

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
FIRST INFORMAL TOWN PRESENTATION/REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
BOTELLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA, NORFOLK
MARCH 14, 2018 – 7:00 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. Katherine Vandiver (N), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Ken Chichester, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara

ABSENT: Ms. Mary Duran

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., and with no Public present to view the Proposed Informal Budget Presentation for the 2018-2019 school year, began with the Regular Board of Education Meeting for March 14, 2018.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2018, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Vandiver. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2018, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Mr. Amara updated the Board on: the positive participation and well-received Social and Emotional Intelligence community meetings, Middle School Robotics team events and hosting an off season event at Regional 7, state spelling bee competition Grade 7 winner, History Day participation, Civil Rights stories and very enlightening, engaging, and exciting life lesson presentation by Mr. Ted Veling, "Life Under Nazi Rule" during World War II.

Mr. Chichester provided Board updates pertaining to: American hero, Mr. Joseph Patterson, the first African American NFL player, invited to speak with social study classes sharing his story and using his voice to make positive changes for social justice, a topic many of our students have developed a keen interest. Additionally, Mr. Chichester advised of interest in the Robotics Program Earned Credit Program and opportunities provided through that Program. Also, a new CIAC recognized E-Sport has begun at Regional 7 under the direction of Mr. Masi and with IT Chris Fray's assistance, using online computer games that students competitively participate in with students across Connecticut and providing another opportunity for students to master leadership building, codes of conduct, along with the challenges of participation in a competitive league. Lastly, Mr. Chichester advised the Board of ongoing student safety meetings and events leading up to and including today's "student walk-out" in support of the recent school shooting in Florida. A memorial in honor of each student was followed by student speeches which exhibited focus, eloquence and a passionate, respectful display in order that the message of safe schools, acknowledging each other's differences, and listening to each other would not be lost in the noise. All students were given the choice to participate, and Mr. Chichester estimated that approximately one-third of the student body gathered outside in front of the building under the flagpole. Questions and discussion followed, and Board members acknowledged administration and staff for their role and assistance in helping students channel their efforts and contributions in a positive, learning environment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board updates on enrollments and projected enrollments, Kindness in Motion applications with award presentations on Friday, high school Robotics Team tournament and events. Questions and discussion followed.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided updates pertaining to: food service contract negotiations, copier lease agreement, benefit renewals and exploring possible EdAdvance options as well as scheduling broker Brown and Brown to speak with all towns and school districts. Questions and clarification followed.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sexton Read advised that she will be pursuing and following up with social media policies discussed previously, and that she, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Gaskins, Mr. Jerram, and Mr. Gauthier will be attending the Town of New Hartford Board of Finance meeting on Saturday, March 17, 2018, for a Regional School District No. 7 Proposed 2018-2019 Budget Workshop. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion followed pertaining to further budget work and regular Board of Education meeting schedule.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **CANCEL** the next Regular Board of Education meeting scheduled on March 28, 2018. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Fragale. NAY: NONE. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADOPT**, pending any further snow days or closures, the last day of school as Monday, June 25, 2018, for the 2017-2018 school year. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Fragale. NAY: NONE. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADJOURN** at 8:10 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk