

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – TUFTONBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm at Tuftonboro Central School.

Members Present: Tom Bickford, Brodie Deshaies, Guy Pike, James Pittman, Mary Schillereff, Charlene Seibel, Dr. Elizabeth Sheckler, Dana Streeter (6:05pm)

Members Absent: Dr. Jim Manning (joined via telephone @ 6:41pm)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Sheckler.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Deshaies opened the Turf Field Capital Reserve Fund Request Hearing at 6:03pm. Ms. Seibel requested to postpone the hearing or remove the action item, but Mr. Deshaies explained that the hearing met all requirements to continue as planned. Superintendent Arakelian thanked the Board for their patience while contributors added materials to the presentation during the week.

Vaughn Beckwith, Athletic Director, described the evaluation of the condition of the turf field, similar turf fields in use at other NH schools, the maintenance required for its upkeep and game use, the volume of use the field endures each year, and the potential maintenance challenges that would likely be required by a replacement sod field. Alex Dria, Athletic Trainer, explained inconclusive research on turf field injuries and turf field consistency versus sod field inconsistency. Coaches Cory Woodsome, Shane Flood, Alicia Cushing, Kyle Diamond, and Booster Club President Jeremiah Burke spoke in unanimous and overwhelming support of replacing the current turf field with a new turf field to continue the quality of play enjoyed by the athletes over the past 15 years.

(Dr. Jim joined the meeting at 6:41pm via telephone.)

Mr. Beckwith reviewed the proposed timeline, completion, and cost of replacement of turf materials (natural and artificial options), addition of shock padding, and tufting versus cut in lines on the field. Ms. O'Blenes stated that the total estimated cost to replace the turf field was \$758,205 and the December 2024 balance of the Turf Field Replacement Trust was \$882,542. She recommended the request for disbursement be "up to \$830,000" which includes a 10% contingency.

Mr. Deshaies opened the floor for public discussion at 7:00pm.

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Asked how many elite level schools are removing their turf fields (less than 2% in the industry), how many KRHS sports teams currently use sod (4), how many years were sod fields in use at KRHS (the years prior to its installation in 2013), questioned the bidding process, the timing of the need for replacement, the Board's ability to vote to expend monies when lab tests are unknown, the safety of the removal of the existing crumble, the lining of the field, and chemicals in the glue used for the application of the turf field. She shared concerns for children with nut allergies, the surrounding wells in the

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community, and the risk of cancer.

Mr. Beckwith and Josh Rocconi, New England Territory Manager of Shaw Sports Turf, answered each of Ms. Boudman's questions with detailed facts, referring Ms. Boudman to publicly available data online at shawsportsturf.com. Mr. Rocconi explained that even a poorly maintained turf field is infinitely safer for athletes than a well-maintained sod field. He explained, at length, the bidding process used through the conglomerate known as Omnia, that led to the contract with Shaw Sports Turf.

Mr. Pittman stated that the turf field has been a topic of discussion at every monthly Building and Maintenance meeting for the past year, involving many hours of discussion and work with experts to develop a plan to evaluate and replace the field. The previous lifespan estimate was optimistic, and it recently became clear that the impact testing (GMAX) revealed an increased urgency in replacement. The District now has enough information for an action plan to move forward and will have more definitive answers to decide on reuse or recycle of infill materials upon receipt of the test results. He concluded by stating that this has been a long-term project with a lot of attention paid to it.

Mr. Deshaies closed the public portion of the hearing at 7:29pm.

Motion: To expend up to \$830,000 from the Turf Field Capital Reserve Fund to replace the turf field at Alumni Field.

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

Discussion: Lengthy discussion included the compelling advantages of turf, lab testing results, the trust fund function and process, the use of the residual trust fund balance, other schools with turf fields, the lifetime guarantee of the lining of the printed turf carpet, GMAX testing cost and results, the bidding process, and chemical testing of turf materials.

Motion: Call the question. (8:12pm)

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

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

Motion Passes: 7, yes; 2, no

Restatement of Original Motion: To expend up to \$830,000 from the Turf Field Capital Reserve Fund to replace the turf field at Alumni Field.

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

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

Motion Passes: 8, yes; 1, no

AGENDA REVIEW

No discussion.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Dr. Katey Hills shared that Kindergarten students were planning to demonstrate science competencies about weather and seasons tonight, but they were not able to stay through to the end of the turf field hearing. A video of their demonstration will be shared with the Board at a later time.

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ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025, School Board meeting as written.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Pike, yes; Mr. Pittman, (out of the room); Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Streeter, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025, Academic Affairs Committee meeting with an edit.

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

Discussion: Discussion included agreement that minutes are not intended as a transcript of the meeting but as a summary of discussion and a record of actions. Agreed upon edit for these minutes was to strike “such as this” from the Superintendent’s statement. Mr. Deshaies cautioned against attempts to launch personal attacks or rewrite history.

Amended Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025, Academic Affairs Committee meeting as edited.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Schillereff, no; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$387,829.66) and payroll (\$860,845.15) manifests totaling \$1,248,674.81.

Moved: Mr. Deshaies – **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

PUBLIC INPUT

Kayla Hewitt, Wolfeboro – Expressed support for public education, the District, and students and her concern that racism is getting progressively worse in the District.

Kaaloni Boisvert, Tuftonboro – Introduced herself as a student of KRMS and shared her experience with racism and her personal safety at school, and thanked the teachers for their support in trying to ensure students feel safe and valued.

Angel Boisvert, Tuftonboro – Introduced herself as an educator at the High School and as the mother of Kaaloni and shared her personal experience in supporting her daughter as she deals with racism and safety concerns at KRMS. She requested the enforcement of policy JICD and consequences for violation of the student conduct policy.

Julie Brown, Wolfeboro – Expressed support for the Boisvert family and charged the District with action.

Darren Boisvert, Tuftonboro – Introduced himself as the father of Kaaloni and husband of Angel, describing the difficulty in supporting them.

Joanne Cleaver, Wolfeboro – Introduced herself as an ally of the Boisvert family, warning of the potential risk to the District if it does not effectively address this issue.

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Stated that the District website does not have Black History Month information on its main page.

Carissa Dube, Wolfeboro – Stated that Black History Month information is actively shared in

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the schools and offered that there are a lot of great things happening in the schools.

Dawn Dore, Wolfeboro – Expressed encouragement for the students and staff of the District and requested community support for the Collective Bargaining Agreement, Warrant Article 5, on the town ballots in March.

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 thanked the Board and community for their support of the turf field presentation. She then shared, at length, her personal commitment to address the issue of racism and student safety in the District, in part through policy improvements and an updated Strategic Plan that includes working with Great Schools Partnership. She shared the challenge of community members who are not supportive of the journey to improve curriculum and policies related to racism and discipline. She encouraged the community of students, staff, and families to work together and continue to press the District for action and collaboration in working toward a positive resolution.

Deliberative Review

Superintendent Arakelian reported that there were no changes to the articles as presented at the Deliberative Session and announced the names of the people who are running for school board and moderator positions.

Budget Transfer Request

Superintendent Arakelian presented a budget transfer request on behalf of the Director of Special Education. The request was to transfer \$20,000 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: Ms. Schillereff – **Second:** Mr. Pike

Discussion: Description of the function of a consultant.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Jim, 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 he received lots of positive feedback after the Deliberative Session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee:

Ms. Seibel deferred to Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings to review a request regarding recently revised policy JJIC. Ms. Cummings explained the need to update the policy to include the SWAY testing used by the athletic program rather than Impact Testing as stated in the NHSBA sample policy that was used for the revision.

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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: Mr. Deshaies – **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

Motion: To approve policy JJIC as amended.

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

Ms. Seibel requested comments from the Board on policy JRA as 1st read for adoption; policies EBCA, IKEA, IL, JFA, JFAA, JFABB, JG, JJID, and JLCJ as 1st reads for reaffirmation; policies EBCH, IKE, IKFCL, ILBA, ILD, IMA, IMBC, JEB, JFAB, JI, JIC, JICFA, JICH, JICI, JICK, JIH, JJA, JJE, JJF, JJIBA, JJIBB, JJIG, and JLCD as 1st reads for revision; and policies IMB, JEA, JGA, and JJG as 1st reads for withdrawal.

Discussion included clarification of the promotion and retention policy language and process, and the need for further review of the student conduct policy as related to racism and hate speech.

Building & Maintenance Committee:

Mr. Pittman shared the upcoming committee meeting date of February 13, 2025, at 2:00pm.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Deshaies shared that the budget was successfully supported at the Deliberative Session.

Human Resources Committee:

Mr. Deshaies reported that the two collective bargaining agreements were successfully supported at the Deliberative Session.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

Public Input

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Stated “It’s not enough.”

Angel Boisvert, Tuftonboro – Thanked the Board for their attention, described policy concerns regarding bullying, harassment, racism, and safety, and requested consistent discipline for students who violate the code of conduct.

Motion: At 10:08 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: Mr. Pike – **Second:** Dr. Sheckler

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

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The remaining audience members and Dr. Manning left the meeting. The Board recessed the meeting for a 10-minute break. Personnel and legal matters were discussed.

Motion: To accept the retirements of Maryann Vollaro, and Jennifer Palmatier with gratitude.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Pike, yes; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Streeter, not present; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Thomas Owen as a 100% teacher for the 2025-2026 school year – Track 4 / Step 14. Salary \$94,986

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

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Aimee Young as a 100% teacher for the 2024-2025 school year – Track 3 / Step 2. Salary \$51,110.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Pike, abstain; Mr. Pittman, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Streeter, not present; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: At 10:38 pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 10:38 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board: **3/10/2025**

Good Evening Folks,

The Student Council has just begun the process of selling tickets for our Winter formal dance. The dance will be hosted in the practice gym on the night of the 15th from 7-9:30. Student council has also been planning for our winter spirit week. They have planned out dress up days for the week and our fun filled Friday before break. The day will hold many student led events, including two pep rallies and our lip-sync performances. It will be a great way to end the week!

Into Sports,

The Boys basketball team has a record of 4-7, and their senior night will be against Kennet on the 18th.

The girls basketball team holds a record of 4-7 and their senior night will be against Laconia on the 25th.

The boys hockey team moves to 7-3-1 after a dominant win over Coe-Brown this past Saturday, their senior night will be on March 1st against Belmont-Gilford.

The girls hockey team holds a winning record at 6-3, after a victory over Oyster River this Saturday, their senior night will be on the 22nd against Salem.

The boys and girls alpine ski teams have their senior night on the 7th at King Pine. Their state meet is the following Tuesday the 11th at Cranmore.

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The indoor track team has their state championship at Plymouth State University this Sunday the 9th.

Kingswoods DECA chapter will be headed to Manchester for their state competition from the 12th to the 14th. The trip will be filled with fun events and great competition.

Knights against Hunger has been preparing for their Empty Bowls event over the past month. The event will take place on February 14th at KRHS. The students have been working hard on this fundraiser and they hope for a huge turnout!

I would like to take a moment to thank you all on behalf of the student body for allowing a voice from inside the school on this prestigious board.