

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
December 14, 2022 – 6 p.m.
(following the Organizational Meeting)

APPROVED

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), Ms. Mary Duran (B)(by phone), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), 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. Morgan Plitt and Ms. Fiona Leon.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Dr. Palmer gifted the BOE members handmade holiday ornaments created by students: Ella Gannon, Kimora Hardy and Faith Ferreira created in Mr. Dougan’s Graphic Technology class.

TEACHER RECOGNITIONS

Kim Perschmann and Nancy Wiecking- Special Recognition: Extraordinary performance, dedication and commitment for their outstanding work of co-chairs to the RSD7 Professional Development Committee. Ms. Sexton Read presented Ms. Perschmann and Ms. Wiecking with certificates of appreciation. Mr. Amara recognized their bimonthly “Learning Digest” created by Ms. Perschmann and Ms. Wiecking which is a newsletter for staff and teachers that includes current trends in teaching, resources to improve instruction, as well as recognition of fellow colleagues and staff spotlights. Special thanks from Dr. Palmer, Mr. Amara and Mr. Franklin.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the November 9, 2022, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Ms. Leon provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: NEASC collaborative visit on December 8th and 9th, winter sports, theater, winter concert, holiday giving and student fund raising participation. Questions and brief discussion followed.

Ms. Plitt provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: winter sports, theater, daily festivities leading up the holiday break, and the NEASC collaborative visit on December 8th and 9th. Ms. Plitt also highlighted the winter pep rally - seniors vs the staff volleyball game. Brief discussion followed.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Holiday turkey basket food drive where NWR7 delivered 46 turkey baskets to families of NWR7 and the surrounding towns. Currently the school is participating in the Red Angel fundraiser. Each homeroom is assigned a child and are collecting gift cards and participating in a wish list for each child. Middle School and High School participated in PJ Day in honor of CCMC - Kids with cancer- and raised over \$1000.00. Mr. Amara spoke about the MS Mathematics Department and how the RTI program led by Liz Wilcox has improved student achievement. This program focuses on the specific skill gaps. Mr. Amara discussed how Jim Mann’s SEL work has had a positive impact on the entire Middle School. Mr. Mann addresses barriers to learning, and works with all students in goal setting, academic support, and school climate. He explained how Jim Mann, Leslie Sullivan and 10 selected 7th and 8th grade students completed a day long training with INSPIRE ED. INSPIRE ED is a group out of the YALE Center of Emotional Intelligence- focused on student voice. This training concentrates on the focus areas of students and how to enhance these areas in the schools. Questions and brief discussion followed.

Mr. Franklin provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: NEASC's collaborative visit- Mr. Franklin thanked Ms. Sexton Read, Ms. Plitt and Ms. Leon for being a large part of the process. Mr. Franklin thanked George Mitesser and Kim Perschmann for the work as the accreditation coordinators. Mr. Franklin thanked the steering committee and the self-reflection committee for preparation of the NEASC report and website. NEASC visit takeaways: Impressed with the strong relationships with students, families, staff and each other. The committee mentioned how kindness was evident throughout the two day visit, the levels of support the school has for all students and staff, and how the interdisciplinary connections were observed within the classrooms. Mr. Franklin appreciated the feedback and recommendations from the NEASC committee. NWR7 will receive a full report in 2-3 months. The next full NEASC accreditation visit will be in December, 2024.

Mr. Franklin thanked Mr. Dan Carroll, Assistant High School Principal and Director of Student Activities, for locating a Robotics Advisor. Mr. Al Petrunti, is serving as the Robotics Advisor. Mr. Petrunti has extensive experience with technology, computer services, coding and development of drones.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates: Dr. Palmer begins by expressing her appreciation for Mr. Franklin, Mr. Amara, and Mr. Gaskins for the strengths they each bring to the administrative team. Dr. Palmer emphasizes how NWR7 is always searching for ways to provide opportunities for the students to take classes at Northwest Community College. Mr. Nick Maltby spoke with her about an EMT class. Mr. Franklin, Lori Foote (Director of Guidance), and Dr. Palmer secured the opportunity for NWR7 students to take an EMT class beginning in February 2023 at a very low cost. This EMT class will be offered for credit, which is currently under discussion. The NCCC Foundation is picking up the cost of the class for the students, yet the students will still have to pay for their book and exam fee. The class will run from 2/22/23 through 5/20/23 from 6:00- 10:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and then on Saturdays from 8:00-4:00 p.m.

Kindness in Motion: Dr. Palmer received a \$3000 grant from Northwest Community Bank Foundation to help support Kindness in Motion projects. Dr. Palmer explained that there are five projects currently running. NWR7 will kick off this year's program in early February. A letter of thanks was sent to the Foundation upon receipt of this grant. This gift will be publicly acknowledged in the Kindness in Motion slideshow in May 2023.

Special Education: NWR7 special education prevalence rate has increased. Dr. Palmer has been meeting with the administrative team on an on-going basis. These meetings and data that have been collected are supporting the need for an additional special education teacher in the high school. This will be discussed in more detail during the budget season.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates: The E-Rate is a federal program used to provide universal telecommunications to schools. NWR7 received \$113,102. 00. This money was used to purchase 400 Chromebooks for students and 61 laptops for teachers. Mr. Gaskins thanked Chris Fray for completing the majority of this grant application. A representative from the CSDE came to RSD7 for a surprise audit of the Safety Committee, which included checking compliance, appropriate membership, meeting schedule, topics, and responsiveness. RSD7 records were in order and the review was positive. Mr. Gaskins stated the importance of cyber security insurance. The renewal rates for cyber security insurance almost doubled. Upon review, Mr. Gaskins moved the coverage to another company that has the same coverage for less of an increase to the 2023- 2024 budget. Mr. Gaskins reviewed the workers compensation audit- which was successful and finalized with a zero increase. Lastly, Mr. Gaskins reviewed the legislative change to the Excess Cost grant reimbursement. It is now a three tiered system based on town wealth. The NWR7 reimbursement rate decreased. NWR7 will still budget an approximate 70% anticipated reimbursement.

OLD BUSINESS

Adoption of Policy 3524.43 Food Service Charge Policy:

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the adoption of **Policy 3524.43 Food Service Charge Policy**:

AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **NAY**:

None. **ABSTAIN**: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Review/Adoption of BOE GOALS: BOE had a brief discussion and a decision was made to TABLE this discussion until the January 11, 2023 BOE Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: REVIEW OF UPDATED POLICY 5141.4 REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: FIRST READING

Dr. Palmer communicated that Attorney Mark Sommaruga provided a Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect professional development for the administrators in October. Dr. Palmer asked him to review the current policy and he suggested this replacement which actually comes directly from DCF. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter of Resignation from Linda McCartney - Business Teacher (formally a paraprofessional). Dr. Palmer recognized Ms. McCartney's performance in the role as an outstanding business teacher.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** the resignation of Ms. McCartney as a business teacher at NWR7. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The BOE acknowledged the receipt of the letter of Northwest Community Bank Foundation for the \$3000 Grant for the 2022-2023 Kindness in Motion Program.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, **TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** to review the tentative agreements for both the teachers and administrators contracts and invite Dr. Palmer and Mr. Gaskins to join at 7:54 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Entered into Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Gaskins.

Exited Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. with the following ACTION on Executive Session items.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** Administrators Contract Agreement. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **APPROVE** Teachers Contract Agreement. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADJOURN** at 8:10 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk