

**GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER**  
**SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm in Room 136 of the Kingswood Arts Center.

**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 6:01 pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (b) to discuss personnel matters.

**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  
Personnel matters were discussed.

**Motion:** To ratify the Superintendent's hiring of the following staff:

Jennifer Ouellette – 100% Teacher, Salary \$80,184 Track 3/Step 13

Shannon Cloos – 100% Social Worker, Salary \$80,184 Track 3/Step 13

Chloe Mouradian – 100% SPED Teacher, Salary \$56,026 Track 3/Step 7

Cara Parsons – 100% Teacher \$53,603 Track 1/Step 8

Melanie Hodge – 100% Teacher, Salary \$62,719 Track 1/Step 10

Amanda DiBiasie – 100% School Counselor, Salary \$53,316 Track 3/Step 6

Aidan Sisters – 100% SPED Teacher, Salary \$80,184 Track 3/Step 13

**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:** To accept with appreciation and regret the retirement letter of Karen Libby effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

**Moved:** Ms. Seibel – **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 approve the one-year unpaid leave of absence for Sylvie Essex per the CBA.

**Moved:** Dr. Sheckler – **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

**Motion:** At 6:20 pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

**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

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The Board members resumed the meeting at 7:00 pm in the auditorium of the Kingswood Arts Center. Middleton Board member Kelly Tivnan, Student Representative Jack Larson, and community members joined the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Sheckler.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

No Discussion.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the July 9, 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 minutes of the July 16, 2024 School Board meeting as written.

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

**Vote:** Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pike, abstain (absent from meeting); Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, abstain (absent from meeting); Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Streeter, abstain (absent from meeting); Mr. Deshaies, yes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the July 29, 2024 Buildings & Maintenance Committee meeting as written.

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

**Vote:** Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pike, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the August 13, 2024 Academic Affairs Committee meeting as written.

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

**Vote:** Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes

**Motion:** To approve the accounts payable FY2025 (\$9,040,497.00), accounts payable FY2024 (\$1,194,887.62), and payroll (\$2,475,867.70) manifests totaling \$12,711,252.32.

**Moved:** Mr. Streeter – **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

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent's District Update

Superintendent Arakelian reported on the opportunities provided by the ESSER III grant funding this summer and acknowledged the dedication and combined efforts of the SAU team who worked to support the success of the programs. She reported on the progress of the grant-funded HVAC project that is nearing completion at Carpenter School, Crescent Lake School, and Ossipee Central School. She also updated the progress of the strategic plan goals and strategies across the focus areas as well as next steps.

District Communication

Superintendent Arakelian shared the District's new communication platform known as *Parentsquare*, which is in use as a single, comprehensive tool to engage with families and schools throughout the District. A parent advisory group is planned and there will also be a communication survey in early October.

Introduction of New Student Representative

Superintendent Arakelian introduced Jack Larson as the new Student Representative to the School Board for the 2024-2025 school year. Jack shared a friendly description of himself as well as a comprehensive update of activities and events taking place at the High School. Superintendent Arakelian thanked Jack for his excellent report, which is attached.

New Durham Playground

Superintendent Arakelian shared news that the New Durham PTO is ready to begin construction on the new playground.

**Motion:** To allow the NDS PTO to begin construction of a new playground as presented.

**Moved:** Dr. Sheckler – **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

Magic Moments Playground

Superintendent Arakelian shared news that the Magic Moments Playground is complete and ready for the Board's official acceptance.

**Motion:** To accept the playground donation from Magic Moments for the Careers in Education program at Lakes Region Technical Center.

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

**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

Stay Open Plan

Superintendent Arakelian presented the District's updated Stay Open Plan, as required for the ESSER III Funds grants, which included guiding principles, pathways for learning, COVID-19 guidelines, mitigation strategies, special considerations, and social-emotional health and wellness.

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**Motion:** To approve the Stay Open Plan as presented.

**Moved:** Dr. Sheckler – **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

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Deshaies shared that sympathies were sent on behalf of the School Board to staff members of the District. Dr. Manning shared news of the passing of former Superintendent Jack Robertson and a moment of silence was observed in his honor.

Mr. Deshaies announced that the NHSBA Delegation registration is now open. Ms. Schillereff will represent the GWRSD at the October Delegation.

Dr. Manning proposed amending SB Policy BDE to re-establish the Public Relations Committee.

**Motion:** To establish an ad hoc committee of Board Members to study the benefits of adding the Community Relations Committee back as a standing committee of the GWRSB.

**Moved:** Mr. Bickford – **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: Ms. Seibel explained the NHSBA attorney's recommendation to waive policy BG in order to approve three policies affected by new Title IX regulations.

**Motion:** To waive the second meeting limitation in order to take immediate action to adopt a new policy or revise an existing policy as allowed in School Board policy BG: Board Policy Process.

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

**Discussion:** The affected policies can be revisited at the next Academic Affairs committee meeting if necessary.

**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:** For emergency approval of School Board policies AC: Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity, ACA: USDA Nondiscrimination Statement, and ACAC: Title IX Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination.

**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

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Building & Maintenance Committee: Mr. Pittman reported on water test reports from Second Wind. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm at the SAU office. Ms. Seibel requested that an independent third party test the turf field for toxicity.

**Motion:** That the Buildings & Maintenance Committee instruct the SAU to hire an independent third party company specializing in testing of artificial turf fields for toxins to provide the SAU with a comprehensive report of what specific toxins are currently in our artificial turf field at Kingswood Regional High School.

**Discussion:** Ms. Seibel will send Ms. O'Blenes information she finds on companies who are available to provide this service. Board members expressed support for exploration for additional information on which to base future decisions regarding replacement.

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

**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

Finance Committee: Mr. Deshaies reported that there will be Finance Committee meetings in November.

Human Resources Committee: Dr. Manning reported that the HR is involved in negotiation meetings at this time.

## **CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

### Advanced Planning

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

### Public Input

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Thanked the Board for their vote to test the turf field.

Christina Swanberry, Wolfeboro – Asked what the District's plan is for testing for the EEE virus and asked if *Parentsquare* will be used for all urgent alerts.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** At 7:56 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

**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

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board: **10/07/2024**