

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
DECEMBER 08, 2021 -- IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
**APPROVED 1/12/2022**

**PRESENT:** Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Deborah Bell (N)(by phone), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Director of Finance and Operations Mr. James Gaskins, Student Representative: Ms. Alexa Carroll

**ABSENT:** Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Mr. Fran Amara, Ms. Morgan Plitt

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Sexton Read called the regular Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**PUBLIC PORTION/publicinput@nwr7.org**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**REPORTS**

**STUDENT REPORTS**

In Morgan's absence, Alexa provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: athletics, theater, Winter Concert, holiday giving and student fund raising participation. Questions and brief discussion followed.

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

In Mr. Amara's absence, Ms. Franklin provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: student activities that benefited member communities throughout the Thanksgiving Holiday and ongoing Christmas holiday giving participation, available assessment data used to adjust the mathematics program assisting all learners, and the Middle and High school teacher evaluation process. Brief discussion followed pertaining to prior year teacher waiver and State of Connecticut modifications. Mr. Franklin provided an overview on the Portrait of a Graduate work that was delayed due to COVID, and highlights of his workshop on positive school climate and Kindness in Motion presented at the National Blue Ribbon conference.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Palmer began her Board of Education updates thanking the Music Department for their great work with the Winter Concert, and continued with updates pertaining to: winter sports and the Superintendents of the Berkshire League decision making process with regard to mask wearing and number of spectators, security issues related to school facilities and safety, grant expenditure overview, and achievement data and SAT preparation. Discussion followed concerning mental health issues that students are experiencing due to the pandemic, efforts to recapture learning loss experienced, and social and emotional learning to support students who are struggling. Dr. Palmer advised that social media is not going to be a point of accurate information.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT**

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: the bus driver shortage with no continuing issues for Regional School District No. 7 at this time, the 2022-2023 budget process, health benefit increases and assessment offset on target, and recently completed 2020-2021 audit process.

**UPDATES**

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Sexton Read requested that the First Reading of Policy #9110 Number of Members, Plan of Representation and Terms of Office be tabled at this time until final numbers are available from the State of Connecticut 2020 Census. Ms. Sexton Read clarified for Board members details of the Weighted Voting Plan in place at Regional School District No. 7 since 1976, and that at this time due to population shifts within the four member communities (Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, Norfolk) there would be a significant impact on majority votes with the Town of New Hartford outweighing the other three member towns beginning July 1, 2022. Questions and discussion followed, and the following Motion was made:

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **TABLE** First Reading of Policy #9110 Number of Members, Plan of Representation and Terms of Office until final census 2020 numbers can be provided, with data base and source information, from the State of Connecticut. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN. None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 6:55 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile  
Board Clerk