

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
ROBERTA S. OHOTNICKY LITTLE THEATER
DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING and BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019 – 7:00 P.M. APPROVED 5/8/19

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

ABSENT: Ms. Mary Duran (B), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the **DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING** to order at 7:04 p.m. Confirmation was established that the meeting had been posted appropriately in all towns, and Return of Notice certifying that the Notice of the District Budget Meeting for Regional School District No. 7 to be held on Monday, May 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theater was posted on the public signposts in the Towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford., and Norfolk, Connecticut, was signed and dated by Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier. There was no Public in Attendance, therefore, the Proposed 2019-2020 Budget was not presented, and Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read closed the District Budget Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Ms. Sexton Read called the **REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION** meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Barkhamsted Informal Budget Presentation of April 09, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Fragale, **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** April 10, 2019, Board of Education Minutes as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Kenneson. None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **APPROVE** April 11, 2019, 4:00 p.m. Special Meeting Minutes as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **APPROVE** April 11, 2019, 4:33 p.m. Special Meeting Minutes as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Fragale.

REPORTS:

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Palmer provided the Board with an update pertaining to the Housemaster position, and also of an increase in the projected estimates of students admitted to the VOAG program next year.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT:

Mr. Gaskins requested that the Board approve KING, KING and ASSOCIATES as auditors for the 2018-2019 fiscal year advising that they have conducted the audit for numerous years and are familiar with R7 operations as well as having a very positive working relationship. Additionally, Mr. Gaskins provided an update pertaining to Healthy Food Certification which provides additional revenue to the program and has a positive impact on school nutrition.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES:

Ms. Sexton Read provided an update pertaining to upcoming CABE Workshops with the dates of May 13 and May 29. She will reach out to member town Boards for feedback on whether or not those dates are feasible, and advise Regional School District No. 7 Board members via email. Brief discussion followed.

BOARD DISCUSSION ON 2019-2020 DISTRICT HEARING BUDGET:

Discussion followed pertaining to 2019-2020 Proposed Budget. Board members discussed community, Town Legislators, and Town Boards of Finance input. All Board members were in agreement that the Budget was well constructed, with a modest increase, and seemed to be well received. Dr. Palmer expressed appreciation of Board members support, and Board members thanked Regional School District No. 7 administration for their work and dedication in presenting a fiscally responsible budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPTION OF BUDGET TO TAKE TO ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING – MAY 6, 2019:

The Board agreed to move forward to Referendum with a Proposed Budget increase of 1.77 percent for the 2019-2020 school year.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ADOPT** the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget of \$21,517,278 **TO TAKE TO THE ANNUAL DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING** on Monday, May 6, 2019. This represents a 1.77 percent increase over the 2018-2019 budget expenditures. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADOPTION OF CALL OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING WITH REFERENDUM:

Notice of DISTRICT MEETING as read by Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Gauthier:

“A District Meeting of Regional School District No. 7 will be held on Monday, May 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., at the school building in Winsted, Connecticut, for the following business:

- 1) To authorize the Regional Board of Education to apply for, accept, and expend, in addition to the regular school budget, any state, federal, or private grant money which may be available for special purposes during the fiscal year 2019-2020.
- 2) To accept the annual budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2019. Copies of the budget are on hand in the offices of the Town Clerks of each of the member towns.

The Board of Education for Regional School District No. 7 has designated that the vote on the motion to adopt the budget shall be by a “yes” or “no” vote on the optical scan machines in each of the member towns on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, with hours to be set by individual towns as established by state statutes.

Dated this 22rd day of April, 2019, at Winsted, Connecticut, and signed by Molly Sexton Read, Chair, Board of Education, Regional School District No. 7.”

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADOPT** Call for Annual District Meeting on Monday, May 6, 2019, 7:00 p.m. in the Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theater, as presented by Mr. Gauthier. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

AUTHORIZATION OF EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR 2019-2020 BUDGET:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **AUTHORIZE** the Secretary of the Board of Education to prepare and cause to be printed and disseminated a concise explanatory text with respect to the 2019-2020 budget referendum question that will be submitted to the District’s voters, subject to any necessary further legal review and approval by District legal counsel, and which shall otherwise be prepared, printed, and disseminated in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b and the Secretary’s discretion, and to be

amended as necessary. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPOINT** KING, KING and ASSOCIATES, Certified Public Accountants, as auditors for the 2018-2019 school year. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, that Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education of Regional School District No. 7 **CERTIFIES** that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, that The Board of Education will **ALLOW** the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, that The Board of Education will **ALLOW** the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADJOURN** at 7:38 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted: Lisa H. D’Aprile, Board Clerk

