

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7 NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

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JUNE 10, 2020 – 6 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B)(6:26-6:45 p.m.), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (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, Student Representatives, Ms. Madeleine Giaconia, and Mr. Xavier Langendoefler

ABSENT: Ms. Lisa Fragale (C)

RECOGNITION OF TOP TEN STUDENTS

The Top Ten Students, Class of 2020, were commended and recognized by Mr. Chichester for their outstanding achievements and accomplishments as students of Regional School District No. 7, and contributing members within their communities as follows: Alyssa Borelli (NH), Beth Christensen (W), Victoria Duffy (NH), Madeleine Giaconia (NH), Isabella Jacobs (NH), Justin Lucas (B), Georgia Miller (H), Jana Sanden (B), Emiley Spath (NH), Kelly Stotler (NH).

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADD TO AGENDA** email communication from community member.

AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION PASSED.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:55 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of May 27, 2020, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS and YEAR END REVIEWS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Student Representative and Valedictorian of Class of 2020!, Ms. Madeleine Giaconia, provided Board of Education updates as follows: The process for pick up and drop off for student materials went very smoothly, and seniors struggling with the loss of the final school months are very thankful and appreciative of the efforts and planning involved for virtual and distance graduation and parade. Ms. Giaconia thanked Board of Education members for the opportunity of acting as Student Representative, and expressed appreciation of their efforts in welcoming her at every meeting. Ms. Sexton Read and Board members wished her the best of luck, and were appreciative of her delivering student feedback with honesty and integrity.

Student Representative, Mr. Xavier Langendoefler, provided Board of Education updates as follows: classes wrapping up with graduation plans, pick up and drop off process, and work on the Reopening Committee helping to ensure a good school year for next year. Ms. Sexton Read thanked him and expressed appreciation for his voice and work on the Reopening Committee.

YEAR END REVIEWS

Mr. Amara provided a summary of activities along with the importance of Social and Emotional Learning skills throughout emergency distance learning for the Board of Education. Questions and discussion followed. Mr. Amara advised that the skills learned through SEL training have been enormously helpful in dealing with distance learning and events surrounding distance learning.

Mr. Chichester added that in addition to the value of SEL training, virtual meetings between staff, administration, and students are very important and of great value in staying connected with students. Mr. Chichester also provided Board of Education updates pertaining to 2020 graduation plans and parade and advised how appreciative he is of the support of staff and parents within the community and their efforts to make graduation a success. Mr. Chichester advised that the work of SEL, now more than ever, needs to continue.

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education reviews pertaining to: Summer School planning including Extended School Year for special education, Committee for Reopening planning strategies, transportation concerns and possible additional expenses, COVID guidance from State Department, thought exchange process, Principal Search Committee work, and social justice vision planning and work to be accomplished during the next school year. Dr. Palmer thanked board members for recognizing efforts that have gone into graduation, and acknowledged Ken and his team for their work and dedication in making it all happen. Dr. Palmer advised that Mr. Chichester has been a great partner, and will be dearly missed. Mr. Amara acknowledged the same. Dr. Palmer provided additional information focusing on current events surrounding social justice issues, and advised of her deep commitment of addressing the issues of acceptance and empathy in meaningful ways during the next school year.

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: COVID credit to member towns for the 2020-2021 school year, and the effects that will have on next year's budget. Mr. Gaskins thanked Mr. Chichester, and advised that it's been great working with him and that he will be very much missed. Questions and discussion followed pertaining to town assessments and credits for the 2020-2021 school year, possible additional expenses, and Ms. Sexton Read provided additional information on the legalities and thanked administration for their work, dedication and strong efforts to assist, without complaining, during a very difficult time.

OLD BUSINESS

Graduation Update – No further questions or discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Palmer advised that Brendan Fritch has been appointed as the new teacher for the Social Studies High School position. As Ms. Sexton Read's stepson, Dr. Palmer needed to bring this hire to the Board for a motion to ACCEPT.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ACCEPT** the appointment of Brendan Fritch for the High School Social Studies position beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. AYE: Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Sexton Read. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Sexton Read summarized email correspondence received from community member challenging Board of Education members to create their own plan for reopening school this fall reflective of the District. Questions and discussion followed pertaining to legal boundaries of health district, Executive Orders provided by the Governor during the declared state of emergency, level of public health and safety, and current available data. Board members expressed appreciation for the communication, and Mr. Jerram inquired if possible to attach the email to the Minutes prior to posting.

Ms. Kenneson advised that she has received two emails pertaining to the graduation parade, and Mr. Chichester advised that additional information on Parade route can be emailed to members directly.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT - None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ADJOURN** at 7:58 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Board of Education meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2020.