

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
October 09, 2019 – 6 p.m.

APPROVED 11/13/19

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 (7:15 arrival)(N), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, Student Representatives, Ms. Madeleine Giaconia, Mr. Xavier Langendoerfer

ABSENT: Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell (arrived at 7:15), Mr. Chichester

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

PUBLIC PORTION:

Barkhamsted First Selectman, Donald Stein, provided an update pertaining to the Sewer Extension Project with additional data received from engineer and Town of Winsted. Discussion and Board questions followed pertaining to safety, property protection, repair responsibility and maintenance, affordable housing project, possible government grant, project timing and legal process. Due to the complexity of the Project, Ms. Sexton Read suggested that a Board subcommittee be formed to assist with organization, information and concerns review, coordination, and presentation of materials to support an effective, deliberate, and thoughtful Board decision-making process.

Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items: None.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. Xavier Langendoerfer, introduced as new student representative and welcomed by Board members, provided updates pertaining to homecoming and sporting events.

Ms. Giaconia provided Board updates pertaining to: school sponsored Halloween event, student council turkey basket preparation, teacher appreciation with college essay assistance, theater, and various fund raising efforts. Ms. Sexton Read inquired on, and offered prior student representative project ideas, strongly encouraging representatives input pertaining to any complaints, issues, and ideas shared by their peers for an effective, productive, and successful student/Board relationship.

PRINCIPALS:

Mr. Amara provided updates pertaining to: Grade 7 transition and team building field trip, instruction, student achievement, and interventions, and upcoming PD and professional learning day scheduled events. Questions and brief discussion followed.

Mr. Chichester was absent, and Dr. Palmer provided brief Board update of his work on scheduling and various options in order to accommodate new credit requirements. Board questions and discussion followed, and Mr. Amara as well as Dr. Palmer provided additional information and input. Dr. Palmer also advised that NGSS assessment data is not yet available per State of Connecticut request, and Mr. Chichester's work in organizing presentations and presenters to further student engagement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Palmer advised the Board that both she and Mr. Chichester are looking forward to attending FFA convention in Indianapolis, and the outstanding student achievement represented within the Program this year, and provided their travel schedule plans. Additionally, Dr. Palmer advised Board members of age related mandate in effect this year for 45 minutes/week of nursing coverage at the New Hartford Montessori School, and a workshop attended with IT Director, Chris Fray, sponsored by EdAdvance related to cyber security. Dr. Palmer highly praised Mr. Fray's current in place systems and policies, and going forward, there will be a written plan in place should a cyber event occur. Also, Dr. Palmer advised of a new \$100,000 grant invitation recently received for Social and Emotional Learning that would align with Kindness in Motion already in place, and EdAdvance's assistance with the management at a regional level should it be awarded.

Lastly, Dr. Palmer presented and reviewed Middle School Enrollment reduction considerations and possible adjustments being considered going forward related to High School Reform mandates. Questions and discussion followed pertaining to budgetary concerns, average class size, solutions being considered, comparison studies, and Community Conversation venue used to introduce ideas and new mandates/class schedules and possible resource shifting.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

Mr. Gaskins updated the Board on track completion plan and landscaping needed for proper area leveling, and presented and answered questions pertaining to the Board Transfer Report through September 30, 2019.

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

Prior to Student Representatives leaving, Ms. Sexton Read advised that student volunteers are needed and would be much appreciated for Run Like a Deer community event graduation fund raiser requesting their assistance in securing volunteers to help on November 2, 2019.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates:

Ms. Sexton Read advised of annual Run Like a Deer graduation fund raiser on Saturday, November 2, 2019. Usual sponsors are participating, and donations are welcomed.

NEW BUSINESS

Possible dates for annual Community Conversation discussion.

Brief discussion on Second Reading: Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements.

Board questions and discussion followed pertaining to possible creation of a Regional (K-12) Curriculum Coordinator Position. Dr. Palmer addressed budgetary concerns and benefits, and future discussion to follow.

Norfolk Board Member, Ms. Deb Bell, joined the meeting at 7:15.

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE AND ACCEPT** Policy 6146, Graduation Requirements. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

First Reading: Policy 6142.101, Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Policy)

Brief review and discussion, and Mr. Gaskins advised that Board members can feel free to email him directly with questions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Dr. Palmer shared Foreign Language teacher, Jennifer Calabrese’s Maternity Leave request.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** Maternity Leave request as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Dr. Palmer shared Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Cheryl DePaoli, Letter of Retirement, advising that Cheryl has been an invaluable assistant and will be greatly missed. Ms. Sexton Read and Board members expressed great appreciation for her years of service to the District, wishing her the best in her retirement and future adventures.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **CANCEL** second regularly scheduled October Board of Education meeting on October 23, 2019. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms., Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier to **APPROVE** the formation of a Board of Education Subcommittee to include: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, for the purpose of Sewer Extension Project considerations and investigation. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC PORTION: Community member request that possible video presentation of Community Conversation be made available to the public for those unable to attend, and brief discussion followed pertaining to efforts of notifying community members of the annual Community Conversation meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ENTER** into Executive Session for the purpose of Custodial/Maintenance Contract Negotiations and Secretarial Contract Negotiations at 7:23 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Entered into Executive Session at 7:23 p.m.: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Gaskins.

Exited Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and following **ACTION** was taken:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** Custodial Agreement. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ADJOURN** at 7:51 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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