

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER

Board of Education Meeting

September 13, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED 10.11.2023

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), Lisa Fragale(C), Superintendent Mr. Steven K. LePage, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, Middle School Principal Fran Amara, High School Principal Gary Franklin, Student Representatives Fiona Leon and Owen Langer.

ABSENT: Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Ms. Mary Duran (B).

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** August 23, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting, as presented:

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

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT FIONA LEON

Ms. Leon expressed how happy the students were to be back at school. Over this summer, the LINK crew welcomed the Freshmen for the Freshmen Orientation. There was the Senior Sunrise Breakfast at 4:45 a.m. on 8/24/2023. It was amazing, the turnout was good, the sunrise was picture perfect and the coffee and donuts were delicious. Over the last two weeks of school, the students welcomed the new Superintendent, read a ton of syllabi, and the days are becoming busy. The Fall Sports already had their first games. In a few weeks, there are theatre auditions for the school play. In the coming weeks, there is Spirit Week which ends with a Homecoming Dance.

Ms. Leon met with Ms. Waring, the new Library Media Center Teacher, and they are ironing out the details on the project to revamp the Media Center. More meetings to come as the plans are coming to fruition.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT OWEN LANGER

Mr. Langer was shadowing Ms. Leon for his first BOE meeting, due to Mr. Langer just receiving the appointment of the Junior Student Representative the same day as the BOE meeting.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FRAN AMARA

Opening of Middle School Highlight Report: Principal Amara expressed that it was a big success in the opening of the Middle School. A quick reminder, every year, half the Middle School are new students. All but 2 seventh grade students were able to attend the Middle School Orientation. Principal Amara thanked the fabulous job of the 8th grade web leaders. Teachers were here to meet and welcome all new students during orientation. There was a scavenger hunt, which is head by Lindsey Blanchard and Amanda Cormier. This scavenger hunt has become the staple of the Middle School Orientation, and he thanked Ms. Blanchard and Ms. Cormier for their dedication, hard work and perseverance to make this a success. Last evening, there was the Middle School Open House which was a great success. It was so nice to see the new 7th graders who did know their way around the first few days of school, show their parents the classrooms, their locker, etc. The Middle School Fall Athletics began with a total of 116 MS students participating. Mr. Amara thanked the BOE for allowing Middle School Athletics at NWR7.

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL GARY FRANKLIN

Opening of High School Highlight Report: The High School Open House is tomorrow evening, 9/14/2023. The LINK Crew representatives will be there along with volunteers assisting the parents. Principal Franklin commented that there have been many class meetings, focusing on what it means to be a "Highlander", how the students represent themselves and others and the shift for juniors and seniors now being role models for the entire student class. Principal Franklin met with the Class Advisors, getting the student activity calendar all documented for the year. Principal Franklin expressed they had a "student driver meeting" for all students driving to and from

school, to review the responsibilities of driving, and obeying the driving laws. Freshmen Class Elections happened and Freshmen Class Officers are now in place. The High School is preparing for PSAT and Senior Seminars for Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT STEVEN K. LEPAGE

Opening of School Reflection: Superintendent LePage thanked the Principals and the Student Representatives for their reports. The Superintendent enjoys standing with Principal Franklin at the student drop-off each morning, greeting the students upon arrival. The first Administrators Meeting was last week and the feedback and communication was collaborative, instructive and positive. The Superintendent explains he is trying to attend many extracurricular activities as his schedule will permit. Superintendent LePage expressed how impressed he has been by the climate of the school and by the students' respect and kindness. Superintendent LePage thanked all - administrators, staff, business office, paraprofessionals, all that make every day run smoothly- for the total team effort.

Ag-Ed Program Updates: Superintendent LePage is making an appearance in Ag-Ed daily to understand the program in depth. He attended a Parent Meeting and offered support with topics. The Superintendent also attended the Advisory Board Meeting. Information was regarding a plan to conduct vision and long-term strategic goals for Ag-Ed, program marketing, and information about current and upcoming events.

Gym Floor Updates: Superintendent LePage explained what a process this has been since the water leakage. Superintendent LePage is grateful for the team effort and the flooring company – BCI who met the timeline to repair all the issues at hand. The Auxiliary Gym floor repair was completed and ready for use by BCI.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS JAMES GASKINS

Opening of School Reflection: Mr. Gaskins reflected how smooth the first few days of schools went. He thanked Principal Franklin, Principal Amara and the business office for setting up a table outside to assist the students onto the correct buses for the first few days of school.

Food Service: Mr. Gaskins thanked Principal Amara for having the 7th graders run through the cafeteria on orientation so they were prepared for their first day of lunch. Mr. Gaskins says he is excited to work with Ms. La Mesa-Hamzy, the new Kitchen Manager. The kitchen staff were very polished, during the first few days of school, everything worked out in a timely manner during the first few lunch waves.

Facilities: Mr. Gaskins thanked the custodial staff for all their hard work. As he mentioned to get the buildings ready for a new school year, the custodians have to break it down, tear it apart, clean it up and restore to "ready for school condition." While trying to accomplish these tasks, the custodians are competing with many interruptions along the way. Whether it is Middle School Summer School, tile replacement, and scheduling vacations among themselves, the custodians still accomplish all by the opening of the school year.

Business Office Operations: The audit is underway. In the past, the audit was a cumulative of 4-5 day on-site visit. Over the years, the on-site audit visit has been reduced to about 2-3 days. Currently, the auditors were in today, and did not expect to have to come back again tomorrow specifying that all questions were answered, all documentation was prepared, all preparation was thoroughly prepared by the business office. He thanked Hope Carfiro and the staff in the business office for all their hard work in prepping for this audit. Administrative Assistants Union Negotiations are underway. All the State Reports were completed by the due date of September 1. The large comprehensive financial report (EFS) was also due on September 1, thanking the hard work of Hope Carfiro and the business office staff.

Grant Applications: Mr. Gaskins reviewed that the grant applications he submitted last summer (2023) have not received any updates as of this time.

MOTION BY Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE /AUTHORIZE** Superintendent Steven K. LePage and the Finance Director and Operations Mr. James Gaskins as authorized signatures for the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program, as presented: **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Updates: None

BOE Goals: None

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent LePage reviewed the new legislation of the MOU requirement for the School Resource Officer. Superintendent LePage and School Resource Officer Dave Wood met and discussed the MOU. With research and revisions, the MOU for the School Resource Officer was revised for the BOE to review before all signatures.

MOTION BY Ms. Bell, seconded by Crone, to **APPROVE** Molly Sexton-Read, RSD#7 Board Chair, to sign the revised MOU for the RSD#7 School Resource Officer, as presented: **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **CANCEL** the Regular Scheduled Meeting on September 27, 2023, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 6:44 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Next Regular Board of Education Meeting: October 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk