

DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING – MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021
ROBERTA S. OHOTNICKY LITTLE THEATER – 7:00PM

Followed by Regular Board of Education Meeting

AGENDA – Monday April 19, 2021
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Newbury Library Media Center

Goals for Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education 2020-2021:

- ❖ **Cultural Awareness:**
The Board will support a renewed focus on the development of curriculum, instructional activities, extracurricular opportunities, field experiences and professional development that promote a deeper understanding of culture and the valuing of racial diversity, inclusion and equity.
- ❖ **Social Emotional Learning:**
In recognizing that social emotional learning for students and staff remains a central focus for the district, the Board commits to incorporating these skills into its processes.
- ❖ **Collaboration:**
The Board will work alongside local officials to ensure that the district responds effectively to the pandemic, holding student and staff health as the highest priority while maximizing educational and extracurricular experiences for all.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC PORTION

- 2.1 Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 April 6, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting – Town Meeting New Hartford
3.2 April 6, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting – Town Meeting Barkhamsted
3.3 April 7, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting – Town Meeting Colebrook
3.4 April 7, 2021 Regular Board of Education Meeting

4.0 REPORTS

- 4.1 Superintendent’s Report – J. Palmer
4.2 Director of Finance and Operations Report – J. Gaskins

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

- 5.1 Updates
5.2 Board Discussion of 2021-2022 District Hearing Budget

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 Adoption of Budget to take to Annual District Meeting – May 3, 2021
6.2 Adoption of Call of Annual District Meeting with Referendum
6.3 Authorization of Explanatory Text for 2021 – 2022 Budget
6.4 Appointment of the Auditors – J. Gaskins

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Enclosures: Minutes: April 6, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting – Town Meeting New Hartford
April 6, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting – Town Meeting Barkhamsted
April 7, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting – Town Meeting Colebrook
April 7, 2021 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, May 3, 2021 Annual District Meeting, Little Theater, 7:00pm

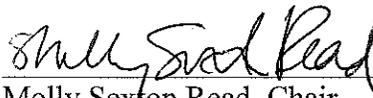
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

District Budget Hearing

The electors and those entitled to vote in town meetings in the towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford and Norfolk, Connecticut are hereby notified and warned that a district hearing for the Regional School District No. 7 will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theatre of the high school building, at which meeting the proposed budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021 will be presented. Any person may recommend the inclusion or deletion of expenditures at such meeting.

The Annual Meeting of said District will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Dated at Winsted, Connecticut,
This 17th day of March 2021



Molly Sexton Read, Chair
Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
SPECIAL MEETING INFORMAL TOWN BUDGET PRESENTATION – NEW HARTFORD
SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 06, 2021 – 7 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5277877827>

Meeting ID: 527 787 7872

Passcode: 856721

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

ABSENT: Mr. Gauthier (NH), Ms. Kenneson (C), Ms. Fragale (C)

The **INFORMAL PRESENTATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.7 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR** began at 7:05 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, including an increase of 1.5 percent or \$330,211 as compared to the 2020-2021 budget, with a historical overview of expenditure increases, and highlighting 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. Ms. Sexton Read provided an explanation for COVID-19 grants, how dollars have been spent to date and future plans with focus on student learning gaps and mental health. 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 and COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Comments pertaining to PowerPoint Presentation web availability, cyber security policy, student ratio shift, and great education provided by Regional School District No. 7 were provided, and Ms. Sexton Read advised that any questions could be also be addressed via email either directly to her, Dr. Palmer, or Mr. Gaskins.

Informal Presentation of Regional School District No. 7 Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 School year concluded at 7:36 p.m.

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

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
SPECIAL MEETING INFORMAL TOWN BUDGET PRESENTATION – BARKHAMSTED
SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 06, 2021 – 8 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j86312485043?pwd=K2YzOSTYME51UFN1VEZmV051NFphdz09>

Meeting ID: 863 1248 5043

Passcode: 437840

Dial by your location

929 205 6099

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Ms. Mary Duran (B), (C), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins

ABSENT: Mr. Jerram (NH), Mr. Gauthier (NH), Ms. Kenneson (C), Ms. Fragale (C), Ms. Crone (N)

The **INFORMAL PRESENTATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.7 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR** began at 7:44 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, including an increase of 1.5 percent or \$330,211 as compared to the 2020-2021 budget, with a historical overview of expenditure increases, and highlighting 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. Ms. Sexton Read reviewed COVID-19 Grand fund expenditures and plans to address student needs for anticipated COVID related Grant funds. 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 and comments were addressed by Ms. Sexton Read, Dr. Palmer, and Mr. Gaskins from community members and town officials pertaining to: consideration of Governor's Executive Order issued today giving Boards the opportunity to delay budgets due to COVID concerns, staff reduction and student declining population, reduced enrollment and out-of-town enrollments/placement efforts. RSD#7 was commended for the work done keeping students in classes and the virtual learning provided during the COVID crisis.

Informal Presentation of Regional School District No. 7 Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 School year concluded at 8:19 p.m.

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

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
SPECIAL MEETING INFORMAL TOWN BUDGET PRESENTATION – COLEBROOK
SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 07, 2021 – 7 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/814328389874?pwd=Y1FaRFFUWjdFWHVslORrZTAycHhZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 3238 9874

Passcode: 185252

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), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins

ABSENT: None.

The INFORMAL PRESENTATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.7 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR began at 7:00 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, including an increase of 1.5 percent or \$330,211 as compared to the 2020-2021 budget, with a historical overview of expenditure increases, and highlighting 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. Ms. Sexton Read reviewed COVID-19 Grant fund expenditures and plans to address student needs for anticipated COVID related Grant funds. 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 and COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Grateful appreciation was expressed for the work done by RSD#7 administration, teachers, staff, students and families within member communities for the work and dedication exhibited during these unprecedented times.

Informal Presentation of Regional School District No. 7 Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 School year concluded at 7:26 p.m.

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

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 07, 2021 – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SPECIAL MEETING
Newbury Library Media Center

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), 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
ABSENT: Student Representatives Ms. Alexa Carroll, Mr. Xavier Langerdoerfer

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of March 10, 2021, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2021, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: full time, in-person learning and contact tracing, quarantine numbers, Grade 6 to Grade 7 incoming student needs and transitions with parent webinar, and the upcoming state assessments. Mr. Amara praised students, staff, and parents for their support and work during COVID following protocols and keeping everyone as safe as possible. Dr. Palmer praised both Mr. Amara and Mr. Franklin for their dedicated work in contact tracing and making full time, in-person learning a possibility; she is extremely proud of teachers, staff members, students and families in helping the successful transition.

Mr. Franklin confirmed Mr. Amara's positive thoughts on returning to full time, in-person learning. Additionally, he provided updates pertaining to: Class of 2021 student activities including prom nights for juniors and seniors and Spirit Week, in-person learning transition, SAT day and upcoming state assessments, and Awards Night. Brief discussion followed pertaining to the possible value of continuing, on a limited basis, student remote, distance learning. Ms. Sexton Read commended RSD#7, students and families, for the many extraordinary accomplishments during this past year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: staff shortages due to vaccine reaction and the remarkable work both Gary and Fran have done successfully coordinating available personnel and learning hub space. Additionally, Dr. Palmer provided updates on COVID case numbers and variance concerns, and reviewed COVID Grant Funding expenditures providing an overview of addressing student needs with ESSER I, II, and American Rescue Plan grant funding when available. Dr. Palmer advised that AG ED enrollment for next year is remaining steady. Discussion followed.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: budget updates for this year with unexpected expenditures, CRF Grant Fund expenditures, PPE supplies, commended custodial seamless cleaning efforts and furniture coordination within classrooms, possible small deficit within the Food Service Program this year that he hopes to make up the following year, and review of small transfers within the Transfer Report. Brief discussion followed, and the following Motion was made.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** Transfer Report as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES

Ms. Sexton Read provided an update pertaining to newly released Governor's Executive Order and the possibility of member towns and Regional School Districts budget postponement until the end of May. The April 19, 2021, Regional Budget Hearing will continue as planned, however, she would like to remain flexible and responsive to member town budget timelines and community needs. Brief discussion followed.

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Member town officials overall provided very positive feedback with regard to the 2021-2022 Budget Presentation and educational program provided at Regional School District No. 7, particularly during these unprecedented times in relation to the COVID pandemic. Very little input was received from families within the member towns, and the Board of Education members expressed consensus in moving forward with 2021-2022 budget as it stands.

NEW BUSINESS

Highlander Basketball Camp

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Sexton Read presented letter from B. Fritch requesting the use of the gymnasiums for The Highlander Basketball Camp from July 12, 2021, to July 16, 2021.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** Mr. Fritch's request for the use of the gymnasiums for the Highlander Basketball Camp from July 12, 2021, to July 16, 2021. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADJOURN** at 8:32 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile, Board Clerk