

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
JANUARY 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm at the Kingswood Arts Center. Mr. Deshaies explained his remote attendance via telephone and named Mr. Pittman as Acting Chair in his in-person absence.

Members Present: Tom Bickford, Brodie Deshaies (virtual), Guy Pike, James Pittman, Mary Schillereff, Charlene Seibel, Dr. Elizabeth Sheckler, Dana Streeter (6:09pm)

Members Absent: Dr. Jim Manning

Also present: Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Middleton Representative Kelly Tivnan, Student Representative Jack Larson (6:50pm), Administrators, and community members

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Pittman.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Pittman opened the FY2026 Budget Adoption Hearing. Superintendent Arakelian explained the Power Point presentation that reviewed the budget process for the creation and revision of the proposed budget. She reviewed enrollment numbers and explained trends seen in the schools across the District. She reviewed general fund budget items, proposed new staff requests, revenue, the default budget, debt service, and Warrant Articles. She reviewed the two Collective Bargaining Agreements that have been negotiated and highlighted important dates to remember.

Mr. Pittman opened the floor for Board member discussion.

Board members raised questions on the proposed Student Wellness Coordinator position, the replacement vehicle item, the new Collective Bargaining Agreement, transportation expenses, and revenue.

Mr. Pittman offered the floor to the public for discussion.

Rhonda Martin, Wolfeboro – Asked if the Student Wellness Coordinator position is mandated by the Strategic Plan, the criteria for the position, and the salary for this position.

Michelle Condon, Wolfeboro – Asked how to redistribute funds to address specific needs like curriculum improvement and noted that curriculum assessment is still noted as “coming soon” on the website.

Glenn Cordelli, Tuftonboro – Asked how many new positions were added with ESSER money that are now in the general budget.

Steve Johnson, Wolfeboro – Asked for a job description and proposed salary for the proposed Student Wellness Coordinator position. He also asked the ratio of administrators to teachers in the District and if administration salaries increase proportionately to teacher salaries.

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Motion: To approve the FY2026 Budget as presented.

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

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

Motion Passes: 6, yes; 2, no

Mr. Pittman thanked everyone for their participation and closed the public hearing at 7:12pm.

AGENDA REVIEW

No discussion.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Dr. Katey Hills welcomed math teacher, Mr. James Sitomer, with students who shared data analyzation competencies. Students shared and described slides of their statistical studies and described what it is like to be on the math team at the High School.

Mr. Pittman recessed the meeting for a short break from 7:24 to 7:30pm.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 2, 2024 School Board meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, 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 December 12, 2024 Building & Maintenance Committee meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Pike, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024 Non-Public School Board meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, 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 (\$3,342,315.85) and payroll (\$3,175,109.20) manifests totaling \$6,517,425.05.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, 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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PUBLIC INPUT

Glenn Cordelli, Tuftonboro – Commented on the “woke” direction of the Strategic Plan, citing specific terminology examples, and stated that the budget should contribute to improving competency.

Kayla Hewitt, Wolfeboro – Thanked the Board for their work on the Strategic Plan.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Jack Larson presented his monthly summary of Kingswood Regional High School activities, which is attached to the end of these minutes, and thanked the Board for the opportunity to share a student voice at the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent’s District Update

Superintendent Arakelian shared the District update to include the formation of the Parent Advisory Group as part of the Family and Community Engagement focus area of the Strategic Plan and announced preparations to begin the search for an Assistant Superintendent as Heather Cummings is retiring at the end of this year. She thanked Ms. Schillereff and Dr. Sheckler for serving on the search committee.

Budget Transfer Request

Superintendent Arakelian presented a budget transfer request on behalf of the Director of Special Education. The request was to transfer \$5,000.00, \$57,820.00, and \$25,000.00 from the Tuition Private Elementary line to the Consult Services-Elem line for the payment of services.

Motion: To approve the budget transfer request as presented.

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

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

Preparation for Deliberative Session

Regarding Article 1 of the Warrant Article; Mr. Pittman announced that he will not run for reelection to the Effingham Board position; Mr. Streeter stated that he has not decided if he will run for reelection to the Ossipee Board position; and Mr. Deshaies confirmed that he will run for reelection to the At Large Board position.

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 2 aloud. The vote on this article was taken during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 3 aloud.

Motion: To support the GWAT Collective Bargaining Warrant Article (3) as written.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 4 aloud.

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Motion: To support the Special Meeting Warrant Article (4) as written.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 5 aloud.

Motion: To support the GWSSA Collective Bargaining Warrant Article (5) as written.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 6 aloud.

Motion: To support the Special Meeting Warrant Article (6) as written.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 7 aloud.

Motion: To support the Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article (7) as written.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 8 aloud.

Motion: To support the Turf Field Capital Reserve Warrant Article (8) as written.

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

Discussion: Ms. Seibel shared her concerns regarding conflicting information about the need to replace the turf, testing results, reuse of infill, and sod replacement as an option to explain her negative vote.

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

Motion Fails: 4, yes; 4, no

Mr. Deshaies pointed out the history of 15 years of support by the Board and expressed disappointment over the divided vote.

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 9 aloud.

Motion: To support the District Repairs & Improvements Warrant Article (9) as written.

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

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

Superintended Arakelian read Article 10 aloud. No vote required.

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed information on the proposed Universal Meals Warrant Article, explaining three threshold options for consideration: 185%, 200%, or 300% of the federal poverty rate. Ms. O'Blenes explained the application form, shared examples of poverty rates, and explained that it is not possible to accurately estimate the total cost of this

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proposition. The Board expressed support for this warrant article and discussed the different options.

Motion: To draft a Warrant Article to increase the eligibility for free school meals to students within the district by aligning the income threshold to 200% of the poverty rate.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies - **Second:** none

Motion: To draft a Warrant Article to increase the eligibility for free school meals to students within the district by aligning the income threshold to 300% of the poverty rate.

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

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

Point of Order – Mr. Deshaies requested a second vote to reflect Mr. Bickford’s support of the proposed article.

Motion: To accept the article in total based on the previous motion.

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

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

Board members volunteered to present Warrant Articles:

- Article #2 – Mr. Deshaies
- Article #3 and #4 – Dr. Manning (offered by Mr. Deshaies)
- Article #5 and #6 – Mr. Streeter
- Article #7 – Mr. Pike
- Article #8 – vote failed, not presented
- Article #9 – Mr. Pittman
- Article #10 – Ms. Schillereff

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Mr. Deshaies shared that a thank you letter was sent to the Governor Wentworth Arts Council for their donation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee:

Ms. Seibel presented policies EBCH, JJIC, JLP, and KFD as 2nd Read for adoption, requesting suggested edits by the Board.

Motion: To adopt policies EBCH, JJIC, JLP, and KFD as 2nd Reads.

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

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

Ms. Seibel presented policies IHBH, IHBI, IHCD, IFAA, IJL, IJOA, and IKB as 2nd Read for reaffirmation, requesting suggested edits by the Board.

Motion: To reaffirm policies IHBH, IHBI, IHCD, IJAA, IJL, IJOA, and IKB as 2nd Reads.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Pike, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes;

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Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Ms. Seibel presented policies AC, ACAA, ACAB, DAF, EH, IKF, JIE, JJIB, JLCJA, JLF, BBBF, IHCA, IHD, IIB, IJ, IJO, IJOC, IK, and IKAA as 2nd Read for revision, requesting suggested edits by the Board.

Motion: To approve revised policies AC, ACAA, ACAB, DAF, EH, IKF, JIE, JJIB, JLCJA, JLF, BBBF, IHCA, IHD, IIB, IJ, IJO, IJOC, IK, and IKAA as 2nd Reads.

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

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

Ms. Seibel presented policies ACAC, GBGBA, IE, IHAN, IMG, JLCEA, and KED as 2nd Read for withdrawal.

Motion: To withdraw policies ACAC, GBGBA, IE, IHAN, IMG, JLCEA, and KED as 2nd Reads.

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

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

Building & Maintenance Committee:

Mr. Pittman summarized the December 12th meeting attended by a 2nd Wind representative who reported on water quality in all District buildings and by Athletic Director Vaughn Beckwith who presented information on the turf field. During the committee meeting the committee supported holding a public hearing to discuss and potentially approve a turf field project.

Motion: To hold a public hearing at the February 3, 2025, School Board meeting to consider the expenditure of funds from the Turf Field Capital Reserve for the replacement of the turf at the Kingswood Complex, with presentations from district staff and Shaw Sports Turf representatives.

Out of order discussion included further testing, attempts to contact sources at UNH, turf disposal costs, and the need for a hearing on the turf field.

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

Discussion: The scope of the motion, the location of the hearing, if it were to be held.

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

Motion Passes: 5, yes; 3, no

Finance Committee:

Mr. Deshaies reported that the budget process is complete with the exception of the Deliberative Session.

Human Resources Committee:

Mr. Deshaies reported that all negotiations are complete.

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CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

Public Input

None

Motion: At 9:16 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: Ms. Seibel – **Second:** Mr. Pike

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

The Board and Administration moved to room 136. Personnel and legal matters were discussed.

Motion: To accept the retirements of Tresa Livernois, Linda Perrow, and Sharon Stackhouse with gratitude.

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

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

Motion: At 9:32 pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 9:33 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, 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: **2/03/2025**