

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES - APPROVED 4/22/19
April 10, 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. 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, Student Representatives Ms. April Ruopp and Ms. Madelein Glaconia

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

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION

Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Second Informal Budget Presentation of April 02, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** Third Informal Budget Presentation of April 03, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

Student Representatives: Ms. Ruopp provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Cross Town Challenge, winter formal dance, NHS dance-a-thon and reaching \$15,000 Water for Sudan goal, Mr. Northwestern event rescheduled, RISE, Debate Team, Band Concert, Kindness in Motion Art project, Foreign Language Week activities, and the excitement for the First Kindness in Motion Highlander Food Truck Festival event scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2019. Ms. Giaconia provided updates pertaining to: the new Elective Period with students very much enjoying being able to select an option of interest to them and spend time in a way with staff and peers that's fun, swim season, track, baseball and tennis updates, AgEd public speaking, SAT administration, Congressional Art Contest, upcoming Spring theater performance of Seussical, and Students Helping Students program update. Questions and discussion followed requesting further clarification regarding how the new Elective Period is managed and staff perspective and responsibilities. Mr. Chichester provided clarification and advised that students and staff seem to very much appreciate this opportunity of meeting with others in a fun way. The Elective Period meets 2 times per month.

Principals: Middle School Principal, Mr. Amara, provided Board updates pertaining to: SBAC testing working very smoothly with much appreciation and thanks to IT Director, Chris Fray. Chris's work and coordination of Chromebook updates and State of Connecticut requirements make it possible for students to test within the environments where they are most comfortable. Additionally, Mr. Amara provided updates on the success of the Middle School "Someone Special Day" celebration and numerous events

scheduled throughout that time, the presentation of the movie “Angst” and following panel discussion, and the Parent Book Club’s final book choice, “The Self-Driven Child” by William Stixrud and Ned Johnson.

High School Principal, Mr. Chichester, provided Board updates pertaining to: SAT, PSAT, and NGSS testing administration, and “Angst” movie presentation and positive feedback with panel discussion following the presentation. Additionally, Mr. Chichester shared the challenges of student scheduling and moving to an 8-period day beginning with the school year 2020-2021 to accommodate the 25 credit requirement distributing an example of what a student schedule might look like. Mr. Chichester advised that it will be a complicated process, and early next year a staff team will be assembled for extensive investigation on best methods and scenarios of accomplishing their goals of balancing a typical student day. Questions and discussion followed. Also, Mr. Chichester advised that students have very much appreciated the opportunities provided to learn more about mental health. Clinical Neuropsychologist and Motivational speaker, Matthew Ballaise’s, Mental Health and Substance Abuse presentation is scheduled on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Shared Services has been instrumental in providing personnel who have been working closely with students needing extra support, and their feedback and suggestions regarding mental health wellness have been very positive and much appreciated. Questions and brief discussion followed.

Superintendent: Dr. Palmer began her Board update commending both Mr. Amara and Mr. Chichester for their work, above and beyond, this year. Their efforts have been exceptional, and she is most grateful and appreciative. Dr. Palmer’s Board updates included the exciting success of Team Robotics in their weekend competition bringing home a winner’s trophy and Blue Banner, recognizing the outstanding mentors who make the team possible. Additionally, Dr. Palmer highlighted topics discussed at Superintendents’ meeting held this week addressing residency concerns with a brief outline of procedures in place at Regional 7, and the introduction of a 3-hour delay schedule as an option in an effort to hold a school day following a storm that ends early morning. Dr. Palmer advised on hiring process for a permanent replacement for Housemaster Joe Masi thanking Ms. Sexton Read and Mr. Jerram for their support, and provided Legislative updates pertaining to TRB expenses, and school regionalization. Kindness in Motion projects moving forward, and many thanks to Donna Williams for her work on events surrounding Graduation, 2019. Brief discussion followed.

Director of Finance and Operations: Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates pertaining to: 2018-2019 budget, member town response to the Proposed Budget 2019-2020 presentations, Energy Conservation Project, Food Service operations update pertaining to salad bar meal reimbursement, and Budget Indication Meeting scheduled with CIRMA to review General Liability and Workers’ Compensation claim history. Questions and brief discussion followed.

Hiring Report presented by J. Palmer: Dr. Palmer happily advised that Mr. Mark Prelli has been hired to replace Deb Stafford as a High School Mathematics teacher beginning 2019-2020 school year. Mark has a proven track record as an outstanding teacher, colleague, and extracurricular coach, and Dr. Palmer is very pleased that he will be joining the Highlander team. Questions and brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates:

CABE Workshop: Ms. Sexton Read updated the Board on upcoming CABE workshops introducing effective ways of building communication and relationships within the community. Ms. Sexton Read also thanked and expressed appreciation of fellow Board members for their attendance and support at Town Proposed Budget presentations as well as her appreciation of Don Stein’s fair presentation of the Proposed Budget, despite the increase that the Town of Barkhamsted is experiencing. Discussion followed on Proposed 2019-2020 Working Budget with Board members in agreement following feedback received from Boards of

Finance and Town Presentations to move forward with Proposed Budget 2019-2020 responsible increase of 1.77 percent.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF BUDGET TO TAKE TO BUDGET HEARING APRIL 22, 2019.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **ADOPT** Budget To Take To Annual District Budget Hearing on April 22, 2019, as presented with a 1.77 percent increase. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADOPTION OF CALL OF BUDGET HEARING

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Duran, for **ADOPTION OF CALL OF BUDGET HEARING** as presented by Ms. Sexton Read, "The electors and those entitled to vote in town meetings in the towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, and Norfolk, Connecticut, are hereby notified and warned that a District Hearing for the Regional School District No. 7, will be held on Monday, April 22, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theater of the High School Building at which meeting the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal year commencing July 1, 2019, will be presented. Any person may recommend the inclusion or deletion of expenditures at such meeting. The annual Meeting of said District will be held on Monday, May 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m." AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADOPTION OF REFERENDUM QUESTION

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADOPT REFERENDUM QUESTION**, "Shall the Regional School District No. 7 Annual Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2019, be accepted?" "YES" vote is for approval, and "NO" vote is for disapproval. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Palmer presented Kim Pradhan's Letter of Retirement.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ACCEPT** Kim Pradhan's Letter of Retirement with many thanks, gratitude and best wishes. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **ADJOURN** at 7:05 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