

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
MAY 9, 2018 – 6 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)(6:12), Ms. Deborah Bell (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 (6:10) and Ms. April Ruopp

**ABSENT:** Ms. Katherine Vandiver (N)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** None.

**MOTION** by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADD** Agenda Item including an Executive Session.

AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of April 23,

2018, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms.

Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: **MOTION PASSED.**

**REPORTS:**

**STUDENT REPORTS:**

Ms. Ruopp provided the Board with updates pertaining to Water for Sudan, National Honor Society, Student Counsel, upcoming Faculty basketball game with Gilbert, Student Senate, AP testing, Model UN, IMPACT speaker, and Junior and Senior proms.

Mr. Austin provided updates on team sports wins/losses, prom, Senate and Middle School transition.

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS:**

Mr. Amara provided updates pertaining to the success of Special Person Day, Mike Stapleton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual History Day and upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. for students in Civil Rights Stories. Additionally, Mr. Amara updated the Board on SBAC testing, Mary Beth Tinker's presentation at Northwestern on May 22 for the Community, and May 23 for students, and the Middle School play to be performed on Friday, May 11.

Mr. Chichester advised the Board of the prestigious award that NWR7 Band received, honors for our art students, AP and SAT testing, spring safe driving demonstrations, the outstanding success of Fiddler on the Roof, and the Northwest Prevention Coalition program progress.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Palmer thanked and expressed gratitude to all Board members for their success, hard work and dedicated efforts with the budget process, approval and passing for the 2018-2019 school year.

Additionally, Dr. Palmer provided updates pertaining to Arconic Grant for Robotics Program, special education student updates, her attendance at a Pullman and Comley Legal Forum on School Security with NWR7 being in sync with best practices, and how grateful she is for Security Resource Officer, Dave Wood.

Board question pertaining to alert buttons was answered by Mr. Chichester. Dr. Palmer additionally advised that Kindness in Motion projects are in full swing, and how proud she is of all the students who are participating. A celebration of their accomplishments will be held on June 5, at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT:**

Mr. Gaskins thanked Ms. Sexton Read for her outstanding Budget Presentations provided to all of the Regional towns as well as all Board members for their support, effort, and dedication to Regional School District No. 7 in successfully passing the proposed budget for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Gaskins provided updates on additional savings following a CIRMA review of our Property and Liability Insurance for next year. We will also be seeing savings in negotiated electricity rates for the next year, and copier lease contract has been negotiated with a substantial discount. Mr. Gaskins has begun the process of looking at roofing options as well as investigating and working towards a comprehensive approach to energy savings. Questions and brief discussion followed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**UPDATES:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Authorization to make End-Of-Year Adjustments within the 2017-2018 Budget Limits.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Fragale to **AUTHORIZE** Director Gaskins to make end-of-year adjustments as necessary within the 2017-2018 budget limits. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**Authorization to borrow \$250,000 in anticipation of receipts.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AUTHORIZE** Director Gaskins to borrow \$250,000 in anticipation of receipts. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**Authorization for Superintendent to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AUTHORIZE** Dr. Palmer to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **CANCEL** the May 23, 2018, Board meeting AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter of Resignation from teacher, Emily Drago, advising that her resignation will become effective on the last school day of 2017-2018 because she has accepted a position at Simsbury High School as their English department supervisor. The Board accepted Ms. Drago's resignation with appreciation, regret, and best wishes.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**Executive Session**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ENTER** into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. for the purpose of Food Service Worker tentative contract review. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Entered into Executive Session were: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Gaskins.

Exited Executive Session at: 6:50 p.m. with the following **MOTION** made:

**MOTION** by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** the tentative contract agreement with the Food Service Workers. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADJOURN** at 6:55 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile  
Board Clerk

**NEXT MEETING: June 13, 2018, Top Ten Student Reception and BOE Meeting**