

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 – 6 p.m.

APPROVED – 9/9/2020

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 6:02 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION

Ms. Sexton Read welcomed Board of Education members back, and Dr. Palmer introduced Dr. Steve Carvalho, Special Education Supervisor replacing Mary Chichester, in a newly created ten-month administrative position with no additional costs, and also, Mr. Dan Carroll who is replacing Mr. Gary Franklin as House II Assistant Principal. Both Dr. Carvalho and Mr. Carroll expressed appreciation for their warm welcome throughout the school. They shared their pleasure in having joined the administrative team at Region 7.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of July 22, 2020, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Mr. Franklin and Mr. Amara provided the Board with a Power Point Presentation covering the new block schedule outlining important points to consider and changes, synchronous learning and teacher opportunities through the synchronous learning process, and new staff orientation and Professional Development with SEL focus, health and safety. Questions and discussion were presented and addressed throughout the presentation. Additionally, Mr. Amara advised of the new NWR7 Professional Development (PD) Resource web page that staff can access for refresher ideas pertaining to professional development presentations. Extra PD days have proven to be very beneficial for teachers, staff, and administration as opportunities to prepare for any changes and challenges in the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Palmer thanked the administrative team and all teachers, expressing sincere gratitude for their hard work, determination, and dedication. Feedback on what works during this process will determine how the schedule may change in the future once normalcy returns. Additional questions and discussion followed. Ms. Sexton Read advised of her appreciation of the extraordinary work and achievements of the administrative team and Regional School District No. 7 teachers during these challenging times.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board updates pertaining to: the CSDE's Coronavirus Relief Fund, CIAC guidance, safe instruction of Band and Chorus, Grab and Go lunches, hybrid instructional model related to Special Education students, and enthusiastically presented the 2020-2021 hiring report and diverse group of new teachers. Dr. Palmer thanked Mr. Gaskins for his hard work, preparedness, and thoughtful decision making with the many facility and building challenges, projects and staff. His work is greatly appreciated.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates related to school summer projects with the focus on health and safety including a new tutor area in the Library, additional parking, updates to the Main Office, Teachers Workroom, Superintendent's Office, and VO-AG Office, downstairs flooring improving air quality and ease of maintenance, duct cleaning, stair treads, and replacement of all water fountains with touchless bottle filling stations. Questions and discussion followed. Both Mr. Gaskins and Dr. Palmer expressed grateful appreciation and thanks to the facilities custodial team for their hard work, dedication, extraordinary efforts, and flexibility during this very challenging time.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES

Policy #3516.2 Operations of School During COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Palmer provided information pertaining to masks following attorney recommendations along with explanations of two additional amendments which have been included in the Draft Policy, and recommended that the Board approve the policy. Questions and discussion followed, and the following Motion was made:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Policy #3516.2 Operations of Schools During COVID-19 Pandemic as amended. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sexton Read initiated a discussion pertaining to Board of Education Goals, 2020-2021, and suggested thoughtful consideration be given to the inclusion of a pandemic reference, social and emotional learning, communication, social and racial justice, inclusion of diverse perspectives, and as an educational institution with the opportunity of supporting the world in a broader perspective in reference to life in 2021. She encouraged Board of Education members to bring to the next meeting preliminary thoughts and considerations for discussion. Additionally, Ms. Sexton Read inquired on the recruitment of a new Norfolk Board of Education member, and Ms. Bell advised she is actively searching.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:21 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: September 9, 2020 – 6 p.m.