

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 07, 2021 – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SPECIAL MEETING  
**Newbury Library Media Center**  
**APPROVED 4/19/2021**

**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

