBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 5, 2024 6:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Widmer called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:01pm in the Library Media Center of Tuftonboro Central School.

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

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

Motion: At 6:02pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II to discuss personnel and student matters.

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

Personnel and student matters were discussed.

Motion: To accept, with sincere appreciation, the retirement letter from Sue Ouellette, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **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.

Motion: To approve the postponement of the retirement of James Meyers to the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

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 6:38 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. King, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Widmer, yes

The Board members returned to the cafeteria. Student Representative Elliott Giessler, Middleton Board member Kelly Tivnan, a student videographer, staff, and community members joined the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA REVIEW

Addition of one donation per Superintendent request and addition of policy DBJ (Transfer of Appropriation) for reconsideration per Ms. Seibel request.

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TCS STUDENT PRESENTATION

Principal Small welcomed everyone to Tuftonboro Central School and provided highlights of activities in the building to include a description of the four school wide habits reflected in the culture of the school every day, student success skills, and school clubs. She described the staff's dedication to meet the needs of students in many different ways and stated how proud she is to work with them every day.

Principal Small turned the floor over to Dr. Katey Hills who introduced Miss. Thompson and her Fifth Grade students who would demonstrate Social Studies competencies for the Board. The two students read descriptions of their Native American Culture research process and shared maps they created for the project.

REVIEW NEW BOARD MEETING RULES

Superintendent Arakelian read policy BEDDA – Board Meeting Rules of Procedure & Order aloud.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 School Board meeting with edits.

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

Discussion: Ms. Seibel requested to change "legal matters" to "current affairs". Mr. Bickford read a prepared statement regarding RSA 91-A:2, II-a II, explaining his "no" vote followed by the request to change it to "yes" during the meeting, suggesting rewording edits.

The statement is attached to these minutes.

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

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 School Board meeting.

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

Discussion: Ms. King noted a word addition on page 6.

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

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Academic Affairs Committee meeting as presented.

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

Discussion: none

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

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Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 18, 2024 Buildings & Maintenance Committee meeting as presented.

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

Discussion: none

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

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$2,251,102.45) and payroll (\$856,124.53) manifests totaling \$3,107,226.98.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – **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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Elliott Giessler, announced the start of a new semester and reviewed the upcoming athletic schedule of games. He described the "Empty Bowls" fundraising event coming up on February 9th, music program events, the spirit week events, the upcoming "Shakespeare in Love" performance, and Arts Night on March 21st.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Strategic Plan Presentation – Superintendent Arakelian introduced Mike Baker, a parent representative on the Strategic Planning team, who described the process he has been involved in as a member of the team. He enthusiastically described the process as outstanding and positive, offering his willingness to answer any questions by the Board. Superintendent Arakelian reviewed the members of the Strategic Planning team and highlighted the process as it transpired from August to January, resulting in the four focus areas of Student Wellness, A Culture of Belonging, Family & Community Communication and Engagement, and Academic Achievement. The Board discussion included the use of ESSER III funds in the plan, an equity audit, communication, the plan's timeline, and the idea to delay approval to allow more time for the Board to consider the plan.

Motion: To have the Strategic Plan team meet one more time.

Moved: Ms. King – **Second:** none

Motion: To postpone the approval of this plan until the March meeting.

Moved: Ms. King – **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

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Deliberative Review – Superintendent Arakelian reviewed the warrant as updated with new vote counts and School Board candidates following the Deliberative Session on February 3rd.

Charitable Donations – Superintendent Arakelian introduced Principal Kathy Tetreault of LRTC and Jeremiah Burke of Goodhue Boat Company who offered to share information about the planned Marine Technology Program.

Motion: To accept the boat donation as offered by Goodhue Boat Company.

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

Discussion: Discussion included the \$10,000 estimated value of the boat, how the small engines program began, the projected timeline and the pathway of the program, that the boat donation would be used right away by students in the small engines program, and how to introduce younger students to CTE at LRTC. Ms. Tetreault commended Jen French for her contributions to this plan.

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

Superintendent Arakelian read an Arts Center Donation Proposal from The Jakob Daiber Memorial Arts Foundation offering to donate \$5,000 to be used to purchase two display cases for the Kingswood Arts Center in memory of a family member.

Motion: To accept the \$5,000 donation for the art cases.

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

Discussion: Money left over following purchase of the cases could be used for freight.

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

Transfer of Appropriation – Superintendent Arakelian read a Request for a \$50,000.00 Budget Transfer from Private Tuition HS to Consult Services Elem and for a \$40,000.00 Budget Transfer from Private Tuition HS to Public Tuition Middle submitted by Kelly Mask, Director of Special Education.

Motion: To approve the Budget Transfer as submitted.

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

Discussion: none

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee

Ms. Seibel asked the Board members to offer their suggested revisions to the policies up for 1st Read. Discussion included explanation of new policies EEA-R, FE, and IKL for 1st read for adoption regarding the NHSBA legal references, timeline of updates, and cross-referenced policies. Ms. King questioned the purpose of policy FE and suggested the need for more clarity; Mr. Deshaies spoke in favor of sending it back to Academic Affairs to be incorporated into policy FA. Ms. King suggested increased teacher responsibility in managing AI in policy IKL. Mr. Deshaies spoke against placing more expectations on staff outside of the recommendations of NHSBA and CBAs. Ms. Seibel pointed out that the policy includes teacher guidance in items 2 and 3.

Ms. Seibel invited discussion on policies BEDG, EEB, FA, GBCD, IHBA, JLC, and KCD for 1st read for revision. Discussion included the 24 hour notice required for change in athletic transportation as it relates to student safety in policy EEB.

Ms. Seibel read policies FB, FBB, FBC, FBE, FBF, FEA, GBCD-E, GCG-R2, IHBA-R, AND IHBA-R for 1st read for withdrawal.

Motion: To reconsider policy DBJ.

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

Discussion: Ms. Seibel proposed changing the dollar amount to \$5,000 as originally presented to the Board to follow the NHSBA sample policy. Mr. Widmer suggested it is too low a number and could hold up the process. Ms. King suggested that it would help the Board to understand the budgeting process.

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

Motion: To approve policy DBJ changing the threshold from \$20,000 to \$5,000 as the NHSBA sample policy recommends.

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

Discussion: none

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

Building & Maintenance Committee

Mr. Pittman shared that the next meeting is on April 18th at 3:00pm at the SAU office.

Finance Committee

Mr. Widmer asked for community support for the budget by voting in March.

Human Resources Committee

Nothing to report.

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CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

Mr. Widmer read the upcoming activities from the bottom of the agenda.

Public Input

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 9:13 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board: **4/01/2024**

24.02.05 Notes on Meeting Agenda

Below are some questions I have about the following agenda topics: corrections to 10/17 minutes, strategic plan, boat donation, and transfers. None of my questions are earth shattering, but I'm hoping having them a little ahead of time will be helpful to the secretary and the presenters so that all of us will feel we are on the same page.

See you tonight.

Tom

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES (Discussion/Actions)

A. October 17, 2023 – School Board Meeting

In reviewing the minutes of the Oct. 17 meeting I see that I didn't do a very good job of explaining myself. You'll see below the statute RSA 91-A:2, II-a ll that sets out how to record objections. After the RSA, offer examples of how I think the record of objections should look in both the nonpublic and public minutes of the meeting. The last thing I offer is an explanation of why I voted "no" then changed my vote to "yes" upon realizing that the motion I was voting on was to return to the public meeting, instead of whether to seal the minutes as I was expecting.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

OBJECTION TO DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC SESSION

RSA 91-A:2, II-a. If a member of the public body believes that any discussion in a meeting of the body, including in a nonpublic session, violates this chapter, the member may object to the discussion. If the public body continues the discussion despite the objection, the objecting member may request that his or her objection be recorded in the minutes and may then continue to participate in the discussion without being subject to the penalties of RSA 91-A:8, IV or V. Upon such a request, the public body shall record the member's objection in its minutes of the meeting. If the objection is to a discussion in nonpublic session, the objection shall also be recorded in the public minutes, but the notation in the public minutes shall include only the member's name, a statement that he or she objected to the discussion in nonpublic session, and a reference to the provision of RSA 91-A:3, II, that was the basis for the discussion.

In the nonpublic session minutes.

Mr. Bickford objected to the discussion of the Behavioral Intervention Team and the School Resource Officers in the nonpublic session because the topics did not fall within the exceptions of RSA 91-A:3, II, (c) and (i), concerning personnel and legal matters.

Public Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bickford objected to the discussion of two topics in the nonpublic session that did not fall within the exceptions of RSA 91-A:3, II, (c) and (i), concerning personnel and legal matters.

Discussion: Mr. Bickford explained that he objected to the non-public status of the meeting and then requested that his vote be changed to "yes".

Discussion: Mr. Bickford explained that he initially voted "no" because he thought the motion was to seal the nonpublic minutes that was consistent with his objection to discussing those topics in the nonpublic status meeting, but then, when he realized the motion was to return to public session, he requested that his vote be changed to "yes".

X. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Strategic Plan Presentation (Information/Discussion/Action)

Provide a glossary of educational terms used in the plan and/or simplify the language so that someone with an 8th grade education can understand the strategic plan. (An eighth grade education level was what newspapers aimed for in their writing so as many people as possible could understand them and want to read them.)

Provide appendixes containing completed surveys and compilations of data from the surveys.

C. Charitable Donation (Information/Discussion/Action)

Goodhue Hawkins

Model Year: 2000

Make: Cobalt 240

Serial Number: FGE6413B000