

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER

Board of Education Meeting

July 12, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED 8/23/2023

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. Terri Kenneson (C), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Superintendent Mr. Steven K. LePage, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins.

ABSENT: Lisa Fragale (C).

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** May 8, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting: Expulsion Hearings as amended, as presented: **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION BY Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** May 10, 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:** Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION BY Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** June 15, 2023, Board of Education Meeting- Special Meeting, as presented: **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Transition Updates: Superintendent LePage shared information about his transition into NWR7. He has been getting to know the staff, students, and buildings by walking around and visiting summer school classrooms. He has been walking the exterior of the school viewing the building and the grounds. Superintendent LePage checked in with Mr. Rodenberg to confirm the students and staff arrived safely at the first destination of the High School Europe trip. He explained that he had sent out a letter of introduction to the staff and offered all to come in and say “hello.” Superintendent LePage has reached out to the neighboring Superintendents and the First Selectmen of the four towns to schedule meetings and/or luncheons.

Collaboration and Consultation: Dr. Palmer has been a wonderful resource and a wealth of NWR7 knowledge, and she has become a new friend. Superintendent LePage appreciates Dr. Palmer’s continued offers and efforts to provide ongoing support over the coming weeks and months. Mr. LePage appreciates the BOE arranging this continued consultation to ensure a smoother, more successful transition.

Staffing Highlights: Ms. Teri Padua, Library Media Specialist, resigned as of 6/30/2023. Ms. Waring, the current Department Chair of Social Studies and teacher will be stepping into this role. Ms. Waring will be spending half her time as the Library Media Specialist and the rest of the time teaching Social Studies. Mr. Andrew O’Brien was hired as the Agricultural Education Teacher. Mr. O’Brien has many years of experience and is very enthusiastic about his new role. Ms. Leach, a current Science Teacher, is requesting a year-long child-rearing leave for the year 2023-2024. Unfortunately, Ms. Christine Kersten resigned from her position as a High School Special Education Teacher. This position is being posted as soon as possible.

Superintendent LePage expressed his gratitude and appreciation for this opportunity to be the Superintendent of NWR7.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Grant Applications: Mr. Gaskins communicated that one of the grants that the school applied for in the spring 2023- MMSSGP (Multi-Media School Security Grant Program) sent out a letter of a “tentative approval” for this \$34,700.00 grant. This grant is for Mutualink, which simultaneously contacts the police department, fire department, and Litchfield County dispatch.

General Business Office Activities: The copier request for proposal was chosen and the installation of new machines will happen between July 24- 28 of this year. This RFP actually saved approximately \$10,000.00.

Budget: For 2022-2023, as the Board had indicated, the Assessment Offset for next year increased to \$760,000.00 pending the audit.

Facility Projects:

1. Remove the wall between the weight and aerobics room and replace the flooring.
2. Continue to upgrade the outdoor track area with concrete pad and pavilion.
3. Remove carpet and replace with tile flooring- House I and House II. The money being used is from the previous budget due to supply chain issues.
4. Replace the grass area with pavers in the rear of the building (similar to the outside gym).
5. A water pipe break in June 2023 caused some gymnasium floor damage. Mr. Gaskins met with an adjuster and insurance will cover the damage less the deductible. Repairs should begin before school, yet all repairs cannot be completed before the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Gaskins explained that there will be a plan in place so the repairs will be completed next summer.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates: None

BOE Goals: None

NEW BUSINESS

NEW HIRE REPORT

STEVEN LEPAGE - Superintendent of NWR7 Schools

Replacing Dr. Judith Palmer, Ed.D. who retired on 6/30/2023
Former Superintendent of Plainville Community Schools since July 2019
Executive Leadership University of Connecticut
Sixth Degree in Educational Leadership Central Connecticut State University
MA Special Education University of Hartford
BA Business Management Central Connecticut State University

ISABELLA CORRADI - 1.0 Reading Teacher- MS Grades 7-8

Replacing Christine (Krista) Brazie who resigned on 6/30/2023
Ms. Corradi was the long-term substitute for the year 2022-2023 for Ms. Brazie while Ms. Brazie was on a child-rearing leave MA of Science in Curriculum and Instruction Southern CT State University
BA of Science in English Southern CT State University

BIAGIO DANDIO – 1.0 Business Education Teacher

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

MARY KAY FROST – 1.0 High School Special Education Teacher

Replacing the current NWR7 teacher – Karen Stiland- who will be instructing the REACH PROGRAM 2023-2024
Ms. Frost was a Special Education Student Teacher in NWR7 LINKS program since January 2023
MA Special Education University of Hartford
MA of Information and Science Southern CT State University
BA of Science Trinity College

SARA GILDEA – 1.0 Middle School Special Education Teacher

Replacing Margaret (Peg) Nelligan who retired on 6/30/2023
MA of Arts- Reading Specialist NY Teachers College, Columbia University
BA Science Elementary Education Vanderbilt University

ANDREW O'BRIEN – 1.0 Agriculture Education Teacher

Replacing Rebekah Woodworth who resigned on 6/30/2023
Sixth Degree in Educational Leadership Central CT State University
MA of Arts in Teaching: Biology Quinnipiac University
BA in Science Southern CT State University
Years of experience from Simsbury Public Schools, Nonnewaug
Public Schools, and Middletown Public Schools

ERIKA PRATT – 1.0 Math Teacher Middle School Grades 7-8

Replacing Jennifer DeGrave who resigned on 6/30/2023
MA Science, Curriculum & Instruction in Mathematics Southeastern Oklahoma State
University, MA Science in Elementary Education University of Bridgeport
Dual BA Science in Management & Technology and Psychology Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

KAREN STILAND - 1.0 Reach Program Special Education Teacher

Hired to be the instructor of the REACH PROGRAM for Special Education Grades 9-12 for 2023-2024
Ms. Stiland has been a Special Education Teacher at NWR7 since 2014
She was also a LINKS PROGRAM teacher from 1998 - 2000

ROBIN WARING – Library Media Specialist and HS Social Studies Teacher

PART TIME (Schedule is to be reviewed)

Replacing Teri Padua who retired on 6/30/2023
Currently a NWR7 High School Social Studies Teacher since February 2004
Sixth Degree in Educational Leadership Central CT State University
Certification of Library Media-Specialist Central CT State University
BA of Arts History Education Siena College

CORRESPONDENCE

Teri Padua's retirement 6/30/2023 -Teri Padua is the Library Media Specialist. She is retiring as of June 30, 2023. The Board and Superintendent LePage thank Ms. Padua for her 13 years of service and dedication to NWR7 and wish her all the best in her retirement.

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

Kelsey Leach's request for one-year child-rearing leave 2023-2024 - Ms. Leach is a Science Teacher. She had a baby in late December of 2022. She is requesting a one-year child-rearing leave. The Board and Superintendent LePage wish her a wonderful year of many memories with her new baby.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone to **ACCEPT** Ms. Leach's request, as presented. The board wishes, with much gratitude, all the best. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Christine Kersten's letter of resignation: Ms. Kersten has resigned from her position as a Special Education Teacher due to accepting a position closer to home. The Board and Superintendent LePage thank Ms. Kersten for her 20 years of service and dedication to NWR7 and wish her all the best in her new position.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ENTER** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to review the retiring Superintendent's contractual agreement for 2023-2024 school year, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Board **ENTERED** into **Executive Session** at 6:27 p.m.

The Board **EXITED** out of **Executive Session** at 7:45 p.m.

Ms. Sexton Read moved that the Board of Education approve the District's coverage of Dr. Palmer's health insurance for one year and consulting services to be paid at Dr. Palmer's per diem rate with a cap of \$10,000.00.

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:50 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: August 23, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk