

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
MAY 11, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED 6/8/2022

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

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

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and requested that a MOTION be made to ADD two correspondence items to the Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone to **ADD** two correspondence to the Agenda. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the Annual District Budget Hearing and Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2022, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Annual District Budget Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2022, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Overview of Material Selection Procedures Presentation

Teri Padua, Library Media Center Specialist, provided the Board of Education with an overview of the standard procedures for book review and selection. Questions were addressed by Ms. Padua, Dr. Palmer, and Mr. Franklin with clarification provided pertaining to the goal of maintaining a robust and fair policy that supports the curriculum with academic integrity.

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORTS

Ms. Plitt provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Junior Prom event and Governor Lamont's visit. Brief questions and discussion followed.

Ms. Carroll provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Europe trip, AP exams, Cinderella Theater performance and the strong community support at events, Senior Prom and Senior Picnic. Ms. Sexton Read congratulated Alexa for her performance in Cinderella.

PRINCIPALS and SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer, Mr. Franklin, and Mr. Amara provided a slide presentation with an overview of the 2021-2022 school year highlighting how the success was realized through strong relationships, the challenges of

returning to school in the fall wearing masks and meeting the academic challenges created with COVID, reopening safely and moving forward with the goal of creating normalcy with in-person learning and opening the school to welcome community members for shared events. Additionally, Governor Lamont's visit addressing the great honor and accomplishment of receiving the National Blue Ribbon Award and meeting with students to acknowledge that success along with a Budget referendum indicating strong and clear support within our communities, and the ongoing goal of celebrating students and their achievements. Ms. Sexton Read shared the importance of remembering and reflecting on where we were at the beginning of the COVID pandemic and the remarkable achievements of administration, staff, students, and strong community member support helping to get us where we are today.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: 2021-2022 end-of year budget status and favorable budget variance, the 2022-2023 budget referendum outcome with grateful appreciation of the Board support allowing the administration to be successful, Educational Assistant contract negotiations, and the Lunch Program pricing and financial standing. Mr. Gaskins acknowledged Cafeteria personnel and the great work they do, particularly during COVID. Questions and brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES

None.

New Hire Report

Dr. Palmer advised of newly hired Art Teacher, Miranda Gordon, replacing Mike Bucci who has resigned. Miranda is a first-year teacher and interned with Kathy Cady this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization to make End-Of-Year Adjustments within the 2021-2022 Budget Limits.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **AUTHORIZE** Dr. Palmer and Director Gaskins to make end-of-year adjustments as necessary within the 2021-2022 budget limits. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Authorization to borrow \$500,000 in anticipation of receipts.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **AUTHORIZE** Director Gaskins to borrow \$500,000 in anticipation of receipts. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Authorization for Superintendent to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education, and hire grant funded positions for special purposes for the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **AUTHORIZE** Dr. Palmer to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education and hire grant funded positions for special purposes. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Following a brief discussion, the following Motion was made.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **CANCEL** the May 25, 2022, regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Palmer advised of Letter of Retirement received by Pam Hurley and Leave of Absence request by Krista Brazie, and the following Motions were made.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram to **ACCEPT** with appreciation and best wishes Pam Hurley’s Letter of Retirement. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** a Leave of Absence request from Krista Brazie for the entire 2022-2023 school year without pay or benefits and plan of returning for the 2023-2024 school year. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADJOURN** at 7:10 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D’Aprile
Board Clerk