

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – CARPENTER SCHOOL
APRIL 7, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm at Crescent Lake School.

Members Present: Brodie Deshaies, Mary Schillereff, Charlene Seibel, Dr. Elizabeth Sheckler, Dr. Jim Manning, Tom Bickford, Danielle Van Dusen, Nate Williams

Also present: Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes, Dr. Kelly Mask, Dr. Kaitlyn Hills, GWRSD administrative staff, community members, and a WCTV videographer

Mr. Deshaies announced that Mr. Pike submitted a letter of resignation from the Board, effective immediately.

Motion: To accept the resignation of Guy Pike from the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Motion: To nominate Dr. Sheckler as chair.

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

Discussion: Mr. Deshaies explained why he wanted to continue as Board Chair and Dr. Sheckler explained why she wanted to be the Board Chair. Board members asked and answered questions related to the position and discussed term history and stability versus new leadership.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, no; Ms. Schillereff, no; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, no; Mr. Deshaies, no **Motion Fails 4/4**

Motion: To nominate Dr. Manning as chair.

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

Discussion: Dr. Manning answered questions asked by Board members. Discussion included leadership stability, treatment of Administration, and the overall purpose of the Board.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, no; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, no; Dr. Sheckler, no; Ms. Van Dusen, no; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes **Motion Fails 4/4**

Motion: To nominate Mr. Bickford as chair.

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

Discussion: Mr. Bickford accepted the nomination with hesitation. Discussion included community confidence and the default budget.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, no; Ms. Schillereff, no; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, no; Mr. Deshaies, no **Motion Fails 4/4**

Motion: To nominate Mr. Deshaies as chair.

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

Discussion: Discussion included the duties and role of the Chair position.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, no; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, no; Dr. Sheckler, no; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes **Motion Passes 5/3**

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Motion: To nominate Dr. Sheckler as vice chair.

Moved: Ms. Seibel – **Second:** Ms. Van Dusen

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes **Motion Passes 8/0**

Middleton Board member Kelly Tivnan and Student Representative Jack Larson joined the meeting at approximately 6:50pm.

Mr. Deshaies stated that he would need time to reconsider committee assignments with Mr. Pike's unexpected resignation.

Superintendent Arakelian read policy BCA, School Board Member Ethics, aloud while the Board members signed the agreement form.

Motion: To approve the Ethics Policy as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To appoint Michelle Capone as District Clerk and Scott Isabell as District Treasurer.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Williams.

AGENDA REVIEW

Action item Girls Ice Hockey request per Superintendent Arakelian. Ms. Seibel requested to add turf agreement, turf testing, and policy DGA to the agenda. Mr. Deshaies denied her request and requested a motion for the full Board to decide.

Motion: To add to agenda items a discussion of the artificial field proposal, contract, missing test results, and policy DGA.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, no; Ms. Schillereff, no; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, no; Mr. Deshaies, no **Motion Fails 4/4**

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Principal Rowe welcomed the Board and community to Carpenter School and shared that some wonderful programs have connected the school with the community this year. Dr. Katey Hills introduced Mrs. Gray and her second grade students who presented their research on animal diets, habitats, and daily life using fiction and non-fiction drawings and writing pieces for the audience.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025, School Board meeting as amended.

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

Discussion: Ms. Seibel and Dr. Sheckler requested edits for page 3 and page 6.

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Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, abstain; Mr. Williams, abstain; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025, Academic Affairs Committee meeting as written.

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

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

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$2,839,068.78) and payroll (\$4,293,695.85) manifests totaling \$7,132,764.63.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

PUBLIC INPUT

Mia Lyons, Tuftonboro – Expressed concern for the elimination of field maintenance due to the budget freeze and requested reconsideration of the decision to cut the maintenance of the athletic fields.

Amie Edmunds, Wolfeboro – Expressed concern for the elimination of field maintenance and suggested other areas of the budget that should be cut instead.

Guy Pike, Tuftonboro – Recommended that the School Board and community members review policy JIC-R regarding code of conduct consequences.

Kim Kelliher, KRHS Teacher – Encouraged the audience to vote against HB675, which seeks a cap on local budgets.

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Commented on the Board restructure at the start of tonight's meeting, suggested adding a legislative committee, and suggested using funds from the legal line of the budget to pay for field maintenance.

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.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Deshaies opened the Special Education Trust Request Hearing at 7:41pm. Superintendent Arakelian explained the purpose of the hearing for the GWRSD School Board to vote to withdraw and expend the total amount available, approximately \$219,700, from the Special Education Trust Fund to pay for unanticipated special education costs incurred during the 2024-2025 school year.

Director of Special Education, Dr. Kelly Mask, described the total student population of GWRSD and the population of Special Education students, including preschool-aged students. She explained the four drivers of the Special Education costs for the district and their unpredictable nature: contracted services, tuition costs, equipment, and transportation. Business Administrator, Kathy O'Blenes, explained the budget freeze currently in place. She also explained that items covered by federal grants are not impacted by the budget freeze.

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Mr. Deshaies opened the floor for Board discussion. Discussion included out-of-district placements, tuition costs, legal expenses, how much the withdrawal of these funds will help to improve the current financial situation, underfunded revenues, and the history of the Special Education Trust Fund.

Mr. Deshaies opened the floor for public input. Discussion included the elimination of field maintenance funds due to the budget freeze, the impact of the charter school on Special Education funding and transportation costs, what happens if the request to expend these funds fails, and the total dollar amount of the Special Education shortfall.

Mr. Deshaies closed the public hearing at 8:18pm.

Motion: To withdraw and expend the total amount available, approximately \$219,700, from the Special Education Trust Fund to pay for unanticipated special education costs.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Default Budget

Superintendent Arakelian reported that the default budget is \$852,889 less than the School Board’s proposed budget for FY2026 with the bulk of the shortfall in the area of employee expense. Business Administrator, Kathy O’Blenes, explained that as a result of the budget freeze, none of the proposed new staff positions will be filled and there will be a partial hiring freeze for existing positions that remain unfilled. The District will also benefit from the retirement of professional staff who were at the top of the track and step scale and ongoing efforts to reduce other expenses.

Motion: To accept the adjusted budget as proposed.

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

Discussion: Discussion of cost-savings related to photocopying and increased use of digital materials.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Superintendent’s District Update

Superintendent Arakelian announced the last day of school for students as June 18th, which will be a half day, and the last day for staff will be June 20th. She also welcomed Dr. Katey Hills as the new Assistant Superintendent to replace Heather Cummings upon her retirement.

Election Results

Superintendent Arakelian announced the election results and introduced the newest Board members.

Strategic Plan Update: Equity Audit Presentation

Superintendent Arakelian introduced guests Jean Haeger and Sarah Malinoski of Great Schools Partnership who presented information on the results of an evaluation, based on multiple sources of data, of the District’s equity policy and practice and the Strategic Plan’s goal to create a culture of belonging.

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The meeting was recessed from 9:30pm to 9:40pm.

Non-Academic Surveys

Superintendent Arakelian presented two survey requests for approval.

Motion: To approve the content and implementation of the research survey as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the content and implementation of the School's Out program survey as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

CLS Crowdfunding Request

Superintendent Arakelian presented a Crescent Lake School crowdfunding request for approval.

Motion: To approve the online crowdfunding request as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

School Board Meeting Calendar

Superintendent Arakelian presented the proposed School Board meeting schedule for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion: To approve the 2025-2026 School Board meeting schedule as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

KRHS Girls Ice Hockey Request

Superintendent Arakelian presented a request by the Athletic Director to allow the addition of Plymouth Regional High School to the Girls Ice Hockey Cooperative team.

Motion: To approve the addition of Plymouth Regional High School to the Girls Ice Hockey Cooperative Team currently composed of Kingswood Regional High School and Prospect Mountain High School with the understanding that the District will seek cost-sharing.

Discussion: This request is a continuation of an existing team and does not increase any costs for the District.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Deshaies shared that expressions of sympathy were sent to staff members in the District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee:

Motion: To approve moving forward to the full Board for 1st Read all policies discussed at the March 13th committee meeting.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read a memo regarding updates to three Title IX policies.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve School Board policies AC Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment, and Anti-Discrimination Plan, ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students, and ACAB Harassment of School Employees as presented, for 1st and 2nd Read, with one edit to policy AC.

Discussion: Ms. Schillereff suggested removing “without a legitimate purpose” from policy AC, page 3.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Ms. Seibel requested comments from the Board on policies AD, DJ, JKA, KBBA, and KHC as 1st Reads for reaffirmation. Discussion of policy KHC ensued.

Motion: To task Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings with revising policy KHC for 2nd Read at the May meeting.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Ms. Seibel requested comments from the Board on policies BDE, JLCA, JLCB, JLCC, JLCE, JLCF, JLCK, JLD, JLDBA, JLIA, JLIE, JRB, KA, KFA, KH, KI, LDA, and LEB as 1st Reads for revision.

Ms. Seibel requested comments from the Board on policies DIAA and JLA as 1st Reads for withdrawal.

Ms. Seibel reported on committee discussion of the reassessment plan at KRHS, including participation by parents in attendance at the March meeting, and shared a new course offering at KRHS called Inclusive Leadership.

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Mr. Deshaies requested feedback on the following committee assignments:

Academic Affairs – Mr. Bickford, Ms. Schillereff, Dr. Sheckler, Open Seat
Buildings & Maintenance – Dr. Manning, Ms. Seibel, Ms. Van Dusen, Open Seat
Finance – Mr. Deshaies, Ms. Seibel, Ms. Van Dusen, Mr. Williams
Human Resources – Mr. Deshaies, Ms. Schillereff, Dr. Sheckler, Mr. Williams
Community Relations – Mr. Bickford, Dr. Manning, Ms. Seibel, Dr. Sheckler

Mr. Deshaies stated that he would take into consideration Ms. Seibel's request to serve on the Human Resources committee rather than the Finance Committee.

Building & Maintenance Committee:

Confirmation of the upcoming meeting date: April 16th.

Finance Committee:

No update.

Human Resources Committee:

No update.

Ad Hoc Community Relations:

Dr. Sheckler reported on a planned summit meeting with PTOs, activities to engage with the community, and how best to communicate with the community.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

Public Input

Tisha Hoaas, Wolfeboro – Invited School Board members to spend a morning in an elementary school and revealed that there is never enough paper in schools.

Kayla Hewitt, Wolfeboro – Thanked the school community for their creative solutions to the budget freeze.

Bobbi Boudman, Wolfeboro – Commented on Board member behavior, reviewed the timeline of the turf field process by reading minutes and emails, and discussed continuing concerns with the turf field.

Motion: At 11:01 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:** Dr. Sheckler

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

The community members in the audience left the room. Building principals remained and personnel matters were discussed.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's re-nomination of professionals/teachers as presented.

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

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

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yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

The building principals left the meeting at 11:20pm.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's re-nomination of the Governor Wentworth Administrative Team members as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's re-nomination of the SAU Administrative Team and Superintendent as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, no; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, no; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Danielle Harvey as Director of Curriculum for GWRSD for the 2025-2026 school year with a salary of \$108,000.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Brittany McGuire as Principal at Crescent Lake School for the 2025-2026 school year with a salary of \$114,970.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Kiersta Pino as a 100% teacher for the 2025-2026 school year (Track 3/Step 8 \$60,620) and the Superintendent's nomination of William Robinson as a 100% teacher for the 2025-2026 school year (Track 3/Step 5 \$53,488)

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Seibel, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: At 12:37am a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 12:38am a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary Approved by School Board: **5/05/2025**