

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
SPECIAL MEETING INFORMAL TOWN BUDGET PRESENTATION – NORFOLK
SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021 – 7 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

APPROVED 4/7/2021

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins

ABSENT: Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C)

The INFORMAL PRESENTATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.7 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR began at 7:02 p.m.

Following a brief introduction and reflecting on the extraordinary year and remarkable job of teachers, administrators, support and custodial staff, students, and families in navigating the many challenges of the pandemic, Ms. Sexton Read began the Proposed 2021-2022 Budget virtual Power Point presentation, reflecting an increase of 1.5 percent or \$330,211 over the 2020-2021 budget. The presentation included a historical overview of expenditure increases, and highlighted COVID-19 concerns, academic and staffing changes to address declining Middle School enrollment and High School Reform 25-credit mandate, reconfiguration in special education, and academic and social and emotional learning opportunities provided in order for students to prepare for the future. High School accountability index, PSAT and SAT data comparative, student AP scores, and net current expenditures per pupil demonstrate that a high-value, high-quality education is being provided with costs well in line with the statewide average, and per pupil expenditures in the lower half of the Berkshire League. Ms. Sexton Read provided an explanation of total school enrollment including member town students, tuition students from Winsted, Hartland, Torrington, Canton, and Granby, and magnet school and outplacement students. An analysis of the Object Breakdown was provided along with Excess Cost expenditure offsets, Revenue review, and the change in average daily membership by town and historical perspective on member town assessments. In conclusion, Ms. Sexton Read advised that RSD#7 continues to provide a rigorous and comprehensive educational program for all learners with exceptional teachers, support and custodial staff, and strong administrators. A high-performing student body across all disciplines, including the arts, graduate with exceptional academic achievement results, and are the pride of the Northwest corner. Ms. Sexton Read thanked community members and expressed her sincere appreciation of their support on behalf of all students within the District.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Questions were addressed by Ms. Sexton Read, Dr. Palmer, and Mr. Gaskins from community members and town officials pertaining to: American Rescue Plan funds to be received and use of CRF and ESSER Grant Funds explanation provided by Dr. Palmer and Mr. Gaskins. Positive feedback provided by town officials with additional questions pertaining to student enrollment in Norfolk, special education student population percentages, and sports programs and savings in that area due to COVID.

Informal Presentation of Regional School District No. 7 Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 School year concluded at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa H. D'Aprile, Board Clerk