

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2022

APPROVED 2/9/2022

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), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Director of Finance and Operations Mr. James Gaskins, Student Representative Ms. Alexa Carroll
ABSENT: Ms. Kenneson (C), Ms. Morgan Plitt

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Sexton Read called the regular Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION/publicinput@nwr7.org

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** the Annual Organizational Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2021, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2021, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORTS

Alexa Carroll provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: mid-term exams and student anxiety offset by very helpful study groups, COVID concerns and anxiety felt by students with appreciation of support provided by staff members even though school transmission is low, and much appreciation of the Guidance Department's support and help with the complicated college admission process with special thanks to teachers and administration for their letters of recommendation. Ms. Sexton Read expressed appreciation for Alexa sharing student COVID concerns, acknowledging that this is a very challenging time and she is grateful for her input.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Hosting the Middle School's very impressive Robotics competition, on-going Middle School sports programs, and Professional Development activities and student learning. Mr. Amara reported that the Math Interventionalist position is really lifting up the Math Program, and that Jennifer Rossi is doing a great job in that position. Questions and brief discussion followed pertaining to elementary school transition to Grade 7 and Grade 8 transition to high school.

Mr. Franklin provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Mid-term exams this year having a focus on flexibility due to absences of both students and teachers with extra make-up time made available. Additionally, Mr. Franklin advised of great Capstone Project presentations and a successful initial NEASC Liaison High School visit in December. Ms. Sexton Read expressed appreciation for the very positive reports provided despite very challenging times.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Capstone Project enthusiasm and appreciation for student passions and ideas that will have lasting effects on the school environment, ARP funding feedback requirement and summary of responses and mitigation strategies, and COVID protocol changes and Northwestern Regional's COVID response. Lunchroom and sports teams are still utilizing contact tracing, and Dr. Palmer expressed grateful appreciation of Administrative Assistants team effort with this process and the goal of keeping students and staff safe. It's a very challenging time for everyone and she is very pleased with the response and support provided by teachers, administration, and staff. Questions and brief discussion followed pertaining to staffing and student absences, teacher union support and leadership, and with thanks to Mr. Gaskins' proactive insight, availability of needed supplies throughout the building at a moment's notice is very much appreciated and making for a high functioning team that will hopefully benefit our school.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates regarding: preliminary 2022-23 budget meeting with member towns in December highlighting enrollments, assessments, Anthem agreement cap, and substantial increase in special education costs due to the transition of high-cost students within member towns from Grade 6 to Grade 7. Additionally, Mr. Gaskins reviewed the Budget Timeline, provided a transportation update, and reviewed the quarterly Budget Transfer Report request.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** the Quarterly Transfer Report (10/01/21 – 12/31/21) as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ms. Sexton Read requested that a start time change be considered for Colebrook and Norfolk Budget Presentation meetings where a Regular Meeting follows from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

UPDATES

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation and brief review of the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar with the following Motion:

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Following discussion and questions pertaining to the scheduled 2022 and 2023 student Europe Trips, the following Motion was made.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** the Europe Trips scheduled for August 3, 2022-August 14, 2022 and July 10, 2023-July 21, 2023. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Brief discussion pertaining to second regular scheduled January Board of Education meeting, with the following Motion.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **CANCEL** the January 26, 2022, regular Board of Education meeting. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 6:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussion and possible action on Superintendent’s Contract and Performance.

AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Present in Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone.

Exited Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **RENEW** Dr. Palmer’s Superintendent Contract with a three (3) percent increase for the 2022-2023 school year. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 7:00 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