

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Deshaies called the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board meeting to order at 5:36pm in the auditorium of the Kingswood Arts Center.

Members Present: Tom Bickford (6:13pm), Kirsten Burke, Brodie Deshaies, Ralph Estey, Dayna House, Mary Schillereff, Danielle Van Dusen, Nate Williams

Members Absent: Dr. Manning

Also present: Superintendent Scott Laliberte, Assistant Superintendent Kaitlyn Hills, Business Administrator Adriana Komst

Motion: At 5:36pm a motion was made to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II to discuss personnel and legal matters.

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

Vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes, Mr. Deshaies, yes

Board members, Superintendent Laliberte, Assistant Superintendent Hills, and Business Administrator Komst moved to Room #136. Mr. Deshaies was not present for this portion of the NP session. Personnel matters were discussed.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's nomination of Grace Deshaies as a 100% Teacher (Outreach Counselor) for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. Track 3 / Step 3 \$54,390.96.

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

Vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes

Mr. Deshaies joined the NP session at 5:42pm.

Motion: To approve the Superintendent's nomination of Andrea Ackerly as a 50% Special Education Counselor for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. Track 3 / Step 13 \$42,946.28.

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

Vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes, Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To accept the retirement of Cassandra Burnham with gratitude and appreciation effective June 30, 2027.

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

Vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes, Mr. Deshaies, yes

Mr. Deshaies called legal counsel to join the meeting remotely at 5:46pm. Legal matters were discussed.

Motion: To authorize Mr. Deshaies to sign the separation agreement as presented on behalf of the School Board.

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

Vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes, Mr. Deshaies, yes

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Mr. Deshaies signed the agreement. Mr. Bickford arrived at 6:13pm.

Motion: To instruct legal counsel to construct a letter to the Middleton School Board that outlines the GWRSD School Board's concerns regarding (1) the SAU Services agreement, (2) the Special Education invoices pending payment, and (3) to schedule a meeting between both parties.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: At 7:09pm a motion was made to end the non-public session.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

The meeting resumed in public session at 7:10pm in the auditorium of the Kingswood Arts Center. Middleton School Board Representative Kelly Tivnan, student representative Ryan Santerre, staff, and community members joined the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. House

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Heather Holmes, Student Council Advisor, introduced Student Council officers who described the roles and functions of the group for the School Board.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Deshaies opened the Public Hearing at 7:25pm.

Zach Sheehan, Executive Director of the non-profit organization NH School Funding Fairness Project, presented information on how school funding works in New Hampshire, described the policy platform, tax rate data in the state, the financial impact of inflation on taxes and funding, lawsuits and recent developments, and the intent versus impact of public policy development.

School Board members asked questions and commented on the presentation. There was no public comment.

Mr. Deshaies closed the Public Hearing at 8:06pm.

AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Deshaies moved the order of the Student Representative report to follow Agenda Review. Superintendent Laliberte requested the addition of a grant application letter to the Superintendent's Report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ryan Santerre introduced himself as the new Student Representative to the School Board and shared his beginning of the year report. His report is attached to the end of these minutes.

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026 Academic Affairs Committee meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026 Building & Maintenance Committee meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Estey, yes; Dr. Manning, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Mr. Williams, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026 School Board meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 13, 2026 School Board Workshop as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 18, 2026 Human Resources Committee meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 26, 2026 School Board meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Ms. House, abstain; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To approve the accounts payable (\$2,825,836.34) and payroll (\$2,343,633.22) manifests totaling \$5,169,469.56.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

PUBLIC INPUT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's District Update

Superintendent Laliberte reported a smooth District opening, reported on a preliminary meeting held to discuss the new pre-school program being proposed for Carpenter School, welcomed Ryan Santerre as the new Student Representative, and shared a monthly plan to review Strategic Plan goals during the school year.

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Budget Transfer Requests

Superintendent Laliberte presented two Special Education budget transfer requests.

Motion: To approve the two Special Education budget transfer requests as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, abstain

Grant Application Letter

Dr. Hills explained the application for the New England District-Community Consortium grant to benefit student access to school supports, enrichment opportunities, and meaningful connections and requested the endorsement of the Board.

Motion: To endorse and sign the letter as presented.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Board members signed the letter.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Correspondence

Mr. Deshaies shared that get well wishes were sent to a staff member on behalf of the Board.

Welcome Letter to Staff and Families

Mr. Deshaies shared that Ms. Schillereff has drafted a welcome letter to staff and families on behalf of the School Board. Members will review the letter before signing and sharing with staff and families.

NHSBA

Mr. Deshaies shared that he submitted one policy on behalf of the School Board to the NHSBA for consideration and volunteered to be the Delegate Assembly designee at the October meeting.

Motion: To send Mr. Deshaies to the Delegate Assembly as the Board's designee.

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

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

Resource Officer MOU

Mr. Deshaies introduced Wolfboro Police Chief Christopher Warn and Captain Mark Livie in the audience.

Motion: To approve the SRO MOU as presented.

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

Discussion: The Board invited Chief Warn to comment on the SRO program's operation. Superintendent Arakelian and Chief Warn reduced the program to one SRO at the start of the 2025-2026 school year due to decreased need. Chief Warn recommended updating the MOU for the 2027-2028 school year.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Dr. Manning, yes;

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

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

Mr. Deshaies signed the SRO MOU for the 2026-2027 school year.

Superintendent Search

The Board discussed the benefits of engaging the NHSBA to support the search for a new Superintendent and the importance of including students, staff, and community members in the search.

Motion: To instruct Superintendent Laliberte to engage the NHSBA to find a consultant to hire the new Superintendent, to be presented at the October meeting.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion: To create a hiring committee comprised of 9 School Board members, 1 representative from each Collective Bargaining Unit, and 1 community member.

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

Discussion: Discussion included the necessity of deciding the committee makeup at this time and participation by the student representative.

Vote: Mr. Bickford, no; Ms. Burke, no; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, no; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, no; Mr. Williams, no; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Motion Fails: 3 yes, 5 no

Motion: To appoint a temporary hiring committee.

Moved: Mr. Bickford – **Second:** Ms. Van Dusen

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, no; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, no; Ms. Schillereff, no; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, no; Mr. Deshaies, no

Motion Fails: 3 yes, 5 no

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee:

Ms. Van Dusen reported that the next scheduled meeting is on September 16th at 4:00pm at the SAU.

Building & Maintenance Committee:

No report.

Community Relations:

No report.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Deshaies reported that the committee met before tonight's Board meeting to review the FY2025 draft audit findings. The audit showed stellar financial operations by the SAU staff and only two minor findings, which are being addressed by corrective actions.

Human Resources Committee:

Mr. Deshaies reported that GWSSA negotiations are ongoing.

GOVERNOR WENTWORTH REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
GWRSD SCHOOL BOARD – KINGSWOOD ARTS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

NON-COMMITTEE REPORTS

WCTV

Ms. Schillereff reported that WCTV has been rebranded as “Wolfeboro Area Community Media” (WACM). They are looking for a person to record football games.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Mr. Williams shared that the OCS playground is nearing completion and may necessitate a Board meeting to accept the charitable gift prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting in October.

Advanced Planning

Mr. Deshaies read the GWRSD website statement from the bottom of the agenda.

Public Input

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At 9:30pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vote: Mr. Bickford, yes; Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Estey, yes; Ms. House, yes; Ms. Schillereff, yes; Ms. Van Dusen, yes; Mr. Williams, yes; Mr. Deshaies, yes

Respectfully submitted,



School Board Secretary

Approved by School Board: **10/05/2026**