

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 02, 2022 – 6 p.m.  
**Newbury Library Media Center**  
**APPROVED 3/10/2022**

**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), Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins

**ABSENT:** Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Ms. Sexton Read invited represented town officials to provide their input and/or comments pertaining to the District's 2022-2023 Proposed Budget.

New Hartford officials, Ms. Kerry Guilfoyle, Board of Finance, and First Selectman, Mr. Daniel Jerram attended. Mr. Jerram thanked Board members for their work, and advised that following his review of the historical budget and assessment increases, the overall increases through the years have been small, the facility has been and continues to be maintained, and most importantly, the Board mission of providing students with what is needed has proven successful.

Ms. Sexton Read and Mr. Gaskins both expressed sincere appreciation for Mr. Jerram's support and recognition of the budget process and efforts made to present a reasonable and responsible budget. Ms. Sexton Read provided clarification pertaining to the Special Education Program increases, and commended Mr. Gaskins for savings found in other areas. Mr. Gaskins reviewed 5-year averages, special education increases compared to regular education increases, and provided clarification pertaining to phased-in plan for level funded roof replacement. Mr. Gaskins thanked Mr. Jerram for his input and appreciation of the budget work in support of the Board of Education mission of meeting student needs and the importance of maintaining the facility.

Additionally, Mr. Gaskins advised of a resignation received today and a budget adjustment that will be made and presented at the next Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, March 9.

**BOARD DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED BUDGET**

Ms. Sexton Read opened the floor to Board members for any questions, concerns, or clarification. Mr. Rob Jerram advised that James answered his questions to his satisfaction via email, and Ms. Sexton Read briefly reviewed those questions and responses. Mr. Gauthier inquired on the web version of the budget, and Mr. Gaskins advised that would be updated as well once the changes were made. Discussion followed pertaining to level funded roof replacement plan and facility maintenance, inflation concerns, enrollment numbers, 25 credit requirement, and new teacher resignation.

Ms. Sexton Read reviewed the Budget Timeline and upcoming regular Board of Education meetings, and advised that in the absence of other member town elected officials, she will reach out for any input and/or concerns prior to the Member Town Informal Budget Presentations. Mr. Gaskins requested that Board members email him any further questions or clarifications in order to allow him the opportunity for any research that might be necessary for a thorough response.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 6:36 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile  
Board Clerk

**Next Board of Education Meeting: March 09, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board of Education meeting.**