

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JUNE 2, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 6:00pm in the Kingswood Regional High School Lecture Hall.

Members Present: Brodie Deshaies, Tom Bickford, Kirsten Burke, Kayla Hewitt, Dr. James Manning (6:11pm), Mary Schillereff, Dr. Elizabeth Sheckler, Danielle Van Dusen, Nate Williams

Also present: Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, and Business Administrator Kathy O'Blenes

Motion: At 6:00 pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (b) to discuss personnel matters.

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

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

Board members relocated to room 211 for the non-public meeting.

Personnel matters were discussed.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's nomination of the following as 100% teachers for the 2025-2026 school year as presented: Nicole Epstein Track 2/Step 4 \$52,299

Danielle Roberts Track 1/Step 11 \$64,601

Norma DiRocco Track 3/Step 12 \$76,831

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

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

Motion: To accept the resignation of Erica Woodward as presented.

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

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

Dr. Manning joined the meeting at 6:11pm.

Motion: At 6:41 pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

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

Board members returned to the lecture hall.

The meeting resumed at 7:00pm. Student Representative Jack Larson, LRTC Principal Kathy Tetreault, Student Services Coordinator Jennifer Ouellet, community members, and a WCTV videographer joined the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Hewitt.

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AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Deshaies added the nomination of a representative member to the Town of Wolfeboro's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee to Chairperson's Report and amended item D of the Chairperson's Report to include Discussion and Action.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Principal Tetreault welcomed the Board and community to the meeting. She reviewed program highlights, student activities, and program initiatives. She thanked the School Board for their support of the CBA which allowed her to hire effective and experienced staff and enabled her, with local and federal funding, to provide mentorships for her staff. She announced that the LRTC achieved an A+ rating on the recent Comprehensive Needs Assessment conducted by the State, with no areas for improvement cited. This news was met with a round of congratulatory applause by the audience. She introduced Jennifer Ouellet, Student Services Coordinator, who reviewed the 14 programs offered by LRTC and their accompanying associations. Ms. Ouellet highlighted student achievements, available industry credentials, college-level opportunities, and positive feedback from students. Principal Tetreault described the development of the new Marine Technology program that is being added to the curriculum.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 5, 2025 School Board meeting as presented.

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

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

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 14, 2025 Buildings & Maintenance committee meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Dr. Manning, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Ms. Hewitt, yes; Ms. Burke, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025 School Board meeting as presented.

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

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

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$352,201.27) and payroll (\$3,701,604.66) manifests totaling \$4,053,805.93.

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

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 offered a heartfelt thank you to the Board for the opportunity to share a student voice at the meeting. Mr.

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Deshaies congratulated Jack on his upcoming graduation, thanked him for his representation on the Board, and presented him with a parting gift.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's District Update

Superintendent Arakelian thanked Principal Tetreault and Ms. Ouellet for their informative presentation and thanked Jack Larson for his service to the Board. Superintendent Arakelian announced the District's plan to transition to a .GOV domain during the summer and highlighted the anticipated increased security, clarity and consistency across the District, and a cost savings to the District. Discussion included the protection of the old domain against potential misuse.

Carpenter School Update

The Superintendent reviewed the series of events following the collapse of the Carpenter School ceiling, assessments of the building, the relocation of students, and expressed sincere gratitude to the community and staff for their overwhelmingly supportive response. She explained the Primex Insurance coverage for the anticipated repairs and recommended contractors for the project. She also prepared the Board for the possibility of a Special Hearing to request the use of funds from the expendable trust for unanticipated repairs beyond insurance coverage. Kathy O'Blenes confirmed the December 2024 balance of the trust as \$187,930 with an expected deposit of \$150,000 at the end of this school year.

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed the remaining end-of-year events for the District and thanked the Parent Advisory group for their assistance in shaping district-wide initiatives relating to the communication plan as part of the District's Strategic Plan.

KRHS Alumni Association

Kristie Smith, president of the KRHS Alumni Association, shared the history, activities, and fundraising events of the Alumni Association with an informative slide show and invited people to consider joining the association and/or helping with fundraising efforts.

General Assurances

Superintendent Arakelian reviewed the revised annual General Assurances document required by the NH Education Department.

Motion: To permit the Superintendent and the Chair of the Board to sign the General Assurances on behalf of the School Board and District.

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

Discussion: Discussion included the revised language that is consistent with years past and grant policy. The Board encouraged the community to read the full document.

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

Authority to Hire

Superintendent Arakelian explained her request to be granted the authority to hire professional staff between the June and August Board meetings in order to ensure that contracts can be offered to qualified candidates without delay during the critical summer hiring period.

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Motion: To grant the Superintendent the authority to hire professional staff between the June and August Board meetings, with all such hires to be presented to the Board for ratification at the August meeting.

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

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Deshaies shared correspondence of sympathy that was sent out to a District staff member and congratulated retiring Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings on her last School Board meeting tonight. He announced the NHSBA's call for resolutions and reviewed the end-of-year events again for the Board members.

The Board discussed meeting to review the Strategic Plan, with a preference for a meeting separate from the regularly scheduled August meeting.

Motion: To schedule a Strategic Plan Workshop on August 18, 2025 at 6:00pm at the KRHS Plex.

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

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

Mr. Deshaies explained the Town of Wolfeboro's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee and the need for a Board representative to the committee. Ms. Burke volunteered for the position.

Motion: To nominate Kirsten Burke to represent the GWRSB on the Wolfeboro CIP Committee.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee:

As team lead, Dr. Sheckler shared a summary of the work accomplished by the committee during this school year and reported on a robust discussion of math pathways with Dr. Hills at the latest committee meeting.

Building & Maintenance Committee:

Dr. Manning reported on the May 14th meeting regarding the Rust Pond watershed. The next meeting will be held on June 16th to continue the discussion of Rust Pond and the turf field.

Finance Committee:

No update.

Human Resources Committee:

No update.

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Community Relations:

Dr. Sheckler reported on a possible PTO gathering over the summer.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

Public Input

Paige Renner, Wolfeboro – Requested information on where to find the General Assurances that were discussed during the meeting.

Mr. Bickford asked about the possibility that WCTV may shut down due to funding issues, which Ms. Schillereff clarified would not occur.

Dr. Sheckler shared the Kingswood Youth Center's 25th anniversary celebration.

Ms. Schillereff thanked the Superintendent and the SAU for all of their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 9:13pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary Approved by School Board: **8/04/2025**

Good Evening,

I hope you all are ready for the summer, because I know I am.

School is almost over, and with that, comes lots of events to close out the year.
The list includes:

Senior Banquet on Friday

Athletic Awards on Sunday from 4-6

Baccalaureate, which is hosted at the Wolfeboro Bible Church, on Sunday from 1-2

On the Thursday before graduation (June 12th), Seniors will be able to walk the halls of their old elementary schools one last time before they graduate.

And last but not least GRADUATION, which is June 13th

But besides all the end of year events, we have a few sports teams in the playoffs.

The Baseball team finished the season with a 12-4 record, which earned them the 5th seed in the playoffs. We play at 4 o'clock this Thursday at home against Coe-Brown.

The softball team finished with a record of 14-2, earning them the second seed in a very difficult division. They earned themselves a first round bye and their first game will be at home on Saturday June 7th at 4 o'clock.

The girls tennis team finished the regular season as the 8 seed, but were eliminated in the playoffs by Bow 7-2.

The girls lacrosse team found their way into the playoffs after an impressive 17-5 victory last Friday over Keene. They will be on the road against Kennett on Wednesday at 5.

That is all I have for you tonight,

When I ran for this position in June of last year, I didn't understand what I was getting myself into. But after the first meeting I was glad I took on this position. Being the School Board Representative for Kingswood has been an Honor, and I wish the best of luck to whoever fills my shoes next year!

It has been a pleasure, and I'll say it one last time.

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 rest of your night