

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2021 – 6 p.m.

APPROVED 12/8/2021

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. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Student Representatives: Ms. Alexa Carroll and Ms. Morgan Plitt

ABSENT: Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Mr. Gaskins, Director of Finance and Operations

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Sexton Read called the regular Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION/publicinput@nwr7.org

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2021, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORTS

Morgan Plitt provided a student body update with the following highlights: Start of second quarter continuing to go well and the year seems to be moving quickly, sport teams as well as Unified Sport team updates, and questions and brief discussion followed. Ms. Alexa Carroll provided updates pertaining to: Club pictures for yearbooks, end of quarter and fall sports, winter concert and theater performance, college application process, and continuing positive student climate. Questions and brief discussion followed.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Middle School Spirit Week, Veterans Day planned events, certified and non-certified Professional Development Day including Board of Education provided pizza lunch which was very much enjoyed by everyone, and grant funded Math Interventionist position beginning in October held by Jennifer Rossi.

Mr. Franklin provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: High School preparation for the 2024 NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) visit, Vision of the Graduate work to be completed this year, National Foreign Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Student Council's very successful Trick or Treat event, Veterans Day events, and the National Blue Ribbon Awards Ceremony held in Washington, D.C. Questions and discussion followed.

Ms. Sexton Read thanked all Board of Education members, particularly Lisa Fragale, Terry Kenneson, and Deb Bell, for their work and contributions in providing the teacher and all staff pizza luncheon on November 2. Dr. Palmer shared that the luncheon was very well received, enjoyed, and appreciated by all.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to the Department of Public Health's new "Screen and Stay" option available to school districts regarding quarantine times for students exposed to COVID while in school, Special Education budget remaining in good standing, however, there is movement and Shared Services is applying for available COVID related grants, and National Blue Ribbon celebration event with elected officials and board members. Additionally, Dr. Palmer advised of meeting with Norfolk Net, Erik Olsen parent and Pastor of Church of Christ Congregational Church, to discuss questions and goals regarding Kindness in Motion spin-off idea for their community with a donation from **Wide Open** of \$500, current student Kindness in Motion programs, and Kindness in Motion scholarship development with a \$2,000 donation from **Wide Open** for graduating seniors who have had a major impact spreading kindness within the school community. Questions and discussion followed.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Dr. Palmer reported, in Mr. Gaskins absence, Board of Education updates pertaining to: 2022-2023 budget development, Food Services, and the Athletic Storage building to be delivered November 11, 2021.

Questions and brief discussion followed pertaining to special education anticipated outplacements from elementary to district level, and adjustment to the new class schedules, which seem to be working very well for teachers and students.

UPDATES

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sexton Read provided an update regarding the second All-District Meeting and workshop where information is gathered and shared with highlights pertaining to investigation of centralization of Superintendent and Central Offices, investigation of Pre-K – Grade 12 Curriculum Director position, and assessment of data swings in order to provide insight and forecasting ability. CABE helped to facilitate the workshop and provided information on Connecticut practices. The issues are complicated, future investigative meetings will be organized, and questions and brief discussion followed.

Following brief discussion and second reading, the following Motions were made for the Adoption of Policies #4118.112/4218.112 and #5145.5.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADOPT** Policy 4118.112/4218.112 Sexual Harassment (Personnel) as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADOPT** Policy 5145.5 Exploitation/Sexual Harassment (Students) as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Palmer presented a one-year grant salary agreement and New Hire Report for Jennifer Rossi, Math Interventionist in the Middle School, funded through the American Rescue Act Grant approved in September 2021.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following Barkhamsted public members, Shelley Thibault, Jennifer Iacino, Denise Wells, and Kristie Geraghty, expressed opinions, concerns, and frustration with student mask mandates, requesting that the Board of Education put a plan in place for unmasking students.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:15 p.m. for a discussion of a confidential matter which would result in the disclosure of confidential records protected under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA). AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Entered into Executive Session were: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, and Dr. Palmer.

Exited Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **CANCEL** the second regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on November 24, 2021. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 7:26 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk