

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES - APPROVED 2/6/19
JANUARY 09, 2019 – 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), 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 Glaconia

ABSENT: Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N)

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

PUBLIC PORTION

Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Annual Organizational Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2018, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2018, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

Student Representative Report:

Ms. Ruopp provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Student Council activities, Mr. Northwestern, National Honor Society, and Student Senate. Ms. Glaconia provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: theater auditions and show dates, and Students Helping Students Program activities. Questions followed regarding Students Helping Students Program opportunities within exam schedules.

Principals' Reports:

Middle School Principal, Mr. Amara, provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: visits to elementary schools for beginning transition process for the 2019-2020 school year, Middle School to High School transitions, mathematics priority work and creation of a Summer Math Academy focusing on foundational skills for students who would like to participate, interim assessment block implementation for Math and ELA, and planning for the first RULER parent meeting. Questions followed for further clarification of assessment blocks and brief discussion followed.

High School Principal, Mr. Chichester, provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: High School Advanced Placement statistics and changes that will enhance and continue to strengthen the program, very high 2019-2020 recruitment in Agricultural Education Program and application process, Housemaster vacancy application process update, and Capstone Project implementation plan. Questions and discussion followed regarding Housemaster position and title, and AgEd application process and recruitment.

Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Palmer began her Board update commending and with thanks for the efforts and dedication of both Mr. Chichester and Mr. Franklin for the work they are doing, in addition to their own responsibilities, in the absence of Mr. Masi. Additionally, Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Kindness in Motion plan and Application process and AASA National Conference, Education First SEL in Action Convention along with attendance dates, and High School Reform, after careful review and leaving no stone unturned, recommendation of the addition of one (1) STEM position in the 2019-20 budget proposal. Regional Math summit work will continue as planned. Questions and brief discussion followed, and Dr. Palmer thanked Board members for their support.

Director of Finance and Operations Report:

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Energy Conservation Project, past, present, and future budget updates, Connecticut rate increase of 4 percent (2-year agreement capped at 7.5 percent), and State of Connecticut budget concerns for municipalities and school districts. Mr. Gaskins distributed Draft Budget Timeline Calendars to Board Members for their review. Discussion and clarification on dates followed with further review necessary for possible change of Regular BOE meeting scheduled on February 27, 2019, changing to a Special Meeting for Budget Presentation only, and the following MOTION was made.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** moving the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on February 13, 2019, to February 6, 2019. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

Updates:

Ms. Sexton Read provided Board members with a brief update on the December 18, 2018, meeting held in Dr. Palmer’s office with member towns’ Board of Finance Chairs, Selectmen, and RSD #7 Administration. All expressed concerns pertaining to State Budget and Education Cost Share, and Ms. Sexton Read provided information pertaining to 2019-2020 budget line items changes and assessment offset/favorable budget variance presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

DRAFT – School Calendar – 2019-2020

Draft school calendar distributed to Board members and presented by Dr. Palmer with slight differences in alignment with New Hartford and Colebrook.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** Regional School District No. 7’s Draft 2019-2020 School Calendar as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Palmer presented Katherine Scoville’s formal request for pregnancy and childbirth leave commencing March 4, 2019, through the remainder of the school year. Ms. Scoville will return to her position for the 2019-2020 school year.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Ms. Scoville’s request for pregnancy and childbirth leave. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Additional Board member Question followed pertaining to Summer Math Academy presented by Mr. Amara, and Dr. Palmer provided clarification.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ADJOURN** at 7:00 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Board of Education Meeting: January 23, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center