

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
November 9, 2022 – 6 p.m.

**APPROVED**

**PRESENT:** Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Terri Kenneson (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. Lisa Fragale (C) Ms. Mary Duran (B).

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Sexton Read called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **APPROVE** the October 12, 2022, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **MOTION PASSED.**

**REPORTS**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

Ms. Leon provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Fall sports are winding down. Volleyball was advancing in the tournaments and auditions are currently happening for the school play. The school is in full swing for clubs. Student fundraisers are beginning with a great start and much enthusiasm.

Ms. Plitt provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Food Baskets for Thanksgiving -set up a contribution box at Foodtown in New Hartford. She discussed the project to transform the library into a space similar to a Starbucks college type lounge. Ms. Sexton Read advised that she speak with other students to see what thoughts and/or ideas they might have for this process of transformation of the library space. Ms. Plitt also announced the Class of 2023 Fundraiser at Chipotle on Wednesday, November 16th from 4:00-8:00 pm in Canton.

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Finished up the Middle School Spirit Week by kicking it off with a Halloween dance with about 70% of the student body attending. Middle School participated in a week-long "spirit week" with staff and students. On 11/8, the staff participated in a PD Day. Grade 7 through 12 teachers got together in vertical teams to continue the Dave Stuart Jr. work and reviewed in depth the 5 key beliefs that drive students to learn. These beliefs are Credibility, Belonging, Effort, Efficacy, and Value. Mr. Amara also briefed the BOE on the Veterans Day breakfast put on by HS Student Council and the kitchen staff happening on Friday 11/11/2022. All Veterans are welcome. Veterans and families are then invited to the Middle Schools Veterans Day Program that involves a slideshow of veterans and their families. The band and chorus will be included in the celebration. Mr. Amara concluded that Middle School parent-teacher conferences are next week -11/14 & 11/15.

Mr. Franklin provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: PSAT, Senior Workshop Day and the NEASC website. For the Senior Workshop Day, the school had an Alumni panel for Q and A, and had essay writing workshops and interview workshops. Mr. Franklin noted that there were 270 sophomores and 129 freshmen that participated in the PSAT testing. Lastly, a website was created by the NEASC Committee for the visit in December 2022. This website is a snapshot of NWR7 all in one place. This website contains the articles for the Blue-Ribbon Award, Kindness in Motion, the Food Truck Festival- everything on the website will assist the NEASC visiting committee.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Palmer reviewed the incident of the accidental activation of the lockdown alarm on 11/3/2022. Dr. Palmer and the administrators were having a meeting in her office when the alarm went off. Dave Wood and the administrators responded. It was discovered that it was triggered at a workstation in the Main Office. Dave Wood and the police swept the entire school twice before the lockdown was lifted. Total time of lockdown was 21 minutes. A lot of review and debriefing occurred after this incident. The administrators were available after school if staff wanted to discuss this situation. Panic buttons were moved and labeled. Dr. Palmer stated that she received a lot of feedback and took

all this feedback into consideration. On Election Day, the NWR7 administrators were invited to Winsted Town Hall for their first Safety Meeting of the year- James Gaskins, Dave Wood, Gary Franklin, and Fran Amara accompanied Dr. Palmer. It was directed by the Department of Homeland Security, Winsted Police Department and first responders. An emergency scenario was given, and Dr. Palmer and the administrators had to give an immediate response, a continued response and then a recovery response. Dr. Palmer stated that she and her staff learned through this exercise that the crisis plan is a great framework and that NWR7 has everything in place. However, they learned that they must be flexible because certain variables. Communication is key.

Kindness in Motion - Operation Child Christmas project-students take little individual gifts that fit into a shoe box and mail them around the world and put tracking codes to learn about the child who receives the package.

Lastly, Dr. Palmer wrote a grant for \$6000.00 from the NW Community Bank Foundation- currently awaiting a response.

#### **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT**

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Thanked Lisa D'Aprile for her years of service for taking the minutes for the BOE. Transportation: there continues to be a few disruptions here and there, no more or less than before, directly related to the drivers' shortage. One major transportation disruption was that there was a tanker spill over the weekend in Norfolk that caused road closures. Mr. Gaskins was in immediate communication with the bus companies and communicated with the families involved in the area of the closure.

Food Service: Seamless School Option (Federal Government provided free breakfast and lunch to all students) ended on June 30, 2022. The State of CT stepped in and provided funding called SMART FUNDS (School Meals Assistance for Revenue or Transition) to transition families to going back to pay for lunch and/or free and reduced lunch. The end of SMART FUNDS is December 1, 2022. Effective December 1, NWR7 will return to charging the student based on the free/reduced and/or the full pay schedule from the child nutrition program. There is a change to the charging policy that is on the agenda for review. Information was sent out to families with regards to updated communication of these funding adjustments to the lunch program.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Updates: Ms. Sexton Read is working with administrators over contract negotiations. Will discuss in more detail at the December BOE Meeting. A brief discussion of the BOE 2022-2023 BOE Goals took place. Ms. Sexton Read suggested that the BOE wait until December's meeting to draft up the goals and adopt all goals as a group.

#### **NEW BUSINESS: REVIEW OF UPDATED POLICY 3524-43 FOOD SERVICES CHARGE POLICY: FIRST READING**

Mr. Gaskins explains that this policy reviews a legislative change: A student will not be denied the first meal of the day if funding is unavailable, yet will *not* be allowed to charge additional meals in one day. Discussions followed.

**MOTION** by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, **TO CANCEL** the second Board of Education meeting scheduled for November 23, 2022. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:24 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,

Diane Barrett, Board Clerk