

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
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BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
LIVE STREAMING

Approved: 6/10/2020

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MAY 27, 2020 – 6 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH) (6:16 p.m.), Ms. Mary Duran (B) (6:48 p.m.), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), 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

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

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

Ms. Sexton Read summarized six (6) emails received by community members with comments pertaining to school reopening, school schedules, graduation, distance learning, and budget/financial concerns advising that she will forward copies to all Board of Education members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of May 13, 2020, with the following Amendment: Page 2, New Business: change the word “unpresented” to “unprecedented”. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

PRINCIPALS’ REPORTS

Mr. Amara provided Board updates pertaining to: Grade 8 promotion and celebration of accomplishments being held virtually June 15, 2020, at 4:30, and he will email the link to all Board of Education members.

Mr. Chichester provided Board updates pertaining to the ongoing, challenging, humbling, and complex virtual/social distancing graduation planning process, and with the help of a great team, things are coming together. Questions and discussion followed, and Ms. Sexton Read thanked administration for their efforts and the passion demonstrated which is valued throughout our communities.

Ms. Sexton Read provided an update for Board of Education members regarding the meeting held with town Finance Chairs and Selectmen. Budget concerns with potential financial impact on towns and school districts were shared along with information pertaining to what “reopening” may look like and the need to prepare for the unknown and be able to respond appropriately and thoughtfully to the unexpected. The meeting was appreciated by all, and future plans for sharing information is anticipated.

OLD BUSINESS

BUDGET DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION

In an effort to preserve the Math Interventionist position, Ms. Sexton Read requested Dr. Palmer and Mr. Gaskins provide additional reductions in order to reduce the budget in response to the pandemic and significant town financial concerns. Questions and discussion followed on the topics of: special education, bonding line and roof replacement, CARES ACT, unemployment numbers, transportation concerns, flexible budget management, substitutes, retirements, legal expense, high quality education, budget offset, and complex and challenging situation of reopening and what that may look like with 1,100 students plus staff members. Additional reductions presented totaled \$80,158 for a 2.53 percent increase, and Board members shared their thoughts and concerns, and the following Motion was made:

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADOPT** the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget reflecting additional reductions presented and preserving the Math Interventionist position, for a 2.53 percent increase and **ACCEPT** the annual budget of \$22,061,487 for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Sexton Read shared with Board members email received from Music Teacher and Department Head, Steve Zimmerman, submitting his Letter of Resignation effective at the close of this school year. It was agreed that Steve will be very much missed by students, staff, and administration for his fine work, dedication and long career at NWR#7.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ACCEPT** with regret and best wishes, Steve Zimmerman’s Letter of Resignation. 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 – Ms. Sexton Read advised that no other public input via email address was received.

Mr. Chichester advised that additional information pertaining to the Graduation Parade times and locations will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ADJOURN** at 7:23 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.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D’Aprile
Board Clerk