

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – BROOKFIELD TOWN OFFICE
JULY 9, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:10 pm in the Brookfield Town Office.

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 6:10 pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (b) to discuss personnel matters.

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

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 ratify the Superintendent's hiring of the following staff:

Rhonda Campbell – DPT, Salary \$92,220 Track 4/Step 14
Judy Moore – 100% Teacher, Salary \$49,621 Track 2/Step 3
Vickie Carr – Reading Specialist, Salary \$80,184 Track 3/Step 13
Heather Drenning – 100% Music Educator \$70,393 Track 3/Step 11
Taylor Leitao – 100% Teacher, Salary \$46,159 Track 1/Step 1
Morgan Little – 100% Teacher, Salary \$46,159 Track 1/Step 1
Jenna Roy – 100% Teacher, Salary \$62,719, Track 1/Step 10

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

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 letter of Anika Hastings effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Moved: Mr. Pike – **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

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's request for an additional classroom teacher at Crescent Lake School to accommodate increased enrollment.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – **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

Motion: At 6:34 pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

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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

The Board members resumed the meeting at 7:00 pm in the Brookfield Town Office. Middleton Board member Kelly Tivnan, Curriculum Director Dr. Katey Hills, a WCTV videographer, staff, and community members joined the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Seibel.

AGENDA REVIEW

No Discussion.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 3, 2024 School Board meeting as written.

Moved: Ms. Schillereff – **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

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$840,826.50) and payroll (\$4,139,256.79) manifests totaling \$4,980,083.29.

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

None

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:02 pm Mr. Deshaies opened a public hearing for discussion of a donation by the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center of a playground structure for the Magic Moments preschool program. Kathy Tetreault, principal of LRTC, and Teri Ann Cox, Executive Director of the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center, presented information on the specifications of the structure, the collaborative process of the project, and the benefits for the children in the program, the students who participate in careers in education, and potentially the workforce. Installation of the structure in August is ideal in order to avoid any conflicts with building activities during the school year.

Motion: To accept the donation of a permanent playground structure for the LRTC Magic Moments preschool program by the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center, valued at \$43,955.

Moved: Ms. Schillereff – **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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Mr. Deshaies closed the public hearing at 7:09 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Authorization to Suspend

Superintendent Arakelian presented 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, or designees, 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.

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

The form was distributed for signatures.

Authorization to Sign Assurances for Grants

Superintendent Arakelian presented 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, Dr. Caroline Arakelian, the Assistant Superintendent, Heather R. Cummings, the Business Administrator, Kathy O'Blens, and/or the Curriculum Director, Dr. Kaitlyn Hills, to sign the assurances for all grants and requests to and from trust funds.

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

The form was distributed for signatures.

Authority to Hire – Superintendent Arakelian reviewed the importance of the hiring process during the summer months between School Board meetings and requested the authority to hire between the July and September meetings.

Motion: To grant the Superintendent the authority to hire between the July and September Board meetings, except for any new grant-funded positions, which shall be presented to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

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

Discussion: Discussion included the nature of grant-funded positions, hiring authority for grant-funded positions, the Curriculum Project Manager position that was removed from

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the FY24/25 budget, the one year, grant-funded, Assessment Coordinator position, and the assessment goals of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Pittman felt the spirit of the request as presented by the Superintendent was to entrust the Superintendent to complete summer hiring without impeding the sensitive timeframe of the hiring process. Dr. Sheckler felt that Ms. Seibel's modified motion encompassed a broad range of restrictions that would certainly impede hiring.

No Vote Taken.

Amended Motion: To grant the Superintendent the authority to hire between the July and September Board meetings, except for school administrative unit assistants, including Assistant Superintendents, and Business Managers that the Superintendent must nominate to the School board for appointment to those positions pursuant to New Hampshire Dept. of Education, Administrative Rule Ed 302.1(j).

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

Discussion: Further discussion included clarification of the amended motion, the purview of the Board's decision-making, the presentation by Dr. Hills at the Ossipee Board meeting in November that detailed the need for the Curriculum Project Manager position, that grant-funded positions are not paid for with taxpayer money, and the perception that there is an interest in blocking the Assessment Coordinator position.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Pike, yes; Mr. Pittman, no; Dr. Manning, no; Ms. Seibel, no; Mr. Streeter, yes; Ms. Schillereff, no; Dr. Sheckler, no; Mr. Deshaies, abstain (stated he was acting as mediator)

Motion Fails: 3, yes; 5 No; 1 Abstain

Motion: To grant the Superintendent the authority to hire between the July and September Board meetings, except for any new grant-funded positions, which shall be presented to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

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

Vote: Mr. Pike, no; Mr. Bickford, no; Mr. Pittman, no; Dr. Manning, no; Ms. Seibel, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Ms. Schillereff, no; Dr. Sheckler, no; Mr. Deshaies, abstain (stated he was acting as mediator)

Motion Fails: 2, yes; 6 No; 1 Abstain

Motion: To grant the superintendent the authority to hire between the July and September Board meetings.

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

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

Motion Passes: 8, yes; 1 no

2024-2025 School Calendar

Superintendent Arakelian requested the Board's support in honoring Juneteenth as a holiday on the 2024-2025 School Calendar, moving the last day of school to June 18, 2024 in response to inquiries and requests from the community.

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Motion: To add Juneteenth as a holiday on the 2024-2025 GWRSD School Calendar and move the last day of school to June 18th, 2025 as presented.

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

Discussion: Discussion included snow days, counting instructional hours, Juneteenth as a federal/state holiday.

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

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 \$3.25 for elementary lunches and \$3.75 for middle and high school lunches for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion: To approve food service pricing of \$3.25 for Elementary student lunch and \$3.75 for Middle and High School student lunches for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Discussion: Discussion included government reimbursement and universal lunch. Mr. Pike asked if the needs of students who identify as animals were considered in the pricing. Mr. Deshaies responded that the District does not feed students animal food, there are no litter boxes in the schools, students are not trying to eat cat or dog food, and there are no students dressed as animals in the schools. Mr. Pike stated that his sources claim otherwise.

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 announced the October 19th date for the Delegate Assembly, encouraging all members to attend. Ms. Schillereff read a resolution for consideration and asked for the Board's official support of the resolution:

"NHSBA supports that the state and federal government seek and provide viable, sustainable, permanent funding to provide a school breakfast and lunch at no cost to students."

Motion: The GWRSD School Board supports the NHSBA resolution that the state and federal government seek and provide viable, sustainable, permanent funding to provide a school breakfast and lunch at no cost to students.

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

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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Motion: The GWRSD School Board elects Mary Schillereff as its representative to the Delegate Assembly to be held on October 19, 2024.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee: no report

Building & Maintenance Committee: Mr. Pittman reported that the TRANE project is ongoing and there is no B&M meeting scheduled yet. Discussion of lead testing included the availability of all required reports on each school's website.

Finance Committee: no report

Human Resources Committee: no report

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

Public Input

Kim Keliher, Wolfeboro – Thanked the Board for their support of the HVAC project at the schools and asked if the price increase includes breakfast, which it does not.

Ruth Clough, Tuftonboro – Asked the School Board for its position on males who identify as females and use the female bathrooms. Superintendent Arakelian responded that students are not asked to identify their gender and are not blocked from using any bathroom.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved: Ms. Seibel – **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: **09/09/2024**