

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
ROBERTA S. OHOTNICKY LITTLE THEATER
DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING and BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022 – 7 P.M.

APPROVED 5/11/2022

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)(exited at 7:27), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara

ABSENT: Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C) (entered and exited by phone for BUDGET ADOPTION MOTION at 7:25)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the **DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING** to order at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: There was no Public in Attendance, therefore, the Proposed 2022-2023 Budget was not presented, and Ms. Sexton Read closed the District Budget Hearing at 7:02 p.m. and Called to Order the Regular Board of Education Meeting at that time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the March 23, 2022 Town of Colebrook First Informal Budget Presentation and Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Bell. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the March 30, 2022, Town of Norfolk Second Informal Budget Presentation as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the April 05, 2022, Town of New Hartford Third Informal Budget Presentation as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the April 6, 2022, Town of Barkhamsted Fourth Informal Budget Presentation as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the April 6, 2022, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Middle School Math Action Plan and the structure of the Mathematics Department with the retirement of Chip Morris along with Professional Development opportunities available for the ongoing development of the Plan. Brief discussion and questions followed.

Mr. Franklin provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: successful first electronic SAT administration with feedback provided and shared with SAT liaison, senior student Madison Henry's Voice 4 Change proposal that won a \$20,000 award through the Connecticut State Department of Education, pep rally update, and student cook-off competition. Brief discussion and questions followed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Fran Amara's nomination for the Connecticut Association of Schools Principal of the Year award, teacher evaluation process and flexibilities extended through the 2022-2023 school year, Agricultural Education enrollment numbers and status of bus purchase. Questions

and brief discussion followed, and Dr. Palmer provided thanks and appreciation to Mr. Gaskins for his work and support during the 2022-2023 budget process.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Food Service and Supply Chain Assistance Fund state/federal grant to assist in cost increases due to supply chain disruptions acknowledging EdAdvance and Mary Paganini for their work in obtaining the \$16,331 award. Additionally, Mr. Gaskins provided a recommendation of appointing KING, KING, and ASSOCIATES as auditors, and reviewed Board Transfers as provided.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

UPDATES

BOARD DISCUSSION ON 2022-2023 DISTRICT HEARING BUDGET

Ms. Sexton Read advised that she is happy to take the Proposed Budget as presented to the Annual District Meeting with Referendum, and all Board members in attendance agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF BUDGET TO TAKE TO ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING – MAY 2, 2022:

The Board agreed to move forward to Referendum with a Proposed Budget increase of 1.97 percent for the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADOPT** the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget of \$22,902,378 **TO TAKE TO THE ANNUAL DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING** on Monday, May 2, 2022. This represents a 1.97 percent increase over the 2021-2022 budget expenditures. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale (by phone), Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADOPTION OF CALL OF ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING WITH REFERENDUM:

Notice of DISTRICT MEETING as read by Ms. Sexton Read:

“A District Meeting of Regional School District No. 7 will be held on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the school building in Winsted, Connecticut, for the following business:

- 1) To authorize the Regional Board of Education to apply for, accept, and expend, in addition to the regular school budget, any state, federal, or private grant money which may be available for special purposes during the fiscal year 2022-2023.
- 2) To accept the annual budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022. Copies of the budget are on hand in the offices of the Town Clerks of each of the member towns.

The Board of Education for Regional School District No. 7 has designated that the vote on the motion to adopt the budget shall be by a “yes” or “no” vote on the optical scan machines in each of the member towns on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, with hours to be set by individual towns as established by state statutes.

Dated this 13rd day of April, 2022, at Winsted, Connecticut, and signed by Molly Sexton Read, Chair, Board of Education, Regional School District No. 7.”

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADOPT** Call for Annual District Meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022, 7 p.m. in the Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theater, as presented by Ms. Sexton Read. AYE: Ms. Sexton

Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

AUTHORIZATION OF EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR 2022-2023 BUDGET

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **AUTHORIZE** the Secretary of the Board of Education to prepare and cause to be printed and disseminated a concise explanatory text with respect to the 2022-2023 budget referendum question that will be submitted to the District's voters, subject to any necessary further legal review and approval by District legal counsel, and which shall otherwise be prepared, printed, and disseminated in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b and the Secretary's discretion, and to be amended as necessary. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Based on Mr. Gaskins' recommendation, the following Motion was made:

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPOINT** KING, KING and ASSOCIATES, Certified Public Accountants, as auditors for the 2022-2023 school year. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Budget Transfer Report as presented by Mr. Gaskins. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Brief discussion pertaining to Highlander Basketball Camp, and the following Motion was made.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the building use for the Highlander Basketball Camp from July 11, 2022 - July 15, 2022. AYE: Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Sexton Read. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Palmer presented three Letters of Retirement from (1) Sarah Machowski, (2) Sue Sokolow, and (3) Gordon Ross.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ACCEPT** with appreciation, gratitude and best wishes Letter of Retirement from Sue Sokolow. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ACCEPT** with appreciation, gratitude and best wishes Letter of Retirement from Gordon Ross. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ACCEPT** with appreciation, gratitude and best wishes Letter of Retirement from Sarah Machowski. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

Brief discussion regarding the next regular Board of Education meeting scheduled in April, and the following Motion was made.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **CANCEL** the second regularly scheduled April Board of Education meeting on April 27, 2022. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ms. Crone exited at 7:27 p.m.

Ms. Sexton Read reviewed date and time for the District Meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 7 p.m., and next Regular Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADJOURN** at 7:30 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile,
Board Clerk