

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
FIRST INFORMAL TOWN PRESENTATION - NORFOLK
and BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES - APPROVED 3/27/19
BOTELLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
MARCH 13, 2019 – 7:00 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. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Ken Chichester, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara

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

Ms. Sexton Read began the Board of Education 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Presentation for Regional School District No. 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Sexton Read introduced herself and began the First Informal Budget Presentation in Norfolk with a Power Point Presentation highlighting 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 Ms. Sexton Read 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. Ms. Sexton Read thanked community members and expressed her appreciation for their support on behalf of all students within the District.

PUBLIC: Questions were addressed by Ms. Sexton Read, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Gaskins, and Mr. Chichester during and following the presentation from public pertaining to: Course availability at NCCC, Middle School Accountability/Mathematics curriculum, teacher contract negotiations, budget variance offset clarification, regular education tuition, further clarification of increases and decreases in budget lines for future presentations, declining student population, building capacity, out of district student cap, decline in State of Connecticut ECS funding, and regionalization potential.

INFORMAL BUDGET PRESENTATION CONCLUDED AT 7:45 P.M.

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:47 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

High School Principal, Mr. Chichester, along with Middle School Principal, Mr. Amara, provided Board updates pertaining to: RULER approach for social and emotional learning and highly productive work being done with parents and staff, recent CSDE School District Accountability results for both High School and Middle School with confidence that current results will continue to improve, again, thanks to the work being done by staff and motivated students. Additionally, both principals were excited to share the efforts being made with community support in making available to students as well as parents several exciting, expert presenters in areas of substance abuse, anxiety, and mental health during this very challenging year. The RENEW Program, supported by Ms. Sexton Read, is proving to also be very beneficial for students and community members as a way to come together and share through fun activities. Discussion followed and clarification was provided regarding the Science Testing pilot administered last year, aligning Middle School math groups and possible summer programs being offered for struggling students, and clarification on public service announcement opportunity.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent, Dr. Palmer, provided Board updates pertaining to: Introduction of Mr. Steve Zimmerman, selected as the new House I Housemaster effective April 1, 2019. Congratulations were provided, and Mr. Zimmerman briefly spoke sharing his excitement of joining and becoming part of the stellar leadership team at Regional 7. Board members welcomed and provided Mr. Zimmerman with best wishes in his new role. Additionally, Dr. Palmer discussed Regional 7 Math Meeting scope and sequence progress. Lastly, Dr. Palmer shared Mr. Gary Franklin's KINDNESS IN MOTION PROJECT with plans being made for an end-of-year celebration following this extraordinarily difficult year to bring students, parents and all community members together to share in a fun-filled event. Stay tuned for more information as plans are made and finalized for the HIGHLANDER FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS REPORT

Director of Finance & Operations, Mr. Gaskins, provided Board updates pertaining to: Health Insurance Consortium meeting with Brown & Brown and benefits received due to increased consortium membership, and also competitive dental quotes being investigated for possible additional savings in that area as well.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Board questions pertaining to the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget were clarified by both Dr. Palmer and Mr. Gaskins regarding: reallocation of benefits in various computer program lines, Chromebook usage, guidance summer work, retirements, mentors, and several salary line clarifications. Additional discussion

followed regarding rationale for revisiting possible title name change of “Housemaster” for further investigation. Ms. Sexton Read advised she would like Dr. Palmer and Mr. Gaskins to have a plan in place addressing possible budget reductions should the Board choose to make those decisions following balance of informal presentations with member towns.

Review of Budget Timeline followed including New Hartford Finance Committee meeting Saturday, March 16, 2019, 9:30 a.m., where a brief overview of the budget is presented and questions answered.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADJOURN** Board of Education meeting at 8:50 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D’Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Meetings: Saturday, March 16 – Budget Workshop with New Hartford Board of Finance, 9:30 a.m. – New Hartford Town Hall

Wednesday, March 27, 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Education meeting - Newbury Library Media Center