

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – Approved 10/10/18**  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 – 6 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Mr. Ben Nadeau (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 Ms. April Ruopp and Ms. Madeleine Giaconia

**ABSENT:** Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Mary Duran (B)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Sexton Read requested a **MOTION to ADD** an Agenda Item.

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ADD ITEM** to Agenda introducing new Board of Education member from the Town of Norfolk. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Nadeau. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ms. Sexton Read introduced Mr. Ben Nadeau, Board of Education member, duly sworn in by the Town of Norfolk.

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ACCEPT** new Board of Education member, Mr. Ben Nadeau, Town of Norfolk. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Nadeau. **MOTION PASSED.**

Mr. Chichester introduced Student Representative, Madeleine Giaconia, joining from the Junior Class as an outstanding student and contributor to our schools. The Board of Education welcomed Madeleine as Student Representative for the 2018-2019 school year.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** None.

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

**REPORTS:**

**STUDENT REPORTS:**

Ms. Ruopp provided updates pertaining to Europe trip, senior year packets, college applications with guidance assistance, teacher assistance with essay writing, sports updates, Highlander Fair and Open House. Ms. Giaconia provided updates pertaining to Theater Program, and LINK Crew. Questions and brief discussion followed.

**PRINCIPALS' REPORT:**

Dr. Palmer and Principals Chichester and Amara provided a Power Point presentation with an overview of student achievement data from the 2017-2018 school year, and outlined a course of action taken to support student learning and direction moving forward. Questions and discussion throughout the presentation were addressed by Dr. Palmer, Mr. Chichester, and Mr. Amara. Ms. Sexton Read expressed thoughts/concerns pertaining to teaching for test results. Discussion and explanation requested for Curriculum Coordinator "wish list" position and possibility of a shared position with elementary schools.

Further discussion followed, and Dr. Palmer advised that the presentation would be on school web site for easy reference.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Palmer happily shared an e-mail received from Zach Austin, former School Board Student Representative, with Board members.

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Leading with Kindness: The General Assembly's Commission on Women, Children and Seniors invitation to participate in 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Leading with Kindness Summit this September where six (6) students will have an opportunity to meet legislators with activities linking to academic, social, and emotional learning. Also, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Chichester, and Mr. Amara will travel to Los Angeles in February, 2019, and will be presenting a Kindness in Motion workshop following acceptance by the Superintendent's National Organization for their submission on integrating Kindness in Motion and Yale's RULER skills into school systems. They are very excited for this opportunity. Additionally, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Chichester, and Mr. Amara provided a Power Point Presentation and draft plan to expand Kindness in Motion through the Education First Grant of \$25,000. Dr. Palmer would like to expand this program to Berkshire League and area schools to explore opportunities to foster kindness, acceptance of diversity, empathy, and compassion. Dr. Palmer is asking for ideas from community, board members, elected officials, local businesses/organizations, students, staff, alumni, on ways to utilize the grant money expanding Kindness in Motion throughout our communities.

#### **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT:**

Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates pertaining to: last year's final budget numbers and audit process that began today, commending Business Office staff for their work throughout the year; current year budget; summer projects including high school bathrooms, front doors, gym sound system, roof repairs, proposals for roof maintenance program, Links Room renovations, paddock area tree removal and fence repair work completed, classroom redesign for Foreign Language; and, progress made pertaining to funding commitment from Eversource for energy program implementation. Additionally, annual meeting with all bus companies was held with finalization of bus routes. As usual and as anticipated, minor issues were resolved. Mr. Gaskins also provided Board updates related to food service and ongoing Education Assistant negotiations.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Dr. Palmer provided a final teacher hiring report as follows: (1) **Gabrielle Robertson** replacing Emily Drago, Level III, Step 2, HS English. (2) **Christine Mitchell** replacing Alexa Fermeglia, Level III, Step 3, MS Art. (3) **John Farrell** replacing Lori Trovato, Level III, Step 5, AgEd.

Ms. Sexton Read advised status of Social Media handbook, and provided the following dates for upcoming events: **October 24, 2018, Annual Community Conversation Meeting** (second monthly BOE meeting scheduled date); and, **November 3, 2018, Annual Run Like A Deer** event with funds offsetting costs for Warner Theater graduation.

Mr. Gauthier requested information pertaining to Mr. Franklin's responsibility of overseeing social media student and staff submissions. Dr. Palmer clarified the posting process through Mr. Franklin and a disclaimer has been posted on our website. Discussion followed.

Ms. Kenneson advised of Shared Services negotiations.

Ms. Sexton Read provided an update pertaining to Budget Line Item addition to accommodate any favorable budget variance, along with some details of a prior discussion that she, Dr. Palmer, and Mr. Gaskins engaged in during the last month. Ms. Sexton Read would like to create a subcommittee for

further research, investigation, discussion, and recommendations. Mr. Gauthier volunteered to participate, and Ms. Sexton Read will advise of future meeting date. Brief discussion followed, and Mr. Gaskins responded to Board questions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Approval of Education First Grant presented by Dr. Palmer. The \$25,000 grant from The NoVo Foundation in partnership with Education First and the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors will support students' work through Kindness in Motion.

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ACCEPT \$25,000 GRANT**, in accordance with Policy 3280 which states the Board of Education shall approve gifts over \$5,000. The purpose of this grant is to support Social and Emotional Learning skills through Kindness in Motion. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Ms. Sexton Read advised Board members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual School Leadership, Conference, October 25, 5:30-8:30, if anyone interested in attending.

Dr. Palmer presented Correspondence from Rachel Evans with Maternity Leave request for school year 2018-2019. Ms. Evans delivery due date is November 16, 2018.

**MOTION** by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE** Maternity Leave Request as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Palmer presented Correspondence from Guy Hayes advising of his retirement at the end of this school year. Dr. Palmer and Board members expressed much appreciation and gratitude for Dr. Hayes' advance notice, with plans for posting this vacancy in January, 2019.

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ACCEPT** Dr. Hayes' Notice of Retirement with many thanks for his service in the classroom and theater, along with best wishes for a happy retirement. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC PORTION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ADJOURN** at 7:27 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile  
Board Clerk

Next Meeting: September 26, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Newbury Library Media Center