

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

February 8, 2023 – 6 p.m.

APPROVED

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), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), 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.

Absent: Ms. Mary Duran (B), and Student Representative Ms. Fiona Leon.

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

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AMEND** the BOE Agenda and add one item to the **CORRESPONDENCE** as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the January 11, 2023 Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** the January 17, 2023 Board of Education Workshop Minutes as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

In the absence of Ms. Leon, Ms. Plitt provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Midterms are over and the students have started a new semester. SAT testing is scheduled in mid-March for juniors. Underclassmen have begun course selection for the 2023-24 school year. Seniors are narrowing down choices of colleges and actively applying for scholarships. Winter sports are coming to a close. The swim team is currently undefeated. Indoor track is beginning states in the upcoming weeks. Basketball is winding down with both the girls and boys' JV and Varsity teams playing against Gilbert in the upcoming days. All proceeds from these games will go to the Jimmy Fund for cancer research. The student council has been hosting a cross town fund raiser against Gilbert for the Jimmy V Foundation. Theatre held auditions for the spring play of Mamma Mia. There are new television monitors in the cafeteria that show the weather, menus and inspirational quotes. Ms. Plitt reviewed that her and Ms. Leon are actively working on their supportive education project of redesigning the Media Center. Brief discussion followed.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mr. Amara provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: During the school exams, the teachers take part in professional development in all curriculum areas. The Math Department (grades 7- 12) met with George Mitesser to discuss next year's curriculum. The Special Education Department (grades 7- 12) met to discuss transition and course options for incoming 9th graders. Wellness, English, Science and Social Studies analyzed student assessments data and discussed new assessments. A special shout out to the Wellness Department- Stacey Zematis and Jared Stotler- who designed an activity called "minute to win it" for the students to participate within the class period. Mr. Amara explained that the school is awaiting guidance from the CSDE for the Teacher Evaluation plan that must be in place for the 2024-25 school year. There were over 50 students that participated in middle school athletics- basketball and cheer. Tom Hicks and Mike Stapleton, the head coaches, did a great job in keeping the student athletes involved by

developing individual and team skills. The middle school spring sports will offer baseball, softball and track. Questions and brief discussion followed.

Mr. Franklin provided the Board of Education updates pertaining to: Mr. Franklin reviewed the timeline and communication of course selection. He noted that there are a few new course offerings for 2023-24 - Explorations in Business, Sports and Entertainment Marketing and Management, AP Physics and Forensic Science. Highlander Welcome Night is scheduled for Feb. 9. The incoming 9th graders are joined with their families to visit NWR7. Mr. Franklin briefs all on high school highlights, school counselors discuss course credits and graduation requirements. Lastly, Mr. Franklin and staff share a sample freshman schedule and student testimonials. After the visit to the auditorium, students and their families can visit either the cafeteria or the media center to discuss with department chairs the diversified course offerings. Questions and brief discussion followed.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates: She shared with enthusiasm that she was visited in her office by the “student surprise squad” who surprised her with music, a speech and a large blessing jar filled with 238 notes from the students. Dr. Palmer expressed her gratitude for one the best moments in her life.

Special Education: Dr. Palmer shared a Power Point presentation to provide an overview of the proposed special education REACH program for the high school. This new program will be included in the 2023-24 Budget Proposal.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Budget Timeline: A revised budget calendar was handed out reviewed. The Barkhamsted and New Hartford presentation nights have been determined.

Ag Ed Roof Project: Mr. Gaskins handed out the Vo-Ag Roof Project requirement timeline. He requested an establishment of a School Building Committee.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **CREATE** a building committee for the Vo-Ag Roof Project as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Vo-Ag Roof Project Building Committee will consist of Ms. Molly Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram and Mr. Gauthier.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of New Policy #0150 Annual Board of Education Goals (first reading): Ms. Sexton Read reviewed the recently updated Board goals and discussed their inclusion in RSD7 Board Policies. With the new BOE goals, there is a creation of a policy with an *attachment A* listing the goals. This attachment can be altered yearly.

Search process for the new superintendent of schools: Ms. Sexton Read reviewed the tentative timeline and process for the search. A survey will be sent out to parents and staff for input on the superintendent search.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Margaret (Peg) Nelligan’s Letter of Retirement: Peg is a Special Education Reading Specialist in the middle school. She is retiring as of June 30, 2023. Peg is an exemplary employee and will be missed.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ACCEPT** Ms. Nelligan’s letter of retirement as presented. The board thanks Ms. Nelligan for going above and beyond and bringing out the best in the students and NWR7. The board wishes, with much gratitude, all the best in her retirement and thanks her for many dedicated years of service. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Approval of Highlander Volleyball Camp

Mr. Vaccari, Math Teacher, is requesting the use of the gymnasiums for a one-week summer volleyball camp for girls and boys within this district entering grades six through nine.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the Highlander Volleyball summer camp as presented.

AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None.

ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Jennifer DeGrave's Letter of Resignation: Ms. DeGrave will be resigning her position as a 7th grade math teacher effective June 30, 2023.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ACCEPT** Jennifer DeGrave's letter of resignation as presented.

AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None.

ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ADJOURN** at 7:38 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk