GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – EFFINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OCTOBER 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:02 pm in the gymnasium of Effingham Elementary School.

Members Present: Tom Bickford, Brodie Deshaies, Dr. James Manning, Guy Pike, James Pittman, Mary Schillereff, Charlene Seibel, Dr. Elizabeth Sheckler
Also present: Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, and Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes

Motion: At 6:03 pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (b) to discuss personnel and RSA 91-A:2, I (a) legal matters.
Moved: Dr. Manning – **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. Deshaies, yes
The group moved to Room #104. Mr. Streeter joined the session. Personnel and legal matters were discussed.

Motion: To approve the 4 year contract for the Governor Wentworth Administrative Team as presented.
Moved: Ms. Schillereff – **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

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of James Welsh as a 100% teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. Salary $49,044 Track 1/Step 4
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

Motion: At 6:22 pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.
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

The Board members resumed the meeting at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium of the Effingham Elementary School. Middleton Board member Kelly Tivnan and community members joined the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Pittman.

AGENDA REVIEW
Action added to Budget Timeline agenda item per Chair Deshaies. Ms. Seibel requested discussion of mold contamination of Pop Whalen locker rooms that are used by GWRSD student athletes. Discussion determined it was not applicable as an agenda item at this meeting. Dr. Sheckler requested that the School Board policies proposed for withdrawal on the agenda be removed.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Principal Morrissey welcomed everyone to the school and thanked the School Board for the card that was recently received in the mail. She introduced Director of Curriculum Dr. Katey Hills, math coach Christie Diamond, and several 3rd grade math students. Dr. Hills explained the math competencies to be demonstrated. Ms. Diamond described her role as a math coach and introduced the three students who also introduced themselves, described the upcoming math activity, and distributed subitizing playing cards to the members of the Board. Subitizing is the ability to quickly and accurately determine the number of items in a set without counting them. The Board members commenced with the interactive math activity and experienced a "gallery walk" to learn about different methods of math problem solving.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024 School Board meeting as written.
Discussion: None
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

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 Academic Affairs Committee meeting as written.
Moved: Ms. Schillereff – **Second:** Ms. Seibel
Discussion: Ms. Seibel stated that she felt that the minutes should reflect that the committee did not adequately discuss the policies for withdrawal. Mr. Deshaies replied that the minutes simply reflect that the withdrawals were discussed at the meeting and that a motion was made to move the policies to the full Board for 1st read.
Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, abstain

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 24, 2024 Buildings & Maintenance Committee meeting as written.
Discussion: None
Moved: Dr. Manning – **Second:** Mr. Bickford
Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Mr. Pike, abstain (not present)

Motion: To approve the accounts payable ($3,516,563.23) and payroll ($1,901,418.84) manifests totaling $5,417,982.07.
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

PUBLIC INPUT

Barry Ennis, Tuftonboro Resident – Read a statement describing letters submitted by Mr. Deshaies to local newspapers regarding issues in local towns and questioned Mr. Deshaies' ability to act as Chair of the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Jack Larson was unable to attend in person tonight. Superintendent Arakelian shared a video recording of "Coffee & Connections with the Superintendent" that featured Jack reading his report, which is attached to the end of these minutes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's District Update

Superintendent Arakelian referred to the video recording where she reviewed the District's open house events and the development of a parent advisory group. She encouraged the community and GWRSD staff to participate in a communication survey that is available on the new ParentSquare platform. She reviewed the October 1st enrollment numbers for the District by school and as a cumulative number.

Winter Weather

Superintendent Arakelian shared the District's Inclement Weather Procedures, noting that the District will continue to hold "traditional" snow days when in person learning is canceled.

Budget Timeline

Superintendent Arakelian explained the process of planning the District's budget which involves meetings with principals, administrators, and the Finance Committee. The preliminary budget adoption is planned for December 2nd, 2024, followed by the final budget adoption planned for January 6th, 2025.

Motion: To approve a location change of the January 6, 2025 School Board meeting from KRHS to the Kingswood Arts Center.
Moved: Dr. Manning – **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

New Durham Playground

Superintendent Arakelian requested that the School Board accept the donation of the New Durham playground from the NDS PTO.

Motion: To accept the playground donation from the New Durham PTO.
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

James Foley Freedom Run: Crowdfunding Request

Superintendent Arakelian described the annual James Foley Freedom Run event and Crowdfunding request.

Motion: To approve the crowdfunding campaign led by Jennifer Murray do Carmo for the 10th Annual James W. Foley Freedom Run.
Moved: Mr. Pike – **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

Acceptance of Grant Funds
Superintendent Arakelian presented information on the NHDES grant program for reimbursement of lead remediation costs to schools.

Motion: To accept and expend the grant funds from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund and enter into a grant agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; and identify Superintendent Caroline Arakelian as the authority to sign the grant documents on behalf of the governing body.
Moved: Mr. Pike – **Second:** Mr. Bickford
Discussion: Dr. Sheckler asked how lead remediation projects are identified and requested that New Durham School be included in this work, stating that lead levels at NDS are unacceptable. Superintendent Arakelian explained that information on lead levels and required remediation is available on all school websites and that Second Wind presented information at the July 29th Buildings & Maintenance Committee meeting.
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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Deshaies shared that sympathies were sent on behalf of the School Board to staff members of the District and a thank you was sent to the Wolfeboro Area Children's Center for their Magic Moments Playground donation.
Mr. Deshaies announced that Ms. Schillereff will no longer be able to attend the NHSBA Delegation and offered to attend in her place.

Motion: To appoint Brodie Deshaies to represent the District at the annual NHSBA Delegation.
Moved: Dr. Sheckler – **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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee: Ms. Seibel reviewed the meeting and policy review schedule for the year. She requested discussion on the policies presented for adoption for 1st read. Dr. Sheckler noted that Policy ILBAA should be revisited in a year as competencies change. Ms. Seibel requested discussion on the policies presented for revision for 1st read. Dr. Sheckler asked when policy JLDBB is due for its biannual review. At Dr. Sheckler's request, the Board informally agreed to table the five policies proposed for withdrawal until the next committee meeting.

Building & Maintenance Committee: Mr. Pittman reported on the September 24th committee meeting with guests from Effingham and Tuftonboro who discussed a generator upgrade and the Effingham/Freedom MOU. He also shared an update on the TRANE project and delays sustained due to damaged equipment delivery. He also discussed turf toxicology reports that have been shared by a company that has tested turf materials

similar to that of the Kingswood athletic turf. Ms. Seibel will contact Wendy Thomas, State Representative District 12 for further information on turf testing and provide such information to the SAU office.

Finance Committee: Mr. Deshaies referred to the budget timeline that was previously discussed and reminded the Board of the November 12, 13, 14 Finance Committee meetings, as well as the December preliminary and January final adoption hearings.

Human Resources Committee: Dr. Manning reported that the negotiations are ongoing with GWAT and GWSSA. He explained that GWAT stands for Governor Wentworth Administrative Team and GWSSA stands for Governor Wentworth Support Staff Association.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning
Mr. Deshaies read the upcoming activities from the bottom of the agenda, making special note that the November School Board meeting is on a Thursday night.
Mr. Pittman stated that the GWRSD School Board previously voted to refer to Columbus Day as Indigenous People's Day and, as a result of legislation, schools who receive state funding are now required to refer to it as Columbus Day.

Public Input
Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Thanked Dr. Sheckler for her statements on lead in water, thanked the Board for moving forward with turf field testing, and encouraged the Board to closely follow the ConVal case regarding removal of state aid.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 8:38 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.
Moved: Dr. Sheckler – **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

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine L. Lagace

School Board Secretary
Approved by School Board: **11/7/2024**