

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

February 23, 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. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Deborah Bell (N) by phone, Ms. Mary Duran (B) by phone, Ms. Lisa Fragale(C) by phone (6:12 p.m.), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins.

Absent: Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C).

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the February 8, 2023 Board of Education Meeting Minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None.

ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT’S BUDGET OVERVIEW 2023-2024

Dr. Palmer began the Proposed 2023-2024 Budget Presentation thanking Mr. James Gaskins, Ms. Diane Barrett, Ms. Hope Carfiro, and Ms. Lisa D’Aprile for their assistance. Dr. Palmer’s proposed budget, representing the goals and mission of enabling all students to achieve academic and personal excellence, especially post pandemic, is for \$23,611,945. This is an increase of \$709,567 and 3.1% over the 2022-2023 Budget.

Dr. Palmer presented the drivers of this proposed budget. This proposal includes two new positions: a new High School Special Education Teacher to assist some students in the transition from the Middle School to the High School and a New Middle School Math Teacher to continue the progress being made in that area. Both proposed positions are necessary to meet identified student needs. The expiration of the 2 year grants- Esser Grant, the Emergency Connectivity Grant and the ARP grant occurs on June 30, 2023.

Dr. Palmer discussed the growth of the Middle School Smarter Balance Math achievement testing results and how adding this Math Teacher position to the Middle School has had a positive effect. Dr. Palmer presented how NWR7 focuses on continued excellence by adding AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Sports and Entertainment, and Management and Marketing courses for 2023-2024. Ag Ed and Tech courses offers for the 2023-2024 school year include Equine Science, Construction and Fabrication, Regenerative Agriculture, Engineering Design, Digital Electronics, and Robotics.

Dr. Palmer presented Regional School District No. 7’s Smarter Balance Achievement results, the range of current expenditures per pupil in the Berkshire League, PSAT and SAT comparative data and the percentage of students with AP scores of 3 or higher. Dr. Palmer discussed the current and projected member town enrollment and the changes in average daily membership by town.

Additionally, Dr. Palmer provided an Object breakdown overview of the budget increases and decreases in salaries, benefits, purchased professional and technical services, purchased property services, supplies, property, other objects and debt services. Explanation was provided of the major budget drivers. Excess Cost expenditures offsets reflected in special education, professional and technical services, transportation and tuitions. Dr. Palmer displayed a historical perspective on assessments over a 5-year period.

Dr. Palmer concluded that Regional School District No. 7 is the pride of the Northwest Corner, with exceptional teachers, strong administrators and support staff, and outstanding custodial staff, provides a rigorous and comprehensive educational program for all learners. Students graduate with exceptional academic experience and are well prepared for college, career or military service. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of New Policy # 0150 Annual Board of Education Goals.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ADOPT** Policy #0150 Annual Board of Education Goals, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Update of the search for the new superintendent: Ms. Sexton Read discussed the timeline of the search. She reached out to CBE to discuss other avenues of advertising for the superintendent position.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 7:06 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk