

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
COLEBROOK TOWN HALL – 2nd FLOOR
FIRST INFORMAL BUDGET PRESENTATION
and

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES Immediately Following
MARCH 23, 2022, 6:30 P.M.

APPROVED 4/13/22

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. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins

ABSENT: Ms. Deb Bell (N)

FIRST INFORMAL TOWN BUDGET PRESENTATION - COLEBROOK

Ms. Sexton Read called the First Informal Proposed Budget Presentation for the Town of Colebrook to order at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Sexton Read provided a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted historical expenditure increases, and continued with an overview of 2022-2023 budget drivers, academic performance, PSAT and SAT data comparatives, AP student scores, net current per pupil expenditures, member town current and projected straight line ADM, and total school enrollments. An Object breakdown of proposed increases/decreases was provided for Salaries, Benefits, Professional/Technical Services, Property Services, Other Purchased Services, Supplies, Property, Other Objects, Other Funds including a reduced bond principal payment to level fund a partial roof project, Excess Cost Expenditure Offsets, Revenues, and change in Average Daily Membership by Towns for a **2022-2023 Proposed Budget Increase of \$563,098 and 2.52 percent.**

A historical Perspective on Assessments was provided, and Ms. Sexton Read concluded that Regional School District No. 7 continues to provide a rigorous and comprehensive educational program connecting students with their school and passions, an outstanding facility, and excellent extracurricular opportunities at costs in line with the statewide average and per pupil expenditures in the lower half of the Berkshire League.

Ms. Sexton Read thanked community members and expressed her appreciation for their support on behalf of all students within the District.

PUBLIC

Public questions and discussion followed pertaining to: anticipated budget changes prior to Referendum and social programs to assist with pandemic management and student learning loss. Grateful appreciation was expressed for teachers, administration, and staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic.

FIRST INFORMAL TOWN PRESENTATION – COLEBROOK - concluded at 6:58 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** Board of Education meeting minutes of March 10, 2022, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: 2022 Graduation date of Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at the Warner Theater. Dr. Palmer advised that by State Statute, the District can set the graduation date on April 1, and she is requesting a Motion to adopt the graduation date of June 15, 2022, effective April 1, 2022.

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADOPT** 2022 Graduation Date of Wednesday, June 15, 2022, effective April 1, 2022. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Additionally, Dr. Palmer advised of a Letter of Retirement received from Science Department teacher, Jen Perga, and respectfully requested that the line item not be further reduced in order to provide flexibility for a position that may be difficult to fill.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: 2021-2022 budget overview, 2022-2023 budget information available on the website, transportation, and medical insurance renewal further reduced for the 2022-2023 school year from 6 percent to 5.25 percent. Mr. Gaskins is recommending that this change be reflected in the budget. Board members all agreed, and Mr. Gaskins advised that new budget copies would be distributed at the next meeting reflecting a total expenditure increase change from 2.52 percent to 2.45 percent and assessment increase from 2.04 percent to 1.97 percent.

Ms. Kenneson reported that the SHARED SERVICES budget passed with a small increase.

OLD BUSINESS

Board discussion of 2022-2023 working budget.

Brief discussion pertaining to the 2022-2023 working budget and assessment shifts between member towns, laptops verses Chromebooks, and Referendum cost to member towns.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF CALL OF BUDGET HEARING

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADOPT THE CALL OF BUDGET HEARING** as presented by Ms. Sexton Read, "The electors and those entitled to vote in town meetings in the towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, and Norfolk, Connecticut, are hereby notified and warned that a District Hearing for the Regional School District No. 7, will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in the Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theater of the High School Building at which meeting the Proposed Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022, will be presented. Any person may recommend the inclusion or deletion of expenditures at such meeting. The annual Meeting of said District will be held on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m." AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DECISION ON 2022-2023 BUDGET REFERENDUM

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ACCEPT** Decision of Referendum for the 2022-2023 Budget. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADOPTION OF REFERENDUM QUESTION

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADOPT REFERENDUM QUESTION**, “Shall the Regional School District No. 7 Annual Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022, be accepted?” “YES” vote is for approval, and “NO” vote is for disapproval. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters of Retirement received from teachers Chip Morris and Jen Perga were presented and the following motions were made:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **ACCEPT** Chip Morris’s Letter of Retirement with great appreciation for his decades of service, gratitude, and very best wishes. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ACCEPT** Jen Perga’s Letter of Retirement with appreciation for her many years of service, gratitude, and very best wishes for her future endeavors. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Brief discussion followed pertaining to the Budget Timeline and District Hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:27 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D’Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Meetings: March 30, 2022 – 2nd Informal Town Presentation – NORFOLK – Botelle School – 6:30 p.m.
April 5, 2022 – 3rd Informal Town Presentation – NEW HARTFORD – NH Town Hall – 7 p.m.
April 6, 2022 – 4th Informal Town Presentation – BARKHAMSTED – Barkhamsted School – 7 p.m.
followed by a Special Board of Education meeting
April 13, 2022 – REGIONAL BUDGET HEARING – Little Theater – 7 p.m. followed by a
regular Board of Education meeting
April 27, 2022 – Regular Board of Education meeting – Newbury Library-Media Ctr. – 6 p.m.
May 2, 2022 – Monday, DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING – Little Theater – 7 p.m.

