

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
ROBERTA S. OHOTNICKY LITTLE THEATER
DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING and BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 23, 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. Mary Duran (B), 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, Student Representatives Mr. Zachary Austin and Ms. April Ruopp

ABSENT: Mr. Chichester, Mr. Amara, Mr. Austin, Ms. Ruopp

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the District Budget Hearing to order at 7:06 p.m., for the purpose of presenting the Proposed 2018-2019 Regional School District No. 7 Budget.

There was no public audience in attendance that had not already seen the Proposed Budget Power Point Presentation, therefore, Ms. Sexton Read opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Tom Palmer, Barkhamsted resident, shared his opinion pertaining to the excellent education provided by Regional School District No. 7, however, he expressed dissatisfaction with perceived budget planning and management and requested clarification on the following topics: salaries, benefits, under and over funding of accounts, capital expenditures, and surplus. Dr. Palmer, Mr. Gaskins, and Ms. Sexton Read responded to his questions and clarified his concerns.

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Sexton Read closed the **BUDGET HEARING** at: 7:28 p.m.

Ms. Sexton Read called the **REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION** meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** Barkhamsted Informal Budget Presentation of April 10, 2018, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Fragale, Ms. Vandiver. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** April 11, 2018, Board of Education Minutes as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS:

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Palmer provided the Board with updates pertaining to: Mr. Sullivan’s third world travel experience presentation that was very well received, art work exhibition, Mr. Leisure’s music program, Fiddler on the Roof performance this weekend, and expressed great appreciation for Barb Collins, Irene Brown and Henry Gundlach’s handling of a livestock situation over the spring vacation.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT:

Mr. Gaskins reported on Food Service Policy, copier agreement, and provided an electricity update.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

UPDATES:

BOARD DISCUSSION ON 2018-2019 DISTRICT HEARING BUDGET:

Question pertaining to benefits and final numbers availability from Mr. Jerram was answered by Mr. Gaskins. No further questions or discussion by Board members.

POLICY REVIEW – 3542.43 – FOOD SERVICE CHARGING POLICY – SECOND READING

No further questions or discussion.

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Second Reading of Food Service Charging Policy as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPTION OF BUDGET TO TAKE TO ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING – MAY 7, 2018:

Following a brief discussion, the Board agreed to move forward to Referendum with a Proposed Budget increase of 0.93 percent for the 2018-2019 school year.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADOPT** the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget of \$21,142,018 **TO TAKE TO THE ANNUAL DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING** on Monday, May 7, 2018. This represents a 0.93 percent increase over the 2017-2018 budget expenditures. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADOPTION OF CALL OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING WITH REFERENDUM:

Notice of DISTRICT MEETING as read by Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Gauthier:

“A District Meeting of Regional School District No. 7 will be held on Monday, May 7, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., at the school building in Winsted, Connecticut, for the following business:

- 1) To authorize the Regional Board of Education to apply for, accept, and expend, in addition to the regular school budget, any state, federal, or private grant money which may be available for special purposes during the fiscal year 2018-2019.
- 2) To accept the annual budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2018. Copies of the budget are on hand in the offices of the town Clerks of each of the member towns.

The Board of Education for Regional School District No. 7 has designated that the vote on the motion to adopt the budget shall be by a “yes” or “no” vote on the optical scan machines in each of the member towns on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, with hours to be set by individual towns as established by state statutes.

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2018, at Winsted, Connecticut, and signed by Molly Sexton Read, Chair, Board of Education, Regional School District No. 7.”

MOTION by Ms. Sexton Read, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **ADOPT** Call for Annual District Meeting on Monday, May 7, 2018, 7:00 p.m. in the Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theater, as presented by Mr. Gauthier. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

AUTHORIZATION OF EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR 2018-2019 BUDGET:

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **AUTHORIZE** the Secretary of the Board of Education to prepare and cause to be printed and disseminated a concise explanatory text with respect to the 2018-2019 budget referendum question that will be submitted to the District's voters, subject to any necessary further legal review and approval by District legal counsel, and which shall otherwise be prepared, printed, and disseminated in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b and the Secretary's discretion, and to be amended as necessary. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **ADJOURN** at 7:52 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Vandiver, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

NEXT MEETINGS: MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018, ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING, LITTLE THEATER, 7:00 P.M.; TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018, REFERENDUM; WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018, REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING