

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
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**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

MAY 12, 2021 – 6 p.m.

**APPROVED 6/23/2021**

**PRESENT:** Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), 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: Ms. Alexa Carroll, Mr. Xavier Langerdoerfer

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

**RECEPTION FOR TOP TEN STUDENTS 2020-2021:**

**RECEPTION** held in honor of the Top Ten Students, Class of 2021. Mr. Franklin introduced and individually commended the following students for their outstanding achievements in academic, athletic, volunteer and club activities, and many contributions and accomplishments as members of both Regional School District No. 7 and within their own communities: Alex Beauchene, Barkhamsted; Jacob Brodnitzki, Barkhamsted; Eleanor Crone, Norfolk; Jessica Krukar, New Hartford; Matthew Maltby, New Hartford; Aiden Maraia, New Hartford; Natalie Munson, New Hartford; Kelly Oberheim, New Hartford; Christopher Persechino, New Hartford; Kaleigh Spencer, Barkhamsted.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Sexton Read called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:45 p.m., and requested a MOTION to AMEND THE AGENDA to include receipt of Letter of Retirement from Dave Houldcroft.

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **AMEND AGENDA** to include Correspondence Letter of Retirement received from Dave Houldcroft. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC PORTION:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** Budget Hearing and Board of Education Minutes of April 19, 2021, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** Annual District Budget Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2021, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

**REPORTS**

**STUDENT REPORTS:** Ms. Carroll provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: full in-person learning transition, exciting upcoming year-end school events, Spirit Week and Hallway Decorating Contest, Field Day and ice cream truck, band and chorus outdoor concert and upcoming outdoor theater event, expressing many thanks to administration for helping to make it all happen.

Mr. Langerdoerfer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: school sports, AP testing, graduation excitement, senior sunrise, senior picnic, Spirit Week, and how happy everyone is to be back and busy with school events.

Dr. Palmer, and Ms. Sexton Read, expressed sincere appreciation and thanks for Xavier’s extraordinary and helpful insight, many contributions as Student Representative especially throughout the pandemic, and how much he will be missed, wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Band and chorus outdoor concert success, Middle School testing, Grade 8 in-person graduation, Spring Concert, Year Book, and Extravaganza. In addition to presenting the Top Ten Students, Mr. Franklin provided Board of Education updates pertaining to 2021 graduation plans.

Dr. Palmer thanked Mr. Franklin for all his efforts in putting together Graduation 2021, as did Ms. Sexton Read, and also for his great and sincere efforts in presenting the Top Ten students.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Palmer began her report by, once again, sincerely thanking and expressing grateful appreciation of Board of Education members for their work and dedicated support of the District, and continued with updates pertaining to: vaccination clinic for 12-15 year-old students and other interested community members; remote learning 2021-2022; ESSER II and AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT grant funding; Summer School Programs including High School Credit Recovery, Credit Enhancement, Middle School Math Academy, High School Math Academy, Middle School ELA Academy; Extended School Year for special education students; and, Kindness in Motion Projects.

Brief questions and discussion followed pertaining to remote learning, grant funding and clarification.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT**

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: end-of year budget status and favorable budget variance, CRF Grant, and the CSDE’s process to access funding for the Agricultural Education Bus with grant application requirements and specifications with Motions to follow.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**UPDATES:**

Regional School District No. 7: 2021-2022 Budget passed with a total of 407 (70%) YES VOTES and 171 (30%) NO VOTES.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Authorization to make End-Of-Year Adjustments within the 2020-2021 Budget Limits.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **AUTHORIZE** Dr. Palmer and Director Gaskins to make end-of-year adjustments as necessary within the 2020-2021 budget limits. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Authorization to borrow \$500,000 in anticipation of receipts.**

**MOTION** by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **AUTHORIZE** Director Gaskins to borrow \$500,000 in anticipation of receipts. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Authorization for Superintendent to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education, and to hire grant funded positions for special purposes for the 2021-2022 school year.**

**MOTION** by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **AUTHORIZE** Dr. Palmer to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education and to hire grant funded positions for special purposes. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read,

Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Approval of Educational Specifications for VO-AG Bus Grant.**

Question and brief discussion pertaining to handicapped capability of VO-AG bus.

**MOTION** by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** the Educational Specifications for VO-AG Bus Grant. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Authorization to Establish a Building Committee for the Project (recommended VO-AG Consulting Committee).**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **AUTHORIZE** the Establishment of a Building Committee for the Project. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Authorization of at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed Project including the professional cost estimates.**

**MOTION** by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **AUTHORIZE** at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specification including professional cost estimates. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Authorization to file the Grant Application.**

**MOTION** by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **AUTHORIZE** the filing of the Grant Application. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Following a brief discussion, a Motion was made to cancel the June 9, 2021, Board of Education meeting in order for Board members who wish to attend the Class of 2021 Graduation ceremony can do so.

**MOTION** by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **CANCEL** the June 9, 2021, regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting in order for Board of Education members to attend Class of 2021 Graduation ceremony scheduled on that date. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **CANCEL** the second regularly scheduled May Board of Education meeting on May 26, 2021. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ACCEPT** Rachel Vincent's Letter of Retirement with gratitude and best wishes. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ACCEPT** David Houldcroft's Letter of Retirement with gratitude and best wishes. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** for the purpose of discussion and possible action on employment contract for Director of Finance and Operations, Mr. James

**Gaskins.** AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The following entered into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:34 p.m.: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone.

Exited **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:40 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 7:40 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile  
Board Clerk