

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES - AMENDED/APPROVED 2/27/19**  
FEBRUARY 06, 2019 – 6 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (via phone)(NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (via phone)(C), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Ken Chichester, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara

**ABSENT:** Mr. Gauthier (NH), Ms. Fragale (C), Student Representatives Ms. Ruopp, and Ms. Glaconia

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Ms. Ingrid Burke, Science Teacher and Department Chairperson, provided the Board with a presentation including changes in Science courses and the shift to Next Generation Science Standards with sample assessment questions and a demonstration of navigating the challenging online testing site. Future considerations were outlined, and classroom activities were exhibited with a power point presentation. Mr. Chichester and Dr. Palmer both contributed their thoughts and appreciation of Ingrid’s hard work in developing the program, complimenting her on her own additional personal training and dedication to expanding the Science Program, and thanking the Board for their support as well.

**Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram (via phone), Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Kenneson (via phone). **MOTION PASSED.**

**REPORTS**

**Student Representative Report:** None.

**Principals’ and Superintendent’s Report:**

Dr. Palmer began the joint presentation with Principals Chichester and Amara by thanking Board of Education members, Mr. Quentin Rueckert of Shared Services, and the administrative staff for their unending support during this most difficult school year.

In response to the recent student deaths, their Mental Health Matters presentation included Regional School District No. 7’s efforts over the past few years in the area of Mental Health beginning with the establishment in September, 2014, of The Northwestern Connecticut Youth and Adolescent Mental Health Coalition, Kindness in Motion Program in 2015 and the significant expansion effort of that work with the award of the Education First Grant of \$25,000, Youth and Mental Health First Aid Training in 2016 with Social Worker Kristin Beaujon and School Psychologist Steve Michaud, and the ongoing work with Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence Collaborative RULER Program with all staff, students, as well as community work with parents and sending districts. QPR (Question, Process, Refer) training will follow as a plan and next step assuring that efforts in the Mental Health area will be ongoing, and monthly parental forums are planned along with ongoing support services, therapy dogs, class meetings, and SOS training. A

support brochure developed listing all resources, in and outside of school, available to students and the community was distributed to Board members. Dr. Palmer expressed sincere appreciation and again thanked all Board of Education members for their understanding and consideration for these ongoing and continued mental health support efforts and initiatives.

Ms. Sexton Read contributed an idea and initiative she is developing for a new community program (RENEW) bringing adults and students together creating and working collaboratively on various projects connected to the grief process. Despite the work being done, mental health concerns remain, and Ms. Sexton Read thanked and expressed sincere gratitude for the efforts of Dr. Palmer, Principals Chichester and Amara, as well as the numerous support staff for their response to the recent tragic student deaths. Their dedication, commitment, ongoing efforts, “boots on the ground” exhaustive work, and strength displayed during this extremely difficult time is commendable, far reaching, and deeply appreciated.

**Director of Finance and Operations Report:**

Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates in the following areas: Title IV Grant fund usage for vaping sensors in student bathrooms, Prism Health Care meeting attended at the request of Don Stein, and the 2019-2020 conservative, ongoing budget preparation which will be presented February 27, 2019. He will be closely monitoring the Governor’s Budget, and there is a broker renewal meeting and presentation scheduled for early March. Additionally, the Energy Efficiency Project is 59 percent complete with lighting, and happily the installation has been going smoothly and company very receptive to requests throughout the building.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Updates:** None.

**Mr. Jerram, via telephone, signed out of the meeting.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Policy #9131 – Standing Committees and Representatives – Review and Update changing language from EdConn to EdAdvance.

**MOTION** by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE** language change in Policy #9131 – Standing Committees and Representatives – from EdConn to EdAdvance. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson (via phone). NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ADJOURN** at 7:05 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson (via phone). NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D’Aprile  
Board Clerk

Next Board of Education Meeting: February 27, 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center