

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES APPROVED 4/10/2019
MARCH 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. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Teresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins

ABSENT: High School Principal Mr. Ken Chichester, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Student Representatives Ms. April Ruopp and Ms. Madelein Glaconia

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

Ms. Sexton Read requested a Motion to Amend Agenda to remove Principal and Student Representative Reports.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AMEND AGENDA** removing Principal and Student Representative Reports as Agenda Items. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Sexton Read requested a Motion to Amend Agenda to include Correspondence Letter of Resignation from Julie Briere, Special Education Teacher.

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **AMEND AGENDA** including Correspondence received from Julie Briere. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PORTION

Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Nadeau. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

Superintendent Report: Dr. Palmer began her Board of Education updates by thanking all members and expressing appreciation for their dedication and support, and continued with updates regarding the Robotics Program, Housemaster Position and Mr. Zimmerman's request to stay in his current position as Music teacher and Department Chairperson, Ms. Candy Perez returning as Interim Housemaster through the remainder of the school year, plan for search of a permanent replacement, and Kindness in Motion goal reached for well drilling project. Board discussion followed which included appreciation of Mr. Zimmerman coming forward so quickly with his request to stay in his present position as Music Teacher and Department Head. Additionally, Dr. Palmer advised of 2019 graduation date of Monday, June 17, 2019, at 7 p.m. at the Warner Theater with Project Graduation immediately following at the Granby YMCA.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **SET THE DATE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019**, for 2019 Graduation to take place on Monday, June 17, 2019. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms.

Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Director of Finance and Operations Report:

Mr. Gaskins reviewed the Board of Education Transfer Report and answered questions regarding reallocation of benefits, expenses associated with security equipment and the Energy Conservation Project, and deficits associated with various line items.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** the Budget Transfer Report as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

Updates:

Ms. Sexton Read updated Board members of the productive Budget Workshop on Saturday, March 16, 2019, with the New Hartford Board of Finance providing highlights regarding: potential TRB assessments, reallocation in line items, line item budget balances, positive budget variance protection, and cyber protection concerns. Ms. Sexton Read advised that she will be adjusting the upcoming Proposed Budget Town Presentations pertaining to the reallocation in line items and positive budget variance in an effort to provide further clarification for town officials and community members. Brief discussion followed.

Budget Deliberations:

Board members provided input from town officials and community members with a discussion including possible budget reductions, upcoming teacher negotiations, responsiveness to elected officials following the Special Meeting on March 6, 2019, and their responsibility to Regional School District No. 7 students. Mr. Gaskins shared that following the 0.93 percent budget increase for the 2018-2019 school year, the proposed 1.77 percent increase for 2019-2020 is a very responsible and honest presentation without jeopardizing the integrity of school programs, building maintenance and our obligations and responsibilities to students and community members. Board members were in agreement of moving forward with upcoming town presentations with the Proposed Budget Presentation for the 2019-2020 school year budget increase remaining at the current presentation and 1.77 percent increase. Ms. Sexton Read reviewed upcoming Budget Timeline Calendar of next meeting dates for Informal Town Presentations and Regular Board of Education meetings.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson to **ACCEPT** Decision of Referendum for the 2019-2020 Budget on May 7, 2019. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

Hiring Report:

Dr. Palmer advised that Ms. Katie Mello has been hired as the new Middle School Special Education teacher. Katie has previously worked in our FLEX and STEP Programs through Shared Services, and is an excellent addition to RSD#7 staff.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Palmer presented Deb Stafford's Letter of Retirement, adding that Deb is an excellent high school Mathematics teacher and will be greatly missed. Dr. Palmer does not recommend reducing the salary line in the 2019-2020 Budget Proposal as finding a replacement may be costly.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ACCEPT** Deb Stafford's Letter of Retirement with many thanks, gratitude and best wishes for her next adventure. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Palmer presented Steve Zimmerman's Letter of Request to remain in his current position as Music Teacher and Music Department Head.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** Steve Zimmerman's Letter of Request to remain in his current position. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Palmer presented Julie Briere's Letter of Resignation, advising that Julie is moving to Ireland and will remain at R7 through the end of this school year. Julie, also an excellent teacher with a big role in the Special Education Department, will be greatly missed and may be a difficult position to replace.

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ACCEPT** Julie Briere's Letter of Resignation with many thanks, gratitude and very best wishes. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADJOURN** at 6:37 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk