

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
November 13, 2019 – 6 p.m.

APPROVED 12/11/19

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), 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, Student Representatives, Ms. Madeleine Giaconia, Mr. Xavier Langendoerfer

ABSENT: Ms. Mary Duran (B)

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

PUBLIC PORTION:

Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items.

Mr. Jeff Kitching, Executive Director of EdAdvance, was introduced and provided Board members with updates pertaining to programs, policies, history, and EdAdvance’s mission of working collaboratively promoting the success of school districts, and their continuing commitment to quality and excellence in their standard of performance. Board members thanked Mr. Kitching for his presentation and continual support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Student representatives, Madeleine Giaconia and Xavier Langendoerfer, provided Board updates pertaining to: team sports and upcoming schedules, student senate meeting, Spanish club students teaching elementary students, FFA National Convention, student council work for annual Turkey Basket Project, theater, NHS first meeting with junior members. Questions and brief discussion followed.

PRINCIPALS:

Mr. Amara provided Board updates pertaining to: Training and Workshops provided for the Professional Development Day held on November 5, the very successful and well-received district wide Veterans Day Celebration events, Thanksgiving Turkey Basket Drive, and Community Connectedness.

Mr. Chichester provided Board updates pertaining to: National FFA Convention that he and Dr. Palmer attended in Indianapolis which proved to be a great experience that he was thrilled to be a part of. Mr. Chichester advised how proud he felt of the District’s students, and the amazing leadership of Dr. Palmer. Additionally, Mr. Chichester reported on a forum with Gilbert School and Northwestern Prevention Center being offered on the Opioid Crisis and Vaping, Jane Doe No More Program to be offered again, and also provided an overview of the high school’s work creating the Vision of the Graduate for Northwestern in anticipation of the upcoming NEASC accreditation in 4 years

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Palmer thanked Board members for their support, and shared Mr. Chichester’s viewpoint pertaining to their recent attendance at the FFA convention. Additionally, Dr. Palmer advised of Hartland Public Schools request to enter into an Agreement making Regional School District No. 7 a designated high school for their students which will ensure transportation will always be in place for Hartland students along with the choice to attend. Dr. Palmer requested the Board of Education authorize her to enter into negotiations with the Hartland Board of Education, and advised that she would bring forward request for Contract approval in the near future. Discussion and questions preceded the following motion.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, **AUTHORIZING** Dr. Palmer to enter into negotiations with the Hartland Board of Education regarding an Agreement making Regional School District No. 7 a designated high school for Hartland students. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Palmer advised that due to anticipated reductions in student enrollment, she and Mr. Amara provided a Power Point presentation with recommendations for Middle School Team adjustments and accommodations for High School Reform graduation requirements of 25 credits that was both educationally sound and fiscally responsible. No reductions to teaching staff would be necessary for the next school year, and Dr. Palmer thanked Mr. Amara for his assistance and support through this process. Questions and discussion followed, and the Board made the following motion.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE** Dr. Palmer’s recommendations for Middle School Team adjustments due to anticipated school enrollment reductions. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Additionally, Dr. Palmer advised that Shonda Woessner has been hired to replace Dee Cusati and is scheduled to begin on November 25, 2019. Dr. Palmer advised that Shonda will be a tremendous asset to the Business Program, and thanked Mr. Chichester for his support.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates pertaining to: electrical supplier change, completion of track work, pre-winter work to the baseball field, and recent computer upgrades for the ongoing and continuous work of hacker prevention. Discussions are set to begin with transportation vendors pertaining to new contracts. Brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates:

Barkhamsted Sewer Line:

Mr. Don Stein, Barkhamsted Selectman, provided Board members with additional information pertaining to his request for consideration of an easement through school property for a sewer line to assist with plaza development, Lombard Ford, and possible future designated housing area. Mr. Stein answered Board questions, and asked for preliminary Board approval in order to move forward with the sewer line process. Following lengthy and extensive discussion and input by members, it was decided to table any motion at this time until Board members have further opportunities to investigate all aspects of the project prior to going forward with any preliminary decisions. Mr. Stein will be setting up informational meetings with

project experts for interested Board members, and the topic will be further addressed at the December Board of Education meeting.

Run Like A Deer:

Ms. Sexton Read thanked members for their support.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Conversation: Ms. Sexton Read provided topic options for this year's Community Conversation with the goal of providing community members with information regarding the changes to Middle School teams due to enrollment reductions along with High School Reform requirements. A January date will be confirmed at the next Board meeting.

Second Reading: Policy 6142.101 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Policy) with no questions or Board comments.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE AND ACCEPT** Policy 6142.101 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Policy). AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **CANCEL** second regularly scheduled November Board of Education meeting on November 27, 2019. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, 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. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADJOURN** at 8:30 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