

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES - Approved 1/9/19
DECEMBER 12, 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), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), 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 Representative Ms. Madeleine Giaconia

ABSENT: Student Representative Ms. April Ruopp

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., immediately following the Annual Organizational Meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION

Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items: None.

Agriculture Education Department Report:

Mia Haaland introduced new Agriculture Education teacher, Mr. John Farrell, and Agriculture Education students introduced themselves and provided a presentation to Board of Education members outlining the year's events and activities to date including: Big E participation, Riverton Fair booth, Meals for Hope involvement, Degree Ceremony, cider, crisp and maple candy production, FFA National Convention learning and career opportunities, fall recruitment, animal science and livestock care, greenhouse production and spring planning, and aquaculture lab getting up and running again. Questions followed, and Board members thanked students, Ms. Haaland, and Mr. Farrell expressing appreciation for their dedication, work, commitment, and great presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2018, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

Student Representative Report:

Ms. Giaconia provided a Board update including recent theater production, winter sports, mock trials, Model UN Conference, band and chorus concert, NHS, and student Senate projects.

Principals' Reports:

Mr. Amara updated the Board of Education on parent engagement and parent teacher conferences, the RULER Parent Collaborative program, community outreach activities in process and completed by students including turkey basket preparation, and Red Angel Christmas program, PJ Day in support of CCMS, Middle School Winter Concert exhibiting amazing growth of the students, and holiday letters written by students for veterans.

Mr. Chichester provided enthusiastic Board report and update in reference to the very positive and successful Berkshire League High School Climate Summit workshops and roundtables with extremely positive student engagement and feedback throughout the League, and with the take-away goal of what can be done to help our school climate become even better. Additionally, Mr. Chichester gave a shout out to Trina McHugh for her work with the Holiday for Hero's Program, advised of a mandatory seminar for all

student drivers on winter weather driving skills and proper procedures to follow if ever stopped by a police officer, and shared what was an emotional tribute to Owen Nelligan at the start of the annual Winter Concert with a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace followed by a moment of silence. Lastly, Mr. Chichester advised that for the second year, the high school is celebrating receiving the AP Honor Roll District Award. Questions and brief discussion followed.

Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Palmer enthusiastically advised Board members of Kindness in Motion “ripple effect” reaching throughout the State and the country providing examples of the good work being accomplished and how grateful she is to be involved with this movement. Additionally, Dr. Palmer advised of the accomplishments of the Region 7 Mathematics Curriculum Committee work to align grade level teams, and provided a House 1, Interim Housemaster update with application timeline and approximate hire date. Questions and discussion followed regarding Interim Housemaster position.

Director of Finance and Operations Report:

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to the Energy Conservation Project, Middle School hallway lights and future upgrade schedule, King & King audit finding pertaining to year-end encumbrances, School Security Competitive Grant Program Round #4 submission, and new Title IV grant fund approval for \$10,000 to be utilized for bathroom vape detectors. Questions and discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates:

Second Reading – Policy #5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect:

Board member questions were addressed by Ms. Sexton Read pertaining to language changes and Dr. Palmer acting as agent for the Board of Education.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** Policy #5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Board of Education Workshop:

Ms. Sexton Read provided Board members with additional information pertaining to CAFE workshops on development and building tools to help with community engagement and relationships, requesting feedback from Board members regarding interest in collaborative participation with member town (Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, Norfolk) Boards of Education as well. Questions and discussion followed on times/dates, and members expressed interest in pursuing the workshops. Ms. Sexton Read will reach out to town Board Chairpersons to assess interest and schedule once the budget timeline is complete.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Goals:

Brief discussion pertaining to possible Board of Education goal updates, followed by Board members agreeing that the current goals are still applicable and will remain the same at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Sexton Read shared that a letter of gratitude has been received from Kevin Nelligan and is available for individual board member reading. Board members, administration, and staff continue to think of the family with love and support.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:26 p.m. for the purpose of Educational Assistant Contract agreement. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Exited Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ACCEPT** Educational Assistant Contract agreement for the period July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2022. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADJOURN** at 7:38 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Board of Education Meeting: January 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center