

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
December 11, 2019 – 6 p.m.

APPROVED 01/08//20

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B)(Exited at 8:08 p.m.), 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: None.

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

PUBLIC PORTION

Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items. None.

English Department Report – Prior to their report, Dr. Palmer commended both Ms. Hurley Coughlin and Ms. Angell for their dedication and success in their work with students. Jess Angell and Jennifer Hurley-Coughlin provided an overview of the English Department, grades 7-12, with the following highlights: student achievement on Smarter Balance Performance, Spiraling ELA Curriculum aligned with Common Core Standards, Engaging Practices, Social and Emotional Learning, Professional Learning and Collaboration, and goals for 2020 and beyond. Additionally, Ms. Angell acknowledged student successes, SAT scores, writing supports, increased student autonomy, and shared alumni messages. Ms. Angell outlined current curriculum focus and upcoming revisions, rebranding, collaboration and elective needs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2019, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Mr. Langendoerfer presented School Climate Summit in Thomaston, winter sports, club activities, pep rally, first three-hour weather delay schedule. Ms. Giaconia updated Board members on items pertaining to Theater presentation and upcoming Spring show (Dr. Palmer shared that Madeleine’s performance was exceptional), Art classes, Mock Trial Club, student council Turkey Baskets, blood drive, and Cross Town Challenge.

PRINCIPALS:

Mr. Amara commended the English Department for their work and dedication, thanking the Board for their support. Additionally, Mr. Amara provided Board updates on Parent-Teacher Conferences and the Middle School Concert, as well as student efforts in the creation of Turkey Baskets and current Holiday and Red Angel Project as well as plans for Pajama Day fund raiser benefiting CT Children’s Hospital.

Mr. Chichester provided Board updates pertaining to a new initiative offering counseling services to students and families after school hours, sports teams, Winter Concert, and his work in creating a “Vision of the Graduate”. Questions and discussion followed.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Dr. Palmer provided Board updates regarding the Middle School Mathematics Department and Smarter Balanced Assessment scores, alignment with elementary schools, \$500 donation received today from Colebrook Associates for Kindness in Motion, \$100,000 NoVo Foundation Social and Emotional Learning Educator Practice Community Proposal, and two upcoming special legislative sessions. Dr. Palmer suggested a possible date for Community Conversation of January 28, 2020, with three different topics and discussion followed pertaining to the addition of a student component. Lastly, Dr. Palmer presented the Hartland School Agreement. Questions and brief discussion followed.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT** with The Hartland Board of Education to secure Regional School District No. 7 as one of their two designated high schools. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS: Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates pertaining to Insurance Consortium Renewal meeting, Secretarial/Administrative Assistant Bargaining Unit negotiations, cyber security improvements, and changes in electrical rates.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates:

Ms. Sexton Read provided details pertaining to CABA inquiry on a Board of Education Policy regarding Board members use of Board of Education e-mail addresses and possible language to be added to Board Member Handbook. Brief discussion followed, and actual language to be added will be presented for discussion at a future meeting. Mr. Gauthier offered to make the Member Handbook changes once the language has been agreed on.

Sewer Proposal:

Barkhamsted Selectman, Mr. Don Stein, provided additional details and information on Easement Request for Approval and shared with Board members facts from meetings held between developer, engineers, Town of Winchester Public Works Department, and R7 Facilities Director with clarification and benefits for all the surrounding Regions as well as the Town of Barkhamsted.

Ms. Sexton Read advised that the goal at this time would be to provide preliminary Board approval in order for the Town of Barkhamsted to proceed and move forward with the process. Questions and discussion followed, and the following motion was made.

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **PROVIDE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL FOR SEWER EASEMENT PROPOSAL** for the Town of Barkhamsted. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read (1.090), Ms. Duran (1.090), Ms. Kenneson (0.425), Ms. Bell (0.490), Mr. Nadeau (0.490). **NAY:** Mr. Gauthier (1.995), Mr. Jerram (1.995), Ms. Fragale (0.425). **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION DENIED:** (4.415/3.585)

Barkhamsted Board Member, Ms. Duran, exited the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Dr. Palmer introduced First Reading – Policy #6162.51 – Protection of Student Privacy – Surveys, Certain Physical Examinations, and Parental Access to Information. Due to changes in statutes, Policy #6162.51 needs to be updated, and the plan is to give students a School Climate Survey this spring and possibly a substance use survey this winter. Brief questions and discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** for the purpose of Administrator Contract Negotiations, at 8:09 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Exited Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. with the following **ACTION** on Executive Session items.

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 8:27 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

Next Meeting: January 8, 2020, 6 p.m., Newbury Library Media Center