

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CRESCENT LAKE SCHOOL
MARCH 11, 2024 6:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Widmer called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:05pm in Room 141 of Crescent Lake School.

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

Not Present: Dana Streeter

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

Motion: At 6:06pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II to discuss personnel matters.

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. Widmer, yes

Personnel matters were discussed.

Motion: To accept, with sincere appreciation, the retirement letter from Karen Michalski, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – **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. Widmer, yes.

Motion: To accept, with sincere appreciation, the resignation of Heather Drenning at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

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. Widmer, yes.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Vaughn Beckwith for the position of Athletic Director for the 2024-2025 school year.

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. Widmer, yes.

Motion: To approve the proposed expansion of the current Assistant to the Athletic Director contract.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, no; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Ms. King, no; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Widmer, abstain. Motion Passes 5-2-1

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Motion: At 6:58 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. Widmer, yes

The Board members resumed the meeting in the dining room of the school. 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

No discussion.

CLS STUDENT PRESENTATION

Principal Beaverstock welcomed the School Board, Administration, and community members and turned the presentation over to Dr. Katey Hills. Dr. Hills introduced Brittany McGuire and 4th Grade students who shared their science projects representing imaginary animals and their habitats. Principal Beaverstock also summarized the connection between the writing process that began in February and the student testing currently underway. School Board members viewed the diorama projects and asked questions of the students.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 31, 2024 School Board hearing.

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

Discussion: Confirmation of motions on page 3.

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

Motion: To postpone the minutes of the February 3, 2024 School Board meeting until the April meeting to allow for edits.

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

Discussion: Record votes on Warrant Articles at the end of the meeting.

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

Motion: To postpone the minutes of the February 5, 2024 School Board meeting until the April meeting to allow for edits.

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

Discussion: Request to include Mr. Bickford's email/statement regarding the October 17, 2023 minutes. Suggested edit by Mr. Deshaies to include "Post the Strategic Plan on the District website" on page 6 of minutes.

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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. Widmer, yes

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$1,745,358.40) and payroll (\$2,879,800.02) manifests totaling \$4,625,158.42.

Moved: Mr. Pittman – **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. Widmer, yes

Mary Schillereff will sign tonight's manifests in Dana Streeter's absence.

PUBLIC INPUT

State Representative Glenn Cordelli, Tuftonboro – Expressed his distress regarding the organizational order of the topics included in the Strategic Plan, the policy pushing of the Academic Affairs Committee, the absence of enrollment assessment in the Strategic Plan, and the plan for ESSER III fund allocations.

Ruth Clough, Tuftonboro – Expressed concern that Board Member Charlene Seibel does not thoroughly read through the list of policies up for consideration.

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Defended the policy function of the Academic Affairs Committee and requested that some ESSER III funds be used to address learning loss for 2021/2022/2023 graduates who suffer "failure to launch" after the pandemic.

Juanita Hill, Tuftonboro – Commented on the Strategic Plan timeline, live stream of the School Board meetings, an equity plan on the website, DEI training and terms, and the need to increase transparency and trust.

Kayla Hewitt, Wolfeboro – Expressed support of and appreciation for the Strategic Plan.

Guy Pike, Tuftonboro – Commented on the April 1st date for the upcoming School Board meeting.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Elliott Giessler shared information on winter and spring athletics, sports playoffs, the theater program's regional event, the upcoming Kingswood Arts night, and the upcoming chorus and band competition. He shared that there is one month left of the academic quarter and AP students are preparing for exams. He encouraged everyone to vote in tomorrow's election.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent District Update – Superintendent Arakelian shared that Kati Preston will be visiting Kingswood Regional High School on Thursday, March 21st to speak on the Holocaust, that Effingham Elementary School has secured a SAFE Grant award to improve the safety and security of the school, and an update on the Portrait of a Learner initiative.

Strategic Plan – Superintendent Arakelian explained with Academic Achievement first, the focus areas of the plan were in no particular order initially, but have been reordered and a graphic has been added to show the continuous movement of the plan. She expressed sincere appreciation and gratitude for all of the people who were involved in the process.

Motion: To approve the Strategic Plan as presented.

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

Discussion: Update the number of survey responses on page 3, language in "layman's terms", attachments, the framework and nature of the plan, community input that was part of the process, the ability to revisit and adjust the plan over time.

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

ESSER III Learning Loss – Superintendent Arakelian explained that 20% of ESSER III funds must be used to address learning loss. The overwhelming response to a community survey seeking input was in support of summer program access to all students. The plan for the funds will support transportation, supplies, technology, professional development, training, summer programming and materials, onboarding for online platforms, safety materials, and Strategic Plan activities. Discussion included how transportation provides access to school, supporting the executive functioning challenges of recent graduates due to the COVID19 pandemic, the Adult Education program, and supplementing versus supplanting programs.

Transfer of Appropriation – Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes explained the specific process followed for all appropriations transfers, step by step. Superintendent Arakelian read a request for a \$6,070.30 Budget Transfer from Pre-School Summer Program to Psychological Testing KRMS submitted by Kelly Mask, Director of Special Education and explained the purpose for the transfer.

Motion: To approve the Budget Transfer as submitted.

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

Discussion: Request for available balance and a brief explanation of each account involved.

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

Wood Estate Application – KRHS World Language Teacher Julie Garry introduced herself and thanked the Board for their time and also for approving the trip to Paris in 2025. She presented an overview of the trip details including the different competencies related to history, social studies, language, art, and culture. She shared that the cost of the all-

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inclusive trip for each of the twenty students and three chaperones will be \$3,717. Ms. Garry has submitted an application to request \$10,000 from the Wood Estate to offset some of the expense for the student trips. Ms. O'Blenes explained that each year there is a different dollar amount from the Wood Estate available for consideration. This year, for example, there is \$20,697 available. There is a \$7,000 award for the World Language trip to Spain, an anticipated \$10,000 award for KRHS graduate scholarships, and an anticipated request for Camp Invention remaining. Ms. O'Blenes will not know the exact amount available for consideration in 2024-2025 until July 1, 2024. Ms. Garry's request would be drawn from the 2024-2025 year.

Motion: To expend \$7,000 from the Wood Estate Trust Fund for the approved 2025 Paris trip.

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

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

School's Out Survey – Superintendent Arakelian presented the School's Out Survey for approval.

Motion: To approve the School's Out Survey as submitted.

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

Discussion: The survey is required by the grant.

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

CTE Agreement – Superintendent Arakelian presented the 4 year CTE Agreement, summarizing the rules and explaining that it was drafted by attorneys.

Motion: To allow the Board Chair to sign the CTE Agreement.

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

Discussion: Joint Board meeting in May is usually the only time the advisory committee meets, tuition, enrollment, revenues.

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

Field Trip Update – Superintendent Arakelian shared six upcoming overnight/out-of-state field trips planned for KRHS and LRTC groups, noting that this item will become part of the Superintendent District Update for future meetings.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Widmer shared a card received from the student group, Knights Against Hunger, thanking the Board for their support of their program. He also shared that a thank you letter was sent to Goodhue Boat Company for their recent donation and expressions of sympathy

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were sent to several members of the district. He presented a gift to Board member Stefanie King and thanked her for her service to the District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee

Ms. Seibel presented policies EEA-R and IKL as 2nd Reads for Adoption.

Motion: To adopt policies EEA-R and IKL as 2nd Reads.

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. Widmer, yes

Ms. Seibel presented policies BEDG, EEB, FA, GBCD, IHBA, JLC, and KCD as 2nd Reads for Revision.

Motion: To approve revised policies BEDG, EEB, FA, GBCD, IHBA, JLC, and KCD as 2nd Reads.

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. Widmer, yes

Ms. Seibel presented policies FB, FBB, FBC, FBE, FBF, FEA, GBCD-E, GCG-R2, IHBA-R, and IHBA-R as 2nd Reads for Withdrawal.

Motion: To withdraw policies FB, FBB, FBC, FBE, FBF, FEA, GBCD-E, GCG-R2, IHBA-R, and IHBA-R as 2nd Reads.

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. Widmer, yes

Building & Maintenance Committee

Nothing to report.

Finance Committee

Mr. Widmer notified the Board of the issue of impact fees with the Town of Wolfeboro and will report on an answer at the next meeting.

Human Resources Committee

Mr. Widmer informed the Board of the GWSSA request to change the substitute pay rate to \$125 for all support staff positions, to include bus drivers, custodians, and kitchen staff.

Motion: To approve the \$125 rate for all support staff substitutes, to include bus drivers, custodians, and kitchen staff.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **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. Widmer, yes

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CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

Public Input

Katy Peternel, Wolfeboro – Described the large number of bills being presented in Concord, explained how some of these bills are related to education, asked how to participate in the survey discussed tonight, explained some recent court rulings related to property taxes and the change in the State's adequacy rate.

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Commented on the SWEPT fund, and the disparity between wealthy and non-wealthy towns.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 9:11 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Ms. King – **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. Widmer, yes.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary
Approved by School Board: 4/1/2024