

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
JOINT BOARDS – LAKES REGION TECHNOLOGY CENTER
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
MAY 5, 2025

The Joint Boards meeting was held at the Lakes Region Technology Center prior to the regularly scheduled GWRSD School Board meeting. The following Districts were represented: Governor Wentworth, Prospect Mountain, Farmington, and Middleton. Representatives from Moultonborough were not able to attend.

The evening began at 6:00pm with welcome comments and introductions by Superintendent Caroline Arakelian. Lakes Region Technology Principal Kathy Tetreault also welcomed the guests to learn about the mission, focus, and goals of the programs at the LRTC. She discussed the mission to share information about the CTE opportunities with younger students in the surrounding towns and highlighted some notable program accomplishments, as well as shared some events to look forward to in the future. She thanked the guests for their continued support, invited them to the End-of-Year celebration on May 22nd from 6:00 to 7:30pm, and invited them to enjoy a tour of the center at any time.

Jennifer Ouellet, Student Services Coordinator at LRTC and leader of the Ambassadors Program, and Scott Sawyer, Work-Based Learning/Career Counselor, described their programs, and shared examples of the ways both the students and the community have benefited. Students Ashley, Corin, Charlie, and Oliver shared their personal experiences, growth, and goals as ambassadors and as students of LRTC.

Motion: To approve the Perkins Grant Funds and support the program initiatives for the 2025-2026 school year.

Moved: Mary Schillereff, GWRSD – **Second:** Brodie Deshaies, GWRSD

Vote: All in favor.

The Joint Boards meeting adjourned at 7:00pm. The GWRSD School Board members and administrators proceeded to the Middle School for the regularly scheduled board meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 7:30pm in the Kingswood Regional Middle School gymnasium.

Members Present: Brodie Deshaies, Mary Schillereff, Dr. Elizabeth Sheckler, Dr. Jim Manning, Tom Bickford, Nate Williams

Members Absent: Danielle Van Dusen

Also present: Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, Student Representative Jack Larson, Dr. Kaitlyn Hills, GWRSD administrative staff, community members, and a WCTV videographer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Schillereff.

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GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
MAY 5, 2025

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Principal Hunt welcomed the Board and community to Kingswood Regional Middle School and thanked them for their support as they have worked to improve students' sense of belonging by focusing on values, climate, and culture during this school year. Dr. Katey Hills introduced Ms. Brown and her students, who presented their National History Day documentary on the swill milk controversy of the 19th century. Students will travel to present their project in a national competition in Washington, DC, in June. School Board members were very impressed with the quality of the documentary.

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES

The School Board members interviewed Kirsten Burke and Nancy Boyer for the vacant Tuftonboro seat. Each candidate explained the reasons they would like to be appointed to the School Board. The School Board members asked questions of each candidate. Ms. Boyer withdrew her candidacy.

Motion: To appoint Kirsten Burke to fill the Tuftonboro School Board vacancy until the March elections.

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

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

Motion: To accept the resignation of Charlene Seibel from the School Board.

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

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

The School Board members interviewed Kayla Hewitt, Steve Johnson, and Chip Skelley for the vacant Wolfeboro seat. Each candidate explained the reasons they would like to be appointed to the School Board. The School Board members asked questions of each candidate.

Motion: To appoint Kayla Hewitt to fill the Wolfeboro School Board vacancy until the March elections.

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

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

OATHS OF OFFICE

School District Clerk Michelle Capone administered the Oath of Office to Kirsten Burke and Kayla Hewitt. Superintendent Arakelian congratulated the new School Board members and read aloud School Board Policy BCA – School Board Member Ethics. Ms. Burke and Ms. Hewitt signed the Ethics Agreement.

AGENDA REVIEW

No discussion.

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MAY 5, 2025

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 7, 2025 School Board meeting as amended.

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

Discussion: Mr. Deshaies requested the addition of one word on page 8.

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, abstain; Ms. Burke, abstain; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$1,697,743.33) and payroll (\$2,991,329.26) manifests totaling \$4,689,072.59.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

PUBLIC INPUT

Guy Pike, Tuftonboro – Commented on racism at KRMS and solicited support for Principal Hunt in achieving the goals around eliminating racism.

Jon Sheckler, New Durham – Husband of Board Member, Dr. Beth Sheckler, spoke to clear up misconceptions of her character by describing her education, volunteer activities, and leadership roles in business and the community.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Jack Larson, fresh off the baseball field in his uniform, 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 sincere gratitude for parents, families, and businesses across the GWRSD community who have come forward with generous donations of time, supplies, and services to support the operations of the District during the current budget freeze. She also shared that the District is initiating a new donation feature with the food service payment software that allows families to donate funds toward the payment of meal debts in the District. She thanked the teachers and staff of the District for all of their dedication and work during this week that celebrates Teacher and Staff Appreciation. She welcomed Danielle Harvey as Director of Curriculum and Brittany McGuire as the Principal of Crescent Lake School, as well as Ivy Leavitt-Carlson as Principal of Middleton Elementary School. She also reported that the Parent Advisory group will review a draft of the District Communication Plan as part of the District's Strategic Plan.

General Assurances

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed the status of and recent developments regarding the annual General Assurances document required by the NH Education Department. She shared that the NHSBA sent an email today advising delaying signing of the document until later in the month when edits to the assurances will likely be made.

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GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
MAY 5, 2025

Motion: To postpone signing the General Assurances until later in the month, at the NHSBA training session.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Lakes Region High School Consortium Agreement

Superintendent Arakelian explained the proposed Lakes Region High School Consortium as a course-sharing association of 13 Lakes Region high schools to allow access to a wider selection of courses for students. Discussion included class sizes, transportation costs, discipline responsibility, Special Education services, class scheduling, state aid, and standardized testing.

Motion: To authorize the Superintendent to enter the Lakes Region High School Consortium Agreement.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Lakes Region Special Education Consortium MOA

Superintendent Arakelian explained the proposed Special Education Consortium representing a commitment of participating districts to work together to better serve students with significant special education needs by developing a collaborative approach to providing high quality, individualized education, and services. In addition, participating districts would work together to explore more efficient and cost-effective approaches to providing contracted related services, with the goal of improving service delivery and maximizing resources across districts. Discussion included appreciation for this collaborative and innovative approach.

Motion: To join the Lakes Region High School Special Education Consortium as presented.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

KRMS Crowdfunding Request

Superintendent Arakelian presented a crowdfunding request from KRMS/CLS for the National History Day competition in Washington, DC.

Motion: To approve the online crowdfunding request as presented.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

NH State Council on the Arts Grant

Superintendent Arakelian presented a Council Partnership Project Grant awarded to Scott Giessler to improve the quality of life through the arts.

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MAY 5, 2025

Motion: To authorize Scott Giessler, the School Board Chair, and the Business Administrator to sign all necessary paperwork to satisfy the Council Partnership Project Grant.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Wood Estate Applications

Superintendent Arakelian presented a Wood Estate Expendable Trust Fund Application for \$8,400 on behalf of the National History Day team to travel to Washington, DC, for a national competition in June 2025.

Motion: To approve the Wood Estate Trust Fund Application for the National History Day team as presented.

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

Discussion: The account balance as of December 2024 was \$733,578.01; \$8,400 is available to spend for FY2025.

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Superintendent Arakelian presented a Wood Estate Expendable Trust Fund Application for \$10,000 for Class of 2025 scholarships for KRHS seniors (10/\$1000).

Motion: To approve the Wood Estate Trust Fund Application for \$10,000 in scholarships for FY2026 as presented.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Deshaies shared an invitation to the Board from Effingham Elementary School to join their Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on May 19th. He also shared that expressions of thanks were sent to the teachers and staff in honor of Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week on behalf of the Board. He asked for the Board members' availability to attend an NHSBA training later in the month.

Motion: To schedule NHSBA training on May 19, 2025 at 6:00pm.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee:

Dr. Sheckler presented policies AD and DJ as 2nd Reads for reaffirmation and requested comments from the Board.

Motion: To approve School Board policies AD and DJ for reaffirmation as 2nd Reads.

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GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
MAY 5, 2025

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Dr. Sheckler presented policies BDE, JKA, JLCA, JLCB, JLCC, JLCE, JLCF, JLCK, JLD, JLDDBA, JLIA, JLIE, JRB, KA, KBBA, KFA, KH, KHC, KI, LDA, and LEB as 2nd Reads for revision and requested comments from the Board.

Motion: To approve the revisions of School Board policies BDE, JKA, JLCA, JLCB, JLCC, JLCE, JLCF, JLCK, JLD, JLDDBA, JLIA, JLIE, JRB, KA, KBBA, KFA, KH, KHC, KI, LDA, and LEB as 2nd Reads, with one edit to policy KFA.

Discussion: The Board discussed policies KHC, JLCC, and KFA. Mr. Williams requested to add “or nicotine” to #6 of policy KFA.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Dr. Sheckler presented policies DIAA and JLA as 2nd Reads for withdrawal and requested comments from the Board.

Motion: To approve the withdrawal of School Board policies DIAA and JLA as 2nd Reads.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Building & Maintenance Committee:

There is no meeting scheduled yet. Mr. Deshaies assigned Ms. Hewitt and Ms. Burke to this committee.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Deshaies assigned Ms. Hewitt and Ms. Burke to this committee.

Human Resources Committee:

No update.

Community Relations:

Dr. Sheckler reported on the successful PTO Summit with a tour of LRTC held tonight.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

Public Input

None

Motion: At 10:05 pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (b) to discuss personnel and legal matters.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

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GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
MAY 5, 2025

The remaining community members in the audience left the room.

Motion: To accept the resignations of Alicia Goff, Jordan Legere, and Aidan Sisters as presented with regret and appreciation.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To accept the retirements of Paul Landry and Bonnie Stinson as presented with regret and appreciation.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To accept the Superintendent's nomination of Sarah Pelletier as a 100% teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Track 1/Step 1 Salary \$47,543

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Bickford, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: At 10:45pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 10:45pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary Approved by School Board: **6/02/2025**

Good Evening,

As you can tell by my attire, I just arrived from my baseball game in Kennett. Sadly we were not victorious as we lost 9-8.

The baseball team has a record of 5-2, and we will have our senior night against Kennett at home on May 23rd

The softball team just battled Kennett tonight, and they took home a 11-7 victory. They have a record of 6-1 after tonight's win against Kennett. They will also have their senior night against Kennett on the 23rd.

The track and field team has their state meet at Sanborn Regional High School on May 31st

The boys lacrosse team is currently 2-3 this season after beating Souhegan 8-3 tonight. They will have their senior night against Alvirne on May 27th.

The girls lacrosse team has a record of 2-4, sadly they lost to kennett 17-3. They will have their senior night against Keene on May 30th.

The boys tennis team is scheduled to have their senior night on May 21st, and girls tennis will have their senior night on May 16th.

The Kingswood Theatre Program returned from the NHETG State Theatre Festival as champions, as they completed a sweep of all major awards at the festival! Just this past weekend they performed at the New England Drama Festival, which was hosted at the Kingswood Arts Center. Congratulations to the Theatre Program in another successful year!

Student Council has been working around the clock trying to plan and prepare for all the upcoming events in the school. The Junior/Senior prom will be held at Gunstock Mountain Resort on May 17th, and promenade will start at 3pm. On May 23rd we will have Field Day, and there will be dress up days with a unique theme each day. We have also been preparing for senior events such as senior banquet, graduation, and other fun activities for seniors to enjoy in their final month of high school!

DECA just came back from ICDC, which was hosted in Orlando Florida this year. They soaked up the sun and competed in their respective events over the course of a few days, I was told it was a blast and that they enjoyed every second of it.

Both the Spanish and French departments took trips over break. The Spanish department headed to Puerto Rico and stayed with host families, and the French Department went to France for a week of sight seeing and lots of adventures. Both trips went smoothly and the students enjoyed their unique experiences.

On behalf of the student body, I would like to thank the school board and its members for allowing a voice from inside the school to speak on this prestigious board,

Thank you and have a great night