

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7/NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020 – 6 p.m.

APPROVED 08/26/2020

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), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara

ABSENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:07 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 shared an email received from community member regarding school reopening, mask wearing, public health balance and social emotional needs of students and staff. Questions and brief discussion followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of July 08, 2020, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Fragale, Mr. Gauthier. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer presented the Fall, 2020, Reopening Plan Overview with the following highlights and advised that she is very grateful for the work and input of the Reopening Steering Committee. The Draft Plan Proposal, with guidelines and requirements from the Connecticut State Department of Education, includes priorities for a fall reopening model with three scenarios (in person, hybrid, and full distance learning models), facility operation plans, child nutrition, transportation, personal protective equipment, student management, child check process, training, health practices and protocols, illness reporting and vulnerable populations, containment plan, family support and communication, certification and personnel, and after-school programming. In conclusion, Dr. Palmer advised that a careful analysis of public health data will drive the final determination regarding which reopening model will be implemented for the 2020-2021 school year.

Questions pertaining to transmission rates, gym classes, extracurricular activities, transportation, facilities HVAC system, mask wearing, social distancing, lockers and hallway traffic, utilizing outside space, student parking, and special education program needs were addressed by Dr. Palmer, Mr. Gaskins, Mr. Amara, and Mr. Franklin. Discussion followed, and Dr. Palmer thanked the work the nursing staff has done following CDC guidelines, and Ms. Sexton Read commented that she is grateful for our families, students, and staff members working together and harder than ever before to develop a proposal and plan with a focus on the health and safety of our communities.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisions to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar were reviewed and discussed with the following motion.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE REVISIONS** to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

First Reading: Policy #3516.2 Operations of Schools During COVID-19 Pandemic.

Brief discussion of Policy #3516.2 due to health protocols and requirements of school operations during a pandemic.

CORRESPONDENCE

No new correspondence received. Ms. Sexton Read, in response to community member email with request that mask wearing be made a choice rather than a requirement, advised that mask wearing and social distancing is not negotiable due to the District doing everything possible to slow the spread of any transmission of COVID-19 and the effectiveness of masks, guidance and requirements from the State Department of Education, and an understanding of public health remedies and effective science in keeping everyone as safe as possible. Modifications can be made at any time to the plan, and every effort will be made to make students comfortable and be as flexible as possible.

Brief discussion following pertaining to Board Reopening Plan approval, and Dr. Palmer advised that her power point presentation and Reopening Plan will be posted on NWR#7's web site along with a link for additional State Department of Education reopening information.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ADJOURN** at 7:38 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

Next scheduled Board of Education meeting: August 26, 2020 – 6 p.m.