

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER  
**SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
FEBRUARY 21, 2018 – 6 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins

**ABSENT:** Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Katherine Vandiver (N), Ms. Mary Duran (B)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT’S BUDGET OVERVIEW 2018-2019**

Dr. Palmer began the Budget Overview 2018-2019 Power Point Presentation titled, “The Pride of the Northwest Corner”, and theme of FORWARD. THINKING. SMART., highlighting academic, special education, preparing graduates for the future, and social and emotional literacy goals for the 2018-2019 school year. PSAT 2017 results were presented along with testing results ranking within the Berkshire League. CSDE school accountability index ranks Northwestern High School **2<sup>nd</sup> in the State** with regards to 12 indicators of success in the areas of English, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Graduation Rates, Absenteeism, Access to the Arts, and Postsecondary entrance for all learners with an **accountability index of 92.3 out of 100**. AP scores, net current expenditures per pupil, net current expenditures, straight line ADM both current and projected, school enrollment, budget drivers, with a historical expenditure increase overview was presented by Dr. Palmer, and an **overall proposed budget increase of 0.93 for the 2018-2019 school year**. An Object breakdown was provided along with excess cost expenditure offsets, efficiency measures, revenues, change in daily membership by town and a historical perspective on assessments. Dr. Palmer concluded noting that Regional School District No. 7 provides a rigorous and comprehensive educational program for all learners, preparing graduates with exceptional academic achievement results, high performing students across all disciplines including the arts, a clean and well-kept facility, excellent extracurricular opportunities, focus on social and emotional well-being, and a high-value, high-quality education with costs well in-line with the statewide average. Dr. Palmer thanked Board of Education members and expressed her sincere appreciation for the work they do and for their support on behalf of all students within the district.

Questions and discussion followed pertaining to special education student needs and cost offsets, possible “packet” to provide at budget presentation town meetings with positive parent/student comments, and the possibility of capturing student comments in a video to present at budget presentation town meetings. Benefit line increase question pertaining to budget surplus and capital expenditures, additional school needs that are unmet, surplus used to offset assessments, fluctuation of special education costs, outstanding debt and future borrowing opportunities, maintenance of building and grounds, ratio concerns pertaining to administration and the importance of roles, relationships, and exceptional educational benefits through flexible and creative thinking without adding to costs, acceptance of responsibilities and expectations with a positive attitude in searching for better ways of achieving and accomplishing goals and objectives were additional topics of discussion.

Board budget copies were distributed for review, and Mr. Gaskins advised Board members to please e-mail him directly with questions and/or concerns pertaining to the presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:00 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa H. D’Aprile  
Board Clerk

