

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

January 10, 2024– 6 p.m.

Newbury Library Media Center

**APPROVED 2.14.24**

**PRESENT:** Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Superintendent Steven K. LePage, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Student Representatives: Ms. Fiona Leon.

**ABSENT:** Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Theresa Kenneson(C), and Student Representative Owen Langer.

**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 Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** December 13, 2023, Annual Organizational Board of Education Meeting, as presented: **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION BY** Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** December 13, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting, as presented: **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

#### **REPORTS**

##### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT FIONA LEON**

Ms. Leon communicated that the Senior volleyball game against the staff happened before the holiday break. She expressed how fun it was to watch and that the students won! Upon returning from the break, it is crutch time with midterm exams. The girls' varsity basketball team traveled to play Housatonic, while the boys' varsity basketball team was playing Housatonic at home. In swim, the team won the invitational between Bristol and Granby and also won against Housatonic. There are currently auditions for the spring musical "Mary Poppins". On February 3, 2024, there will be a Winter Semi-Formal in the High School gym. Jake Vacila created his Capstone project in a Unified swim meet. He invited unified sports athletes. Most of the swim team attended and assisted in teaching swim and relays.

##### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FRAN AMARA**

**MS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DURING EXAM SCHEDULE:** During exam week, the Middle School Teachers will participate in Professional Development. Math and ELA departments are working on collecting student data and identifying intervention needs. Special Ed Teachers will be working on curriculum development. Wellness, Science, and Social Studies will be working on their student data and adding literacy across all common areas.

**TRANSITION PROCESS UPDATE:** Principal Amara explained that the Middle School is always in the midst of transition: grades 6 to 7, grades 7 to 8, and grades 8 to 9. There will be a meeting with all the feeder schools' principals and curriculum personnel to discuss strengths and struggles and share data and assessments. Principal Franklin will be hosting Highlander Welcome Night on Feb 8. The MS Guidance Department is currently working with students to choose courses for the upcoming school year.

**INTERVENTION PROGRAM UPDATE:** The Math Intervention Program is thriving and full most of the time. Many regular ed teachers are also participating in interventions. Middle School is also seeing more struggles with writing, so MS is setting up extra interventions for support. Over 30% of Middle School students are participating in Algebra I.

##### **HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL GARY FRANKLIN**

**CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS:** Principal Franklin was in attendance of the Capstone Presentations before attending the BOE Meeting. He expressed that the Capstone Presentations are interesting because the student has the ability to study whatever they desire, supporting certain fundraisers or what they are passionate about, and really communicate and express this passion through the Capstone Presentations.

**HIGHLANDER WELCOME NIGHT:** This is planned for Feb 8, 2024. The goal of this welcome night is to make it more student-oriented. Allowing most of the speaking from the students, having student-lead tours, and student representatives from the High School clubs available.

**AG ED UPDATE:** The application process will begin soon. The committee will review all the applications and the entire application packet and assess each applicant on a wide range of criteria: interest in Ag Ed, experience in Ag, performance in school and recommendations, to name a few. The committee meets and discusses each candidate. Ag Ed students are repairing the benches and will be beautifying the memorial garden. Ag Ed leadership students made holiday cards for a retirement home.

**LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER UPDATE:** There was a book tasting for the freshmen class, emphasizing New Year, New Book. The National Honor Society Help desk participates in the library for extra help with students. The Ancestry.com seminar is open to students and staff on Feb. 1, and a representative from Beardsley Library will assist in the facilitation of this seminar. The theme for Valentine’s Day will be “Blind Date With A Book.” There will be MS and HS selections wrapped in Valentine’s Day paper with a small blurb on the front of each book.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025:** Superintendent LePage discussed the day before the winter break was historically a half day. Next year, due to the last day before break falling on December 20, 2024, he is recommending a full day on the Friday before winter break instead of the proposed half days in years past. A brief discussion followed.

**2024 GRADUATION DATE:** There are a number of factors establishing the graduation date. In the past, one could not establish the graduation date until April 1, the State CT Gen. Stat. § 10-16l currently states “Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, a local or regional board of education may establish for any school year a firm graduation date for students in grade twelve which is no earlier than the one hundred eightieth day noted in the school calendar originally adopted by the board for that school year.” The only two dates that are open at the Warner Theatre are June 10 or June 12. Another factor is reserving the Granby YMCA as the graduation date after party. A brief discussion followed.

**WEATHER-RELATED CHALLENGES:** The weather has been tricky. Superintendent LePage has been communicating with the surrounding towns in the appropriate time frame to assess the weather situation and to make an educated decision about delays and/or cancellations by the appropriate time in the early morning.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

**2022-2023 AUDIT:** The audit was finalized and submitted to the State. There were no findings in the audit. The Business Office had staff changes in 2022-2023, and Mr. Gaskins thanked the business office staff for a great year and finalizing the audit with no findings.

**2023-2024 BUDGET TRANSFERS:** Mr. Gaskins expressed he will need APPROVAL for the Quarterly Budget Transfers.

**2024-2025 BUDGET TIMELINE:** Mr. Gaskins handed out the TIMELINE FOR REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2024-2025. The dates on the timeline are solid. There might be future discussions in regards to the BOE Meeting dates as the meetings sometimes change due to the Town Presentations.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR:**

**MOTION BY** Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the RSD#7 2024-2025 School Calendar, as presented: **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**UPDATES:** None

**BOE GOALS:** No Updates

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADDITION OF KEITH BOYLE, FACILITIES MANAGER, TO THE RSD#7 BUILDING COMMITTEE:**

Ms. Molly Sexton Read is formally **APPOINTING** Keith Boyle, the facilities manager of RSD#7, to the RSD#7 Building Committee.

**APPROVAL OF RSD#7 QUARTERLY BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

**MOTION BY** Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** the Quarterly Budget Transfers, as presented: **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**APPROVAL OF 2024 RSD#7 GRADUATION DATE:**

**MOTION BY** Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** the **TENTATIVE GRADUATION DATE of JUNE 12, 2024**, as presented, subject to change. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**SHENNEN FLANNERY- LETTER OF RESIGNATION:**

**MOTION BY** Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ACCEPT Ms. Flannery's Letter of Resignation** as presented. The RSD#7 BOE greatly appreciates Ms. Flannery's years of service. The BOE wishes Ms. Flannery all the best in her new position. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION BY** Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **CANCEL the January 24, 2024 Regular BOE Meeting**, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 6:57 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **MOTION APPROVED.**

The next regularly scheduled BOE Meeting will be Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Barrett  
Board Clerk