

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

March 27, 2024 – Immediately following Norfolk Informal Budget Presentation

Botelle School Cafeteria, Norfolk

APPROVED 4.4.24

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Lisa Fragale(C), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Superintendent Steven K. LePage, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins.

Absent: Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH).

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** the March 13, 2024, Board of Education Meeting Minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **APPROVE** the March 20, 2024, Board of Education First Informal Budget Presentation- Colebrook Meeting Minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Board of Education Appreciation Month: Superintendent LePage expressed a sincere "Thank You" to all the BOE Members and handed out handmade wooden engraved pens and pads to each member. These pens were made in the Tech Ed department of NWR7 by a number of High School students.

Penguin Plunge: Superintendent LePage expressed that the plunge was successful despite the cold rainy weather. The school raised \$6530.00, and half of that money is returned to RSD#7 for the LINKS program.

Free Meals Legislation: Superintendent LePage visited the State Capitol on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, to ask legislators to support free breakfast and lunch. He explained that he grew up on free lunch all through school, and these meals got him through the days of school and sports.

Certified Staff Members' Children Wishing to Attend RSD#7—Tuition: Superintendent LePage proposed a possible option and/or consideration to have certified staff members' children have the option to attend RSD#7. A brief discussion followed. Superintendent LePage expressed he will need to consult with RSD#7's BOE Attorney.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Update On the Gym Floor: Mr. Gaskins explained that there was a meeting with the insurance company, the contractor, Superintendent LePage, Principal Franklin, Keith Boyle and the Athletic Director, Fred Williams, regarding the concerns on the repairs of the auxiliary gym floor. The contractor is in discussion with the insurance company on how to move forward with the repairs of the gym floor.

Grants: Mr. Gaskins expressed that the process began in completing the large Federal and State security grants. Mr. Gaskins explained the grants are very competitive because they are nationwide. The Grant opening dates to apply are between 4/1/24 and 4/15/24. A brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates: None

BOE Goals: None

Board Discussion on 2024-2025 Working Budget: None

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of the Call of the Budget Hearing

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADOPT** the call of the budget hearing as presented. The electors and those entitled to vote in town meetings in the towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, and Norfolk, Connecticut, are hereby notified and warned that a district hearing for the Regional School District No. 7 will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theatre of the high school building, at which meeting the proposed budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 will be presented. Any person may recommend the inclusion or deletion of expenditures at such meeting. The Annual Meeting of said District will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Decision of Referendum

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADOPT** the RSD#7 2024-2025 Budget to take to Referendum with a 3.47% increase, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Adoption of Referendum Question

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ACCEPT** Regional School District No. 7 Annual Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **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 April 10, 2024 Regular BOE Meeting to April 4, 2024 Meeting** after the Informal Town Budget Presentation in Barkhamsted, Barkhamsted Elementary-Cafeteria following the 7:00 p.m. presentation. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **MOVE APRIL 24, 2024 Regular BOE Meeting to April 22, 2024** Regional Budget Hearing to Adopt Budget to go to District Budget Meeting, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 8:08 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None.
MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk