

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD - KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JUNE 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:00pm in Room #134 of Kingswood Regional High School.

Members Present: Tom Bickford, Brodie Deshaies, Dr. James Manning, Guy Pike, James Pittman, Mary Schillereff, Charlene Seibel, Dr. Elizabeth Sheckler, Dana Streeter

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:** Dr. Sheckler

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

Personnel matters were discussed.

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nominations of the following staff:

Dawn Alexander-Tapper – 100% Teacher, Salary \$92,220 Track 4/Step 14

Amy Bacon – 100% Teacher, Salary \$57,006 Track 1/Step 9

Marie Dean – 50% Teacher, Salary \$32,311 Track 3/Step 10

Robert Kelley – 100% Teacher, Salary \$80,184 Track 3/Step 13

Kimberly Morrisette – 50% SPED Teacher/50% Interventionist, Salary \$62,719
Track1/Step10

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

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

Motion: To accept the resignation letters of Aaron Bronson and Marie Sanborn effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

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

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

Motion: To deny Kathleen Gilbert's grievance and grant the authority to the Superintendent to send a response reflecting the decision per the GWSSA CBA.

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

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

Motion: At 6:40pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

Moved: Dr. Manning – **Second:** Dr. Sheckler

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

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The Board members resumed the meeting at 7:00pm in the Lecture Hall of Kingswood Regional High 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 led by Mr. Pittman.

AGENDA REVIEW

Add a donation item per the Superintendent.

Add communication protocol and procedure per the Board Chair.

LAKES REGION TECHNOLOGY CENTER STUDENT PRESENTATION

Principal Tetreault welcomed the School Board, Administration, and community members to the meeting, thanking everyone for attending. She highlighted the Joint Boards dinner held in May, end-of-year celebrations, new course offerings, the tours that have been offered to incoming students from around the District and from sending schools, and she described the success of students who have earned a very impressive 468 college credits during this year. Dr. Katey Hills introduced Marketing teacher Jannine Cameron and her students who would demonstrate the competency of entrepreneurial operation in a school setting, highlighting their understanding of entrepreneurship, finance, management, and marketing and sales. The students shared their DECA experiences and presented information on their School Based Enterprise, the school store known as Pro Depot.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024 School Board meeting with edits.

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

Discussion: Ms. Seibel recommended edits regarding the August meeting (pg. 5). Dr. Sheckler corrected her vote on the request for an additional teacher at NDS which should have been an abstention (pg. 8).

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

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 28, 2024 Human Resources Committee meeting as written.

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

Discussion: None

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Mr. Streeter, abstain (not present at the meeting)

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 28, 2024 Finance Committee meeting as written.

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

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Discussion: None

Vote: Mr. Pike, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes; Dr. Sheckler, abstain (not present at the meeting)

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$1,873,181.74) and payroll (\$4,043,866.77) manifests totaling \$5,917,048.51.

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Diane Harrington, Tuftonboro – Described her employment history with the District and thanked the Board for their consideration, the importance of support staff, and the increase in the cost of living. She asked the Board to consider supporting the retention bonus in order to show their value and appreciation of support staff.

Terri Laughy, GWSSA President – Thanked the Board for hearing the GWSSA bonus request, stating that the GWRSD support staff are the best, acknowledged multiple requests for increased compensation to offset the increasing cost of living, that their wages are based on numbers from four years ago, that there are an unprecedented number of openings and staff are leaving at a rapid rate, and that GWSSA has asked for a bonus for all support staff members.

Steve Johnson, Wolfeboro – Asked why there is no Baccalaureate this year, who was responsible for the decision to remove it from the graduation plans, and why there is only one color of graduation gowns. Superintendent Arakelian answered that high school administration has not heard back from leaders in the community who might be available to host the event.

Jaclyn Bergeron, Wolfeboro – Confirmed that the Baccalaureate will be held at 2pm KRHS on June 9th.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Elliott Giessler, announced that the sports season is almost done with a softball game and a track meet left on the schedule. The KRHS band will play at the senior banquet and the chorus will perform at graduation. End-of-year activities include scholar awards, senior banquet, student council elections, Baccalaureate, senior awards, senior finals, graduation, and the last day of school.

Mr. Deshaies thanked Elliott for his representation on the Board, congratulated him on being a Gold Scholar as well as his plans to attend the University of Southern Maine, and presented him with a token of appreciation from the Board.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent District Update – Superintendent Arakelian thanked Principal Tetreault, Ms. Cameron, and her students for their informative presentation. She announced the upcoming rollout of ParentSquare as a new platform to communicate with the school community and the use of Qualtrics to present data as part of the Strategic Plan. She also offered an update on several upcoming out-of-state and overnight field trips.

KRHS Alumni Association – Kristie Smith thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. She discussed Alumni Association's scholarship program, the golf tournament fundraiser, the corn hole tournament, and the Association's resources and support available to alumni. She thanked the Board for their continued support.

August Board Meeting Date – Superintendent Arakelian offered that the SAU has attempted to find an acceptable date for the August Board meeting. Ms. Seibel restated the motion as approved at the May meeting, adding that she is available from August 1st to August 10th.

Motion: Not to meet during the August date and allow the SAU to coordinate a date that works for all school board members within the months of July or August.

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

Discussion: July 22nd is a potential meeting date.

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

Authority to Hire – Superintendent Arakelian explained the importance of the hiring process during the summer months.

Motion: To grant the superintendent the authority to hire between the June 3rd meeting and the next Board meeting.

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

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

Budget Transfer Request – Superintendent Arakelian presented the budget transfer request from Effingham Elementary School.

Motion: To authorize the transfer of funds in the categories as presented.

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

Discussion: Confirmation that this will not create shortfalls in any category.

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

YRBS 2023 Results – Superintendent Arakelian summarized the results of the 2023 YRBS survey for KRHS, which can be found on the GWRSD website under the "About" tab.

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Discussion included the categories of questions, how the information is reported, the analysis of the data results, and the planned usage of the information available.

Donations – Superintendent Arakelian notified the Board of a \$3,000 donation to the Kingswood girls' hockey team from the Friends of Kingswood Hockey and a \$15,000 donation to the Kingswood wrestling team from the Belisle Family Foundation.

Motion: To accept the \$15,000 donation to the Kingswood wrestling team from the Belisle Family Foundation.

Moved: Mr. Pike – **Second:** Dr. Sheckler

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Deshaies shared sympathies that were sent on behalf of the School Board and reviewed available dates for the NHSBA School Board training that will be held in August or September. He also directed Board members to encourage the community to bring complaints directly to the Superintendent, to limit the use of emails that involve the full Board, and to respond to SAU requests for information in a timely manner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee – Ms. Seibel reviewed a summary of the work accomplished by the committee and the School Board to update 141 policies during this school year, described the continuation of work planned for the upcoming school year, and the long range plan going forward to maintain a current catalog of policies. Mr. Deshaies provided an overview of the review process followed by the committee and announced how the first and second read functions will be executed at the meetings.

Building & Maintenance Committee – Mr. Pittman shared that the June meeting was cancelled as there were no action items to discuss. The Trane contracts are signed and related activities are moving forward on schedule.

Finance Committee – Mr. Deshaies presented the Freedom Tuition MOU.

Motion: To approve the Freedom Tuition MOU as presented and authorize the Board Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

Moved: Dr. Sheckler – **Second:** Dr. Manning

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

Mr. Deshaies also shared an update on the ESSER III process and confirmed for the Board that a letter was sent out to the towns regarding the Wolfeboro Impact Fees.

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Human Resources Committee – Dr. Manning shared that on May 28th the committee motioned to bring the GWSSA retention bonus request to the full Board for discussion at tonight's meeting. He explained that the Unreserved Fund Balance monies are not available for use at this time, asking Superintendent Arakelian for further explanation. Superintendent Arakelian explained that the Unreserved Fund Balance information is not available until the end of July or the beginning of August, that there is not an approved warrant article for the use of such funds for the payment of a retention bonus, that the taxpayer community is accustomed to receiving the unspent funds in return at the end of the school year, and that there is a risk for the association to ask for such a retention bonus going into a negotiation year. Superintendent Arakelian expressed appreciation for the support staff members of the District. Discussion included the ESSER III funds that have been allocated, the merits of the bonus request, the total cost of \$800,000 of the request, the timing of the finalization of the Unreserved Fund Balance number, unencumbered funds to date, and the current economic conditions that are affecting everyone.

Dr. Manning presented the GWEA FMLA Addendum for consideration. Superintendent Arakelian read the proposed addendum and provided an explanation for the Board.

Motion: To approve the GWEA FMLA Addendum as written.

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

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

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

Public Input

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 8:42 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board: **7/09/2024**