

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

COLEBROOK TOWN HALL

Regular Board of Education Meeting Immediately Following Informal Budget Presentation - Colebrook

March 22, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED 4.17.2023

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), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins.

Absent: Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Mary Duran (B)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** the March 1, 2023 Special Board of Education Meeting-Budget Workshop Minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

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

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided Board of Education updates:

Special Education Costs: Dr. Palmer expressed that there is an increase in NWR7 Special Education expenses related to outplaced students. Quentin Rueckert, Mr. Gaskins and Dr. Palmer have kept a close watch over Special Education spending. The associated costs have been related to increase staffing for students. Thankfully, with the increase in the Special Education Excess Cost Reimbursement, NWR7 will be able to cover these expenses. Brief discussion followed.

High School Supports: Jim Mann, SEL Interventionist, attended the Administrators' Meeting this week to present an overview of next year's schedule in both Middle School and High School. Jim will continue to offer academic support to 7th and 8th grade students and will expand into 9th grade next year. On top of academic support, he offers students support with SEL areas to gain the skills associated with self-awareness, self-management, problem-solving, making positive choices and building healthy relationships.

Updated 2022-2023 Calendar: These past two snow days have pushed our last day of school out to June 21st. The previous 2023 Graduation date will not change. NWR7 will be in school on June 19th. A new state law has been created for Juneteenth commemorating the end of slavery in America. By law, NWR7 can stay open (similar to Veteran's Day) as long as we observe the holiday in a meaningful way.

SAT Review: The computerized SAT testing took place today, March 22, 2023. Dr. Palmer met with Mr. Mitesser and discussed data. The data review shows that the students are improving in Math.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Mr. Gaskins provided Board of Education updates:

Food Services: Mr. Gaskins asked the Board for **two motions** concerning the School Lunch Program. There are **two motions** for the 2023-24 school year that must be approved by the Board of Education annually regarding Healthy Food Certification. Requirement for Annual HFC Statement C.G.S. Section 10-215f requires that each local board of education or governing authority for all Connecticut public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must take action annually to certify whether all food items sold to students separately from reimbursable meals will or will not meet the CNS. Public schools include all public schools, regional educational service centers, the Connecticut Technical High School System, charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, and endowed academies. Food Services requests that both of the following motions be affirmatively passed.

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE *Participation of Healthy Food Option of HFC*** as presented: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Region No. 7 Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE *Healthy Food Options of HFS*** as presented: The Region No. 7 Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Business Office: Bids are still in process for Ag- Ed bus, copiers, and electricity. Electricity proposals were received back and meetings and discussions are in process. Brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATES: None

BOE GOALS: Ms. Sexton Read expressed that the RECOVERY GOAL- *Recovery: The Board will provide the necessary interventions, resources and support to administrators, teachers, and staff in order to promote the educational, behavioral, and social emotional recovery of students from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic-* is reflected of this 2023-2024 Budget Proposal. She expressed that this budget is putting the resources in place to recover and support student success.

BOARD DISCUSSION ON 2023-2024 WORKING BUDGET: Brief discussion on the 2023-2024 working budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPTION OF CALL OF BUDGET HEARING

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADOPT THE CALL OF BUDGET HEARING** as presented by Ms. Sexton Read, “The electors and those entitled to vote in town meeting in the towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, and Norfolk, Connecticut, are hereby notified and warned that a District Hearing for Regional School District No. 7 will be held on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Roberta S. Ohotnickly Little Theatre in the High School building, at which meeting the Proposed Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023, will be presented. Any person may recommend the inclusion or deletion of the expenditures at such a meeting. The annual Meeting of said District will be held on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.” **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

DECISION ON 2023-2024 REFERENDUM

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ACCEPT** Decision of Referendum for the 2023-2024 Budget. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADOPTION OF REFERENDUM QUESTION

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADOPT REFERENDUM QUESTION**, “Shall the Regional School District No. 7 Annual Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023, be accepted?” “YES” vote is for approval, and “NO” vote is for disapproval. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell to **MOVE** the Wednesday, *April 12, 2023* Board of Education meeting to the Special Board of Education meeting on Thursday, *April 6, 2023* at New Hartford Town Hall- Senior Center at 7:00 p.m. following the Fourth Informal Town Presentation- New Hartford.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk