

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER

Board of Education Meeting

May 10, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED 7.12.2023

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. Mary Duran (B), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Student Representatives: Fiona Leon and Morgan Plitt.

Absent: Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale(C), Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara.

RECEPTION FOR THE TOP TEN STUDENTS 2022-2023:

RECEPTION held for the Top Ten Students, Class of 2023. Mr. Franklin introduced and individually commended the following students for their outstanding achievements in academic, athletic, volunteer and club activities, and many contributions and accomplishments as members of both Regional School District No. 7 and within their own communities: Madeline Adams- New Hartford, Alexander Borelli - New Hartford, Carly Budge- Barkhamsted, Christopher Ferrarotti- New Hartford, Owen Frost – Barkhamsted, Noah Green- Norfolk, Elizabeth Jerram- New Hartford, Dylan Markwas- Barkhamsted, Meagan Spielman- New Hartford, Rachel Viets- New Hartford.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:48 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** Annual District Budget Hearing and the Board of Education Minutes of April 17, 2023, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** Annual District Budget Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2023, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Sexton Read announced that this is Superintendent Palmer's last BOE Meeting for her career at Regional School District No. 7.

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORTS: Ms. Leon provided the Board of Education updates pertaining to: Theater performed MAMMA MIA which was incredible. There was a career day seminar for sophomores and juniors. There were a variety of career choices from law, social services, finance, instruction, and business. Tennis and track are in full swing. The choir performed approximately 7 pieces of music. The band had the spring concert a few days later. AP Testing has come to an end. Junior Prom happened on May 6, 2023.

Ms. Plitt provided the Board of Education with updates pertaining to: Ms. Plitt expressed as the school year wraps up, more activities are happening. The band concert happened last evening with different performances from jazz, concert band and wind symphony. The band also dedicated a song to Dr. Palmer. May 26, 2023, is Senior Prom at the La Bella Vista in Waterbury. May 30, 2023, is the Senior Picnic at High Meadow in Granby. Field trips are also happening at this time of year. The Italian Language class visited Little Italy. On May 19, 2023, the Physics Class and the Anatomy Class will be spending the day at Lake Compounce Amusement and Water Park. The AP Environmental Science Class is also visiting Mine Hill Preserve in Roxbury.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

In the absence of Mr. Amara, Dr. Palmer briefed the Board of Education updates pertaining to: Mr. Amara is working on the transitions from 6th to 7th grade and from 8th to 9th grade. Dr. Palmer thanked Mr. Amara for his leadership in the Middle School, especially in the areas of Mathematics and Special Education.

Mr. Franklin provided the Board of Education updates pertaining to: Mr. Franklin asked the Board of Education for the approval of the AP Chemistry and AP Computer Science Electronic Textbooks and US History (hard copy). Links are provided below:

1. **AP Chemistry**
https://ngl.cengage.com/search/productOverview.do?N=201+4294918395&Ntk=NGL%7CP_EPI&Ntt=10860011361047768559138144486101779192&Ntx=mode%2Bmatchallpartial&homePage=false
2. **AP Computer Science:** <https://codehs.com/course/6165/overview>
3. **US History Textbook** is available in Dr. Palmer's office for your review. Mr. Franklin, with his background as a Social Studies Dept. Chair and HS Principal, approves of this book.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** the three instruction textbooks for AP Chemistry, AP Computer Science, and US History, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Palmer provided the Board of Education updates: Dr. Palmer thanked Mr. Gaskins for his work over the past seven years. She expressed her thanks to Mr. Amara and Mr. Franklin for their building leadership. She also thanked Vice Principal Carroll, Vice Principal Bakulski, Steve Carvalho and Quentin Rueckert their leadership. Lastly, she thanked the Board of Education for ten wonderful years and all the families and students for making this such a joyful experience. Part of the school improvement plan was communication on how to market Regional School District No. 7. Mr. Franklin led this plan to create a magazine about the students and happenings at NWR7. The plan is to mail out at least twice a year with highlights from NWR7 to all families and communities.

Budget: Thank you for your support of our 2023-24 Budget:

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Barkhamsted: | 56 | 11 |
| Colebrook: | 96 | 24 |
| Norfolk: | 49 | 14 |
| <u>New Hartford:</u> | <u>167</u> | <u>44</u> |
| Total: | 368 | 93 |

New Positions: The new REACH and the Middle School Math Position are posted internally and externally on CT REAP. Mr. Amara has begun interviews for the Middle School Math Position.

School Security: Dr. Palmer expressed that there is a new police chief in Winsted- WPD Chief Ciuci. She communicated that the Chief, and his staff are holding meetings at NWR7.

CAPPS/LCSA Student Recognition Banquet was held on May 3, 2023. It was hosted at Oak Villa in Watertown. The students recognized from RSD7 are as follows: Middle School: Ava Burrell and Patrick Brett; High School: Morgan Plitt and Noah Green.

Asian Cultural Center of Connecticut: Dr. Palmer expressed that she had a wonderful visit on a field trip to the Asian Cultural Center in Norfolk. <http://ctasiaculture.com/en/>

CSDE/Governor Lamont Get Outside and Play Day 2023: Last July, A bill passed the legislature that stated on May 26th of each year, or another day designated by the school board (through the Superintendent), will be a get outside and play day for mental health. RSD7 will participate in this event through our physical education and health classes throughout that week (subject to change). Dr. Palmer explained there is a significant link between being outside and positive mental health. This information will be part of the lessons taught. Further, the middle school students go to Boulder Ridge every year for picnic and play.

Brief discussion followed.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

GRANTS: Mr. Gaskins updated the Board of Education on three grants that were submitted for additional security upgrades; the School Security Grant Program, the Multi-Media School Security Grant Program, and the School Violence Prevention Program Grant. The copier request for proposal ended with the submission of four companies. The Business Office is still reviewing yet it looks as if there will be overall savings.

Mr. Gaskins proposed to open an additional CD to receive a higher interest rate for student activities, software, etc.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** RSD7 to open an additional CD, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT: Mr. Gaskins explained that the packet included the Budget Transfer Report in the email. He explained briefly that Special Education made two transfers due to unexpected expenses for student services and Math, Art, Physical Education, and Music made transfer requests to deal with student needs in a changing environment.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** the budget transfers, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sexton Read requested a motion to accept Dr. Palmer's letter of resignation as of 6/30/2023. Ms. Sexton Read expressed that it is with much regret and sadness that the Board accepts this letter of resignation, yet wishes Dr. Palmer much love, kindness, and success in her new chapter and thanks Dr. Palmer for 13 wonderful and exceptional years of service as Superintendent at RSD7.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** Dr. Palmer's letter of resignation, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Updates: None

BOE Goals: No updates.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization to make End-Of-Year Adjustments within the 2022-2023 Budget Limits.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **AUTHORIZE** Dr. Palmer and Director of Finance and Operations Mr. Gaskins to make end-of-year adjustments as necessary within the 2022-2023 budget limits. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Authorization to borrow \$500,000 in anticipation of receipts. **MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **AUTHORIZE** Director of Finance and Operations Mr. Gaskins to borrow \$500,000 in anticipation of receipts. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Authorization for the Superintendent to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education and hire grant funded positions for special purposes for the 2023-2024 school year. **MOTION** by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **AUTHORIZE** the Superintendent to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education and hire grant funded positions for special purposes. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW HIRE REPORT:

SARA GILDEA – 1.0 Middle School Special Education Teacher

Replacing Peg Nelligan who will be retiring on 6/30/2023.

BA Science Elementary Education at Vanderbilt University

Master of Arts- Reading Specialist at NY- Teachers College, Columbia University

BIAGIO DANDIO – 1.0 Business Education Teacher- hired 1/17/2023

Replacing Linda McCarthy who resigned on January 26, 2023
Associate degree in business management at Naugatuck Community College
BA in Sports Management at Southern New Hampshire University
Currently enrolled in the ARC program for Certification, issued a Certificate
Endorsement -010 Business- through Durational Shortage Area Permit

CORRESPONDENCE

Rebekah Woodworth's Letter of Resignation: Rebekah is an Agricultural Education Teacher. She is resigning as of June 30, 2023. The Board and Dr. Palmer wish Ms. Woodworth all the best moving forward.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ACCEPT** Ms. Woodworth's letter of resignation, as presented. The board wishes, with much gratitude, all the best in moving forward. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Kurt Dougan's Letter of Resignation: Mr. Dougan has submitted his letter of resignation due to the expiration of the extension of his certification to teach technology education. Mr. Dougan will ALWAYS be remembered for his outstanding work. Dr. Palmer accepts this resignation with a deep sense of gratitude.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ACCEPT** Mr. Dougan's letter of resignation, as presented. The board wishes, with much gratitude, all the best in moving forward and thanks him for his service to RSD7. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Krista Brazie's Letter of Resignation: Ms. Brazie, a Middle School ELA Teacher, has decided to stay home with her twins and 3 other children. She planned to return to work, yet recently changed her mind. Dr. Palmer wishes Ms. Brazie all the best moving forward.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ACCEPT** Ms. Brazie's letter of resignation, as presented. The board wishes, with much gratitude, all the best in moving forward. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **CANCEL** the **May 24, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting**, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** the **June 14, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting and substitute the RSD7 Graduation Ceremony for this meeting**, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **CANCEL** the **June 28, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting**, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: July 12, 2023.

Ms. Sexton Read opened a conversation about the transition of the Superintendency from Dr. Palmer to Mr. Steven K. LePage. Brief discussion followed.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **AUTHORIZE** Ms. Sexton Read to negotiate the terms and conditions of Dr. Palmer in the transition period over to Superintendent LePage as per the reflection of the conversation with the Board, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the Board of Education to design a recognition of Dr. Palmer for her retirement to be determined, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADJOURN** at 7:54 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk