

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
OCTOBER 12, 2022 – 6 p.m.  
**APPROVED 11/9/2022**

**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), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, Student Representatives Ms. Morgan Plitt and Ms. Fiona Leon.

**ABSENT:** Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C)

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

**STUDENT RECOGNITIONS**

**Christopher Ferrarotti:** For his extraordinary performance on the AP Computer Science Exam, Mr. Franklin recognized Christopher's accomplishment, dedication, and hard work in achieving a perfect score. Board of Education members applauded and congratulated Christopher for his terrific accomplishment. Dr. Palmer expressed how happy and proud she is of Christopher's achievement.

**Lucas Oles:** Dr. Palmer introduced and recognized Lucas for his amazing humanitarian efforts and extraordinary accomplishments in Ecuador in bringing clean drinking water to Chilcapamba. Lucas provided a brief slide show of his work, and Board of Education members provided applause and congratulations.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** the September 14, 2022, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED.**

**REPORTS**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

Ms. Leon provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: amazing start to the school year, fun and engaging homecoming events that are very exciting this year, regional auditions, and PSAT prep.

Ms. Plitt provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: homecoming week activities and dress up week, games, and homecoming dance. Ms. Sexton Read advised that she and Mr. Franklin met with student reps and discussed their roles as Student Board Representatives and project ideas for the 2022-2023 school year.

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Professional Development Presentation by author and teacher Dave Stuart Jr. on Friday, October 7, 2022, which was a huge success with very positive feedback from staff, upcoming Professional Development Day planning for Election Day with a focus this year on student engagement, personal interactions, and meaningful relationships, and Middle School Spirit activities. Questions and brief discussion followed.

Mr. Franklin provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Darien High School collaborative NEASC visit and RSD#7 NEASC visit planning and preparation, Teacher Evaluation Plan and goal setting, and Middle and High School Veterans Day traditional planning with enhancements this year. Questions and brief discussion followed pertaining to the importance of RSD#7's tradition of honoring in a significant way veterans within our community

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates with a Power Point presentation, "A Look Ahead", "Purposeful Planning for the Future", covering her leadership vision for the next several years at RSD#7. Highlights included

2022-23 Theory of Action Statements, Teaching and Learning, Technology, School Security and Facilities, Enrollment and Staffing Levels, Professional Development, Mental Health and Wellbeing, School Climate and Culture, and Budget. Questions were addressed throughout Dr. Palmer’s presentation, and discussion followed. Ms. Sexton Read thanked Dr. Palmer for compiling the presentation and expressed sincere appreciation of the good information gathered and possibility of incorporating into the annual Community Conversation meeting in an effort to engage and inform community members with this important information.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT**

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: transportation issues, union negotiations, King and King audit for 2021-2022, and budget updates for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. Budget development has begun at the Department Head level with the request on staying within a two (2) percent increase for the 2023-2024 school year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Updates: None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of Europe Trip, August 2024.

Dr. Palmer provided itinerary submitted by Anna Norland and requested Board Approval for what looks like an amazing experience. Following brief questions and discussion, a motion was made.

**MOTION** by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** the August 2024, Europe Trip. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ms. Sexton Read advised on teacher negotiation status, updating of Board of Education goals for the 2022-2023 school year providing suggestions and requesting board members provide input for the December Board of Education meeting, and efforts to align elementary school Board of Education goals to benefit students within the district. Discussion followed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

The following Motion was made after a brief discussion.

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, **TO CANCEL** the second Board of Education meeting scheduled for October 26, 2022. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADJOURN** at 7:37 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