

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
~~WEDNESDAY, MARCH 09, 2022 – 6 p.m. (POSTPONED TO)~~
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 – 6 p.m.
Newbury Library Media Center
APPROVED 3/23/2022

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (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 (exited 6:10), Student Representatives Ms. Alexa Carroll and Ms. Morgan Plitt

ABSENT: Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

In order to accommodate Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara's schedule due to the postponed Board of Education meeting date, Ms. Sexton Read requested a **MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA** so that Mr. Amara can provide his report at the start of the meeting.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **AMEND** the Agenda in order for Mr. Amara to provide his Board of Education report at the start of the meeting. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORT

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Smarter Balanced Assessment preparation, Next Generation Science Standard Assessment for Grade 8 students, Grade 6 transition process and special education students, and upcoming Middle School student activities.

PUBLIC PORTION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of February 23, 2022, amended as follows: Page 2: Change Mr. Gaskins name to Mr. Gaskins' and change the spelling of Ms. Saxton Read to Sexton Read. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of March 02, 2022, amended as follows: Page 1: Remove the number "2" following Mr. Gaskins' name. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORTS

Ms. Plitt provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: student athletic programs, Pep Band, Foreign Language Program planned events, and fund raisers. Ms. Carroll provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: mask mandate lifted and student/staff respectful response, Pep Band, Jazz Band performance, and Theater performance. Questions and brief discussion followed.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Mr. Franklin provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Graduation planning for 2022 with the goal of the District's traditional Warner Theater venue, and Voice for Change Grant Proposal. Additionally, Mr. Franklin provided a PowerPoint presentation pertaining to the ongoing Vision of Graduate (VOG) project work and results which began with Ken Chichester, was delayed due to COVID and revisited with the assistance of both Parent and VOG Committee work, advising that the VOG is an important part of the NEASC accreditation process and will be used as the foundation for strategic planning and to provide the design for the educational experience students will have prior to graduation. Questions and discussion followed, and both Dr. Palmer and Ms. Sexton Read expressed sincere appreciation for Mr. Franklin's focus and vision along with an appreciation for the planning enabling the experience to be ongoing and continue to be to useful for all students in the District.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADOPT** Vison of Graduate (VOG) as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Legislative Session and SB 232, HB 5287, HB 5283 and how these Bills may affect the District and Agricultural Education programs. Updates will be provided as they become available. Additionally, Dr. Palmer advised that Kindness in Motion has officially been launched, and there are many students involved and inspired to have a positive impact on the world with their own actions. Questions and discussion followed.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: All Star Transportation and a permanent bus driver for the Town of Norfolk, and a status report of the food service program with an explanation of the Annual Motions required for participation in the Program. Questions and brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES

Second Reading of the Approval of Revisions to Policy 9110 Number of Members, Plan of Representation and Terms of Office. Ms. Sexton Read advised that the numbers have been reviewed and confirmed, and the following MOTION was made.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Revisions to Policy 9110 Number of Members, Plan of Representation and Terms of Office. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Mr. Gaskins clarified questions concerning: supply line in Tech Education, regular transportation, athletic salary line increase, gas/diesel price fluctuations, and reviewed the minor budget changes bringing the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget to a 2.52 percent increase rather than the initial 2.7 percent increase. Board members advised that they are receptive and open to member town input, and are comfortable with the budget as presented. Brief discussion followed, and Ms. Sexton Read reviewed the Budget Timeline and upcoming meetings and town presentations.

NEW BUSINESS

HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD CERTIFICATION

Ms. Sexton Read reviewed the Healthy Food Options Motions required for the annual Healthy Food Certification Statement and Food & Beverage Exemptions and advised that the Board of Education or governing authority for each public school that participates in the NSLP must vote “yes” or “no” on whether to implement the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f, i.e., follow the CNS for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable meals. The Board motion and Board-approved meeting minutes must include the following specific criteria for the healthy food option required by C.G.S. Section 10-215f. If the Board of Education or governing authority votes “yes” for the healthy food option, the Board of Education or governing authority must also vote on whether to allow food exemptions.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone , to **ACCEPT LANGUAGE FOR HEALTHY FOOD OPTION** as follows: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ACCEPT LANGUAGE FOR COMBINED FOOD AND BEVERAGE EXEMPTIONS** as follows: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Palmer advised that a Letter of Retirement has been officially received from Ingrid Burke, a tremendous asset to the Science Department and faculty, and additionally a Letter of Resignation from Art teacher Michael Bucci.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ACCEPT** Ingrid Burke’s Letter of Retirement, with gratitude, appreciation, and best wishes for her many years of service and dedication. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ACCEPT** with best wishes Michael Bucci’s Letter of Resignation. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 7:13 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile, Board Clerk

Next Meetings:

Saturday, March 12, 2022, 8 a.m., Budget Workshop, New Hartford

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 6:30 p.m., First Informal Town Presentation – COLEBROOK – regular Board of Education meeting to follow