

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7/NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 – 6 p.m.
APPROVED 10/14/2020

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH)(6:04), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (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, Student Representative Mr. Xavier Langendoerfer
ABSENT: Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C)

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

At Ms. Sexton Read’s request, the following motion was made pertaining to Student Reports.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AMEND AGENDA** for the inclusion of Student Representative Report. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC PORTION

Ms. Kim Crone was introduced to Board members as the next Norfolk Board of Education member to be sworn in tomorrow, and joined the meeting as a public observer. Board members introduced themselves and welcomed Ms. Crone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of August 26, 2020, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORT

A very positive Board update provided by Student Representative, Xavier Langendoerfer, was well received pertaining to the start of the school year and student enthusiasm and sense of relief to be back. Xavier advised that students are feeling very comfortable and extremely safe in the sanitized environment and with mask wearing and social distancing. Questions and discussion followed.

PRINCIPAL/ SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer began the presentation by acknowledging the team effort involved in opening school, the remarkable work of the facilities crew and commitment of keeping students and staff safe, and gratefully reported that students have been extremely compliant and interested in doing their own part in keeping everyone safe. Mr. Franklin and Mr. Amara’s Power Point presentation provided an overview of the first 7 days of the school year with the following highlights: snapshot of the Hybrid Model and how the day is modeled, teacher work and dedication to making the synchronized learning process possible, lunch waves, bus coordination, new State of Connecticut reporting pertaining to student attendance, technology and instruction with a huge “shout out” to Chris Fray, the importance and success of the Professional Development commitment, and students embracing the efforts of making the process work and keeping actively engaged both in school and at home. Questions and discussion throughout were addressed by both Mr. Franklin and Mr. Amara, as well as Dr. Palmer, who expressed sincere and grateful appreciation to

Board members, administration, teachers, office staff, facilities crew, Mr. Gaskins and Business Office personnel, with special thanks to IT Director, Chris Fray, for his phenomenal work, flexibility, and ongoing improvements to security settings and working with Google during this process.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates and information pertaining to Hybrid Model transportation conditions with bus driver shortages and route changes, as well as possible Food and Nutrition Program guideline changes with regard to a streamlined application process in order to receive full reimbursement for all meals served through December 31, 2020, for children under the age of 18. Questions and discussion followed. Overall, Food Service has gone very smoothly and expanded meal options will follow.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Education Goals Discussion

Ms. Sexton Read began with a brief review of current goals, and asked for Board feedback pertaining to the ideas she shared for new Board of Education goals provided via email to members. Ms. Sexton Read supports, during this extraordinary year and with current events reflected in our country, goals that reflect, in a broader context, a greater appreciation for cultural awareness and diversity, racism, social justice, social and emotional learning, and collaboration between students, staff, administration, community members, and local officials. Questions and discussion followed. Ms. Sexton Read will revise and edit suggested goals based on member input and feedback, and forward updated goals to Board members for further discussion and possible adoption at the next Board of Education meeting.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **CANCEL** second regularly scheduled September meeting on September 23, 2020. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ms. Sexton Read requested that Board members give some thought and provide input pertaining to holding this year’s Community Conversation event.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:25 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D’Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Meeting: October 14, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center