

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021 – 6 p.m.
Newbury Library Media Center/Virtual

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (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 Representatives Mr. Xavier Langendoerfer, and Ms. Alexa Carroll

ABSENT: Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION

Public portion consisted of two member-town parents expressing concerns pertaining to: (1) addressing a classroom situation; and, (2) the importance of bringing students back into full in-person learning model as soon as possible. Dr. Palmer and Ms. Sexton Read acknowledged and addressed their concerns, and expressed appreciation and thanks for their input and attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Annual Organizational Minutes of December 09, 2020, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of January 13, 2021, with the following change: Mr. Gauthier was not in virtual attendance, therefore, the APPROVED MINUTES should list him as “absent” rather than “present”. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Gauthier. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORTS

Mr. Langendoerfer and Ms. Carroll provided Board updates pertaining to: winter sports, CIAC sportsmanship conference, senior class activities and student excitement of possible return to full time in-person learning model as soon as safely possible. Questions and brief discussion followed.

PRINCIPALS’ REPORTS

Mr. Amara and Mr. Franklin provided a Social Justice and Anti-Racism overview presentation and update of their work in both the High School and Middle School in order to prepare students for a diverse world and learn about different cultures, perspectives, civic duty, and respectful engagement regarding political discourse. Questions and discussion followed, and Ms. Sexton Read expressed grateful appreciation for the important and challenging work of addressing difficult conversations and exchange of ideas and value to students being given opportunities to engage, listen, consider, and articulate their experiences. Both Xavier and Alexa expressed appreciation for this work and spoke about the benefits to students and the school when given the opportunity to engage in these important issues.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: return to full, in-person learning model planning, parent survey, vaccine update, Kindness in Motion, and grateful appreciation for Dave Houldcroft and support staff in STEP, the program that is helping to keep our high school students on target with their credits.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins advised of current year budget and comparisons, State of Connecticut ESSER 2 Grant and additional funding that will be available and RSD#7, 2021-2022 budget progress and the impact on assessment rates based on student enrollment, medical benefits consortium upcoming meeting, and the logistics of beginning any major roofing projects. Questions and brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed Advance liaison, Deb Bell, provided an update for Board of Education members.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Palmer presented the Board with a Letter of Retirement from High School Social Studies teacher, Mr. Howard Winterson. Dr. Palmer shared that he is an exceptional teacher, and a wonderful person and role model, and she is very sad to see him go, however, she wishes him many happy and healthy years in retirement following such an amazing career. Ms. Sexton Read and Board members seconded all of that, and the following motion was made:

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ACCEPT** with sadness, and grateful appreciation for his dedication and service to the District, Letter of Retirement from Howard Winterson; he will be greatly missed. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

Ms. Sexton Read advised that the next Board of Education meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2021, will include Dr. Palmer's 2021-2022 Budget Presentation, and it would be very helpful for Board members to be present for in-person attendance. Additionally, Ms. Crone shared input pertaining to Mr. Franklin's great work with senior students and their parents, expressing grateful appreciation and many thanks for his efforts and dedication.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADJOURN** at 7:26 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Board of Education Meeting: February 24, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Newbury Library Media Center