

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES - APPROVED 3/13/19
FEBRUARY 27, 2019 – 6 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins

ABSENT: Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Mary Duran (B)

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

PUBLIC PORTION

Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2019, with the addition of the statement, “Mr. Jerram, via telephone, signed out of the meeting”, following OLD BUSINESS UPDATES. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Gauthier. **MOTION PASSED.**

PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT’S 2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET OVERVIEW

Dr. Palmer began the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Overview, thanking James Gaskins, Cheryl DePaoli, and Lisa D’Aprile for their work, and the Board of Education for their support and dedication in making Regional School District No. 7 the excellent school that it is. Dr. Palmer’s Power Point Presentation highlighted historical expenditure increases, and continued with student PSAT results, testing result rankings within the Berkshire League, AP student scores, and CSDE Next Generation Accountability indicators. Per pupil net current expenditures within the Berkshire League graph presentation, member town current and projected straight line enrollment, along with an outline of efficiency measures were presented demonstrating Regional School District No. 7’s continued ability of providing a high performing school district that meets the educational, social/emotional, and extracurricular needs of all students at an average cost. An Object breakdown of proposed increases/decreases was provided for Salaries, Benefits including dollar reallocations for the 2019-2020 school year, Professional/Technical Services, Property Services, Other Purchased Services, Supplies, Property, Other Objects, Other Funds, Excess Cost Expenditure Offsets, Revenues, and change in Average Daily Membership by Towns for a **2019-2020 Proposed Budget Increase of \$375,260 or 1.77 percent**. A historical Perspective on Assessments was provided, and Dr. Palmer concluded that Regional School District No. 7 continues to provide a rigorous and comprehensive educational program connecting students with their school and passions, an outstanding facility, and excellent extracurricular opportunities at costs in line with the statewide average and per pupil expenditures in the lower half of the Berkshire League.

Budget copies were distributed to all Board of Education members, and Dr. Palmer reviewed budget coding line items and again thanked Board members, teachers, staff, students, and community members for their support and excellence in making Regional School District No. 7 an exceptional school.

Ms. Sexton Read expressed gratitude and appreciation of administration efforts, particularly for the reallocation of funds as requested, and provided assurance that these funds will be protected as an offset to unexpected expenses and stabilization to town assessments with continued positive budget variances.

Ms. Sexton Read reviewed the Budget Timeline Calendar, and Mr. Gaskins advised Board members to feel free to email any questions directly to him in advance of upcoming budget workshops. Mr. Gauthier questioned the cost per pupil increase, and both Dr. Palmer and Mr. Gaskins provided clarification. Brief discussion followed pertaining to current bond payments and future bond project planning.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ENTER** into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. for the purpose of Superintendent's Annual Review. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Entered into Executive Session were: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. Exited Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADJOURN** at 7:21 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Regularly-Scheduled Meeting – SPECIAL MEETING – March 6, 2019 – Input from Town Boards and Officials, 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center