

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Present: Tom Bickford, Kirsten Burke, Kayla Hewitt, Dr. James Manning, Mary Schillereff, Dr. Elizabeth Sheckler, Danielle Van Dusen, Nate Williams, Brodie Deshaies (6:03pm)

Also present: Superintendent Caroline Arakelian, Assistant Superintendent Katey Hills, 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 and RSA 91-A:2, I (a) legal matters.

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

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

The group moved from the Lecture Hall to Room 211. Mr. Deshaies arrived at 6:03pm.

Motion: In the absence of policy, the Board will not issue pro-rated stipends at this time.

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

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

Ms. O'Blenes left the meeting at 6:45pm.

Motion: To find an actuary to review the 2025 actuarial report that was sent to GRWSD by SchoolCare.

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

Vote: unanimous in favor

Motion: To instruct the Superintendent to contact the Secretary of State regarding the late filing of the SchoolCare actuarial report and of the incompleteness of the audit for 2025 and report back to the School Board.

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

Vote: unanimous in favor

Motion: At 7:00pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

Vote: unanimous in favor

The Board members resumed the meeting at 7:00pm in the Lecture Hall. Student Representative Bryce Sandlin, Middleton School Board Representative Kelly Tivnan, students, staff, and community members joined the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Hewitt.

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 5, 2026

KRHS STUDENT PRESENTATION

Principal Paul Famulari welcomed everyone and shared information on the finalization of Semester 1 with final exams and upcoming events for Semester 2 with Winter Carnival and athletics. He introduced Julie Garry and Heather Holmes with their World Language students to talk about their experience with earning the NH State Seal of Biliteracy for their high school diplomas. Ms. Garry, Ms. Holmes, and the students described the New Hampshire Seal of Biliteracy as a physical seal added to the diploma recognizing proficiency in English and at least one other language. The students explained that this national award acknowledges strong skills in multiple languages and provides a competitive edge for college applications, job prospects, and future endeavors.

AGENDA REVIEW

Ms. Schillereff requested a discussion review of the absentee ballot process to be added to the Chairperson's report. Mr. Deshaies requested to move the Student Representative Report to follow Agenda Review.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Bryce Sandlin thanked Mr. Deshaies for his consideration and presented his monthly summary of Kingswood Regional High School activities, which is attached to the end of these minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Deshaies opened the Budget Adoption Hearing at 7:26pm. He explained the Power Point presentation that reviewed the budget process for the creation and revision of the proposed budget. He reviewed enrollment numbers and explained trends seen in the schools across the District. He reviewed general fund budget items, the special education budget process and budget items, the employee wages and benefits budget items, proposed new staff, debt service, and warrant articles. He reviewed the Collective Bargaining Agreement that was recently negotiated, revenue, the default budget, and highlighted important dates to remember.

Mr. Deshaies opened the floor to the public for discussion.

Stefanie King, New Durham – Requested that the financials be updated on the District's website for the current year, asked how the universal meals funds are being utilized to date, and asked how the default budget is felt by students and staff this year.

Mr. Deshaies closed the public comment portion of the hearing at 8:02pm.

Motion: To adopt the FY2027 Budget as presented.

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

Discussion: Discussion included the increase in the Replacement Vehicles line, the increase in the Land & Building Improvements line, and the nurse supervisory duties of the proposed Student Wellness Coordinator position.

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

Motion Passes: 9, yes; 0, no; 0, abstain

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 5, 2026

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 School Board meeting with edits.

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

Discussion: Ms. King is from New Durham, and she also asked about World Language credit eligibility for 8th grade students.

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

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Community Relations Committee meeting as presented.

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

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

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 18, 2025 Human Resources Committee meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Ms. Schillereff, yes; Dr. Sheckler, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the manifests for a total of \$2,898,949.18

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

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Ewan Nicoll, KRHS Junior – Expressed his disagreement with the upcoming school year's Jump Start date scheduled on a day when teachers will not be in the building, stating that it is important for students to meet their teachers in person on this day.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's District Update

Superintendent Arakelian shared the District update to include budget preparation efforts, submission of SAFE grant requests, regional safety meetings, a review of the School Resource Officer program, and ongoing Competency-Based Education work at the high school. She also shared an update from Bauen Corporation on the work that continues at Carpenter School to repair the ceilings.

Kingswood Athletics Fundraising Request

Superintendent Arakelian shared a fundraising request submitted to support the alpine ski and hockey programs at the high school.

Motion: To approve the KRHS athletic fundraising request as presented.

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

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

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 5, 2026

Budget Transfer Request

Superintendent Arakelian presented four Special Education budget transfer requests.

Motion: To approve the four budget transfer requests as presented.

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

Discussion: Discussion included the nature of the need for contracted services, the fluctuations in student needs during a given school year, the difficulty in predicting what needs will arise, and the SAU's commitment to accuracy in budget line usage.

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

Preparation for Deliberative Session

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 1 aloud. No vote was necessary.

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 Article 3 as presented.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 4 aloud.

Motion: To support Article 4 as presented.

Moved: Dr. Sheckler – **Second:** Ms. Van Dusen

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 5 aloud.

Motion: To support Article 5 as presented.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 6 aloud.

Motion: To support Article 6 as presented.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 7 aloud.

Motion: To support Article 7 as presented.

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

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

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 5, 2026

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 8 aloud.

Motion: To support Article 8 as presented.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 9 aloud.

Motion: To support Article 9 as presented.

Moved: Mr. Williams – **Second:** Ms. Hewitt

Discussion: Add descriptive language: “to improve health outcomes and oversee nursing and counselors.”

Motion: To amend Article 9 as discussed.

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

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

Motion: To support Article 9 as amended with additional language.

Moved: Mr. Williams – **Second:** Ms. Hewitt

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 10 aloud.

Motion: To support Article 10 as presented.

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

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

Superintendent Arakelian read Article 11 aloud. No vote was necessary.

Motion: To move Article 9 to the position of Article 5 and shift all following articles down in order accordingly.

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

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

The School Board Clerk, Michelle Capone, will confirm voting locations and times with all District towns.

School Board Spokespersons for Articles

Board members volunteered to present Warrant Articles:

- Article #1 – Moderator (District Officers)
- Article #2 – Mr. Deshaies (Operating Budget)
- Article #3 – Dr. Sheckler (CBA Increases)
- Article #4 – Moderator (Special Meeting)
- Article #5 – Ms. Burke (\$135k Wellness Coordinator)

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 5, 2026

- Article #6 – Dr. Manning (\$200k B&G Repairs/Maintenance)
- Article #7 – Ms. Van Dusen (\$250K SPED Trust Fund)
- Article #8 – Mr. Williams (\$50k Maintenance Capital Reserve)
- Article #9 – Mr. Deshaies (\$50K Health Insurance Trust)
- Article #10 – Ms. Schillereff (\$250K Universal Meals)
- Article #11 – Moderator (Other Business)

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Mr. Deshaies shared that condolences were sent out on behalf of the School Board.

Ms. Schillereff expressed concern that feedback from constituents indicates that there is difficulty in understanding the process of requesting and submitting absentee ballots. School Board Clerk, Michelle Capone, explained that Wolfeboro residents must request their absentee ballot from the Wolfeboro Town Clerk, who will confirm their voter eligibility and enable her to mail the ballot to them. Absentee Ballots for Wolfeboro residents can be hand-delivered to the SAU office so long as they are received by 5:00pm on the day before voting or mailed to the SAU so long as they are received at the Post Office by 5:00pm on the day of voting. Residents of other District towns request absentee ballots from their own town office and hand-deliver their ballot to their town office so long as they are received by 5:00pm on the day before voting or mail them to their town office so long as they are received at the Post Office by 5:00pm on the day of voting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee:

Dr. Sheckler presented policies EHAG and IKFG as 2nd Read for adoption, requesting suggested edits by the Board.

Motion: To approve policies EHAG and IKFG as 2nd Read for adoption as presented.

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

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

Dr. Sheckler presented policies BBA, BBB, BEDH, BHE, CB, CBI, and CHD as 2nd Read for reaffirmation, requesting suggested edits by the Board.

Motion: To approve policies BBA, BBB, BEDH, BHE, CB, CBI, and CHD as 2nd Read for reaffirmation as presented.

Moved: Mr. Williams – **Second:** Ms. Hewitt

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

Dr. Sheckler presented policies BCB, BDA, BDC, BEA, CA, ECE, GBD, GBK, IHBH, and IHBI as 2nd Read for revision, requesting suggested edits by the Board.

Motion: To approve policies BCB, BDA, BDC, BEA, CA, ECE, GBD, GBK, IHBH, and IHBI as 2nd Read for revision as presented.

Moved: Mr. Williams – **Second:** Ms. Burke

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 5, 2026

Discussion: The NHSBA supports striking “the adoption of this policy” from policy BCB. The Board agreed to keep the first edit (meeting called to order by the Superintendent) and strike the second edit (postponed meeting) on policy BDA.

Motion: To amend the previous motion to include the edit of policy BDA per discussion.

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

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

Motion: To approve policies BCB, BDA, BDC, BEA, CA, ECE, GBD, GBK, IHBH, and IHBI as 2nd Reads for revision as presented with the recommended edit to policy BDA.

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

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

Dr. Sheckler presented policy BCAA as a 2nd Read for withdrawal.

Motion: To approve policies BCAA as 2nd Read for withdrawal as presented.

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

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

Building & Maintenance Committee:

No report.

Community Relations Committee:

Mr. Williams reported that the committee met tonight to discuss the communication plan for the School Board, the District Social Media position, and updates to be published in the local newspapers.

Finance Committee:

No report.

Human Resources Committee:

Mr. Deshaies reported that a collaborative working committee will explore healthcare options for the District.

NON-COMMITTEE REPORTS

WCTV: Ms. Schillereff noted the theme of communication throughout tonight’s meeting and thanked the WCTV videographer for recording the meeting.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Planning

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

Public Input

None

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 5, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 9:42 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board: **2/02/2026**