

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C)(6:30 p.m.), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Ken Chichester, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara

ABSENT: None.

PUBLIC: Questions and comments from the Public can be sent to: publicinput@nwr7.org and will be read by the Chair and addressed where possible.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2020, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau.

NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer began her report with a Distance Learning update advising that 100 percent of students were engaged, grateful appreciation of everyone involved with the launch, and the hard work and dedication of every team member helping to make this a success. Dr. Palmer provided Board updates pertaining to the number one concern, physical and emotional safety, listed the available virtual resources, maintaining strong relationships with staff and students, educational assistants supporting teaching practices, community engagement, and upcoming Governor and Commissioner expected announcement on extending the school closure date. School calendar is remaining the same with April vacation next week, new ways being explored to hold graduation under these circumstances on June 11, and June 16, 2020, is still the last day of school. In closing, Dr. Palmer expressed her deep appreciation for the efforts of every administrative team member, teacher excellence, IT Director Mr. Chris Fray, Board Chair Ms. Sexton Read, and Board members for their dedication and support.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Discussion

Ms. Sexton Read began by expressing her grateful appreciation to Dr. Palmer for her leadership and enthusiasm during these challenging and stressful times and is very grateful for everyone's hard work and dedication in helping to make Distance Learning a success for our students. Brief budget discussion followed, and Board members advised that their questions had been answered previously, and that Regional School District No. 7's 2020-2021 Proposed Budget was, as it stands, responsible to our students and communities and presented no further changes. Mr. Amara and Mr. Chichester provided updates pertaining to student learning, and Mr. Gaskins provided information on Business Office activities and savings/budget surplus potential for the 2021-2022 school year.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Calendar

Ms. Sexton Read provided summaries of State of Connecticut Executive Orders and the changes for Regional School Districts' budget timelines and budget adoption requirements. Questions and discussion followed, and the following Motions were made:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **CHANGE BUDGET HEARING** date from Monday, April 20, 2020, to Monday, April 27, 2020, and **CANCEL REGULAR BOE** meeting date of April 22, 2020. Budget will be Adopted at regular Board of Education meeting on May 13, 2020, and meetings will be available live streaming. 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.**

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, **TO CANCEL** May 4, 2020, District Budget Meeting and **TO CANCEL** May 5, 2020, scheduled Referendum. 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.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT: None.

Ms. Sexton Read, again, expressed grateful appreciation for Board Member participation, Dr. Palmer, administration and support staff, and teachers for their dedication and hard work during these most challenging and stressful times. Board members thanked Ms. Sexton Read for her dedication and work with Dr. Palmer in coordinating the live streaming and ongoing Distance Learning efforts.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:08 p.m. 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.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Meeting: April 27, 2020, Budget Hearing, live stream.