

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
August 28, 2019 – 6 p.m.

APPROVED 9/11/2019

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, High School Principal Mr. Ken Chichester, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins
ABSENT: Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

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

REPORTS

HIRING REPORT: Updated hiring report briefly reviewed with clarification that new Agricultural Education teacher position increased from .6 to .8 necessitated by scheduling difficulties in meeting mandated components of the Program.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS: Mr. Amara reported on a great Middle School opening day and provided an overview of Grade 7 Orientation and WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) training, and New Teacher Training and Orientation. Mr. Amara advised of Dr. Palmer's motivational and inspirational message setting the tone for the school year. A broad overview of the SBAC assessment results was provided with additional details to follow in September along with NGSS results and continuous improvement plans.

Mr. Chichester reported on an excellent High School opening day and commended teachers, staff, and administration for their hard work and dedication during the summer months to help make it happen. Additionally, Mr. Chichester provided an overview of Grade 9 Orientation, New Teacher Orientation, and classes offered by the new STEM teacher, thanking the Board for their support of the new position and student excitement for course offerings. Mr. Chichester reviewed the new Welcoming Center procedures and the challenge of making the extra layer of security feel welcoming. He has great confidence that receptionist, Carol Wilson, will continue making every visitor to our school feel comfortable and most welcome. Questions and discussion followed pertaining to STEM student enrollment and anticipated growth of the program and areas were identified that helped enormously with an organized and effective first day of school performance. Mr. Chichester advised that problem solving during the summer months with high functioning team members, excellent planning based on critical data now available earlier due to Power School, greatly helped systems come together efficiently and optimally.

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Palmer began her presentation by thanking Board members for their continued support and how happy she is with new administrator, Andy Bakulski as part of the team, and Regional 7 newly hired teachers. Dr. Palmer is anticipating a great year ahead, and provided Board updates pertaining to a new \$25,000 2-year grant received from Arconic for the Robotics Team, FFA Convention, and legislation now allowing schools to set graduation date at any point during the school year, AgEd Program, and further and continued interest in ripple effect of Kindness in Motion events. Additionally, Dr. Palmer provided information pertaining to a potential proposal by Don Stein and the developer that purchased

Apple Cinema Plaza, Barkhamsted, to connect to Winsted's sewer line through a portion of Region 7 property. Mr. Stein will attend the September 11, 2019, Board Meeting to discuss the potential proposal, provide clarification, and answer Board questions/concerns. Ms. Sexton Read provided additional overview of the potential proposal, and brief discussion followed.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS: Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates pertaining to summer building projects, including the tennis court, track and Shared Services building work. A brief updated was provided on Administrative Assistant and Custodial negotiations, and Mr. Gaskins advised of CIRMA member equity refund received of just over \$10,000 that will be used to offset the cost for new GASB75 actuarial audit requirement. Further clarification was provided pertaining to the newly created Welcome Center along with staffing arrangements made to accommodate that position. Mr. Gaskins also expressed great confidence in Ms. Wilson's ability of providing a warm welcome to all visitors and community members despite this added security measure.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates: Ms. Sexton Read advised of upcoming school/community events as opportunities for Board member participation and community engagement. Additionally, Ms. Sexton Read advised of upcoming meeting with Selectmen and Finance members as launching point towards teacher negotiations.

NEW BUSINESS

Updates: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:00 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Meeting: September 11, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Newbury Library Media Center