

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/j/86312485043?pwd=K2YzOSTYME51UFN1VEZmV051NFphdz09>

Meeting ID: 863 1248 5043

Passcode: 437840

Dial by your location

929 205 6099

APPROVED 4/19/2021

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