AGENDA –Wednesday, July 10, 2024

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION
6:00 p.m.
** NOW BEING HELD**
RSD#7 Little Theater

Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education Mission Statement:

We believe the public education is an essential component of a free and democratic society. In a partnership of family, school, community, and local and state government, our mission is to enable all students to meet high standards, make productive choices in their personal lives, contribute to a diverse global society and act as responsible citizens.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC PORTION

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 May 6, 2024 District Budget Meeting
- 3.2 May 8, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting
- 3.3 May 15, 2024 Special Board of Education Meeting

4.0 REPORTS

- 4.1 Superintendent's Report - S. LePage
- 4.2 Director of Finance and Operations - J. Gaskins

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

- 5.1 Updates
- 5.2 BOE Goals
  - a. Discussion of possible BOE Workshop

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 New Hire Report
- 6.2 Discussion of RSD#7 Cell phone policy ~ Policy # 5131.81 Electronic Devices Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 J. Lesieur- MS Music Teacher - Retired 6/30/2024
- 7.2 L. Foote- Director of School Counseling – Resigned 6/30/2024
- 7.3 F. Amara- MS Principal- Resignation – 8/23/24
- 7.4 Approval of Girls' Volleyball Camp - RSD#7 Gymnasiums 8/12/24 to 8/15/24

8.0 OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Enclosures:

- May 6, 2024 District Budget Meeting
- May 8, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- May 15, 2024 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- New Hire Report
- Policy # 5131.81 Electronic Devices – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students
- J. Lesieur's letter of retirement
- L. Foote's letter of resignation
- F. Amara's letter of resignation
- Letter of Request for Girls' Volleyball Camp- Coach Adam Vaccari

Next Meetings: *August 28, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. - Newbury Library Media Center*
September 11, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center

We welcome the public to share their comments via publicinput@nwr7.org. Your emails will be considered during the Public Comment session of the meeting. Thank you for your participation.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNUAL DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING
MINUTES – MAY 6, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.
ROBERTA S. OHOTNICKY LITTLE THEATER
DRAFT

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Superintendent Steven K. LePage, Director of Finance and Operations Mr. James Gaskins, Moderator Mr. Schuyler Thomson.
ABSENT: Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C).

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Ms. Sexton Read asked for a **MOTION** to nominate a Moderator.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram seconded by Ms. Crone, to **NOMINATE** Mr. Schuyler Thomson, as the Moderator. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY**: None. **ABSTAIN**: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Vice Chair, Mr. Jerram, read **CALL OF THE DISTRICT MEETING,** in the absence of Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Gauthier.

A District Meeting of Regional School District No. 7 will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the school building in Winsted, Connecticut, for the following business:

(1) To authorize the Regional Board of Education to apply for, accept, and expend, in addition to the regular school budget, any state, federal, or private grant money which may be available for special purposes during the fiscal year 2024-2025.
(2) To accept the annual budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024. Copies of the budget are on hand in the offices of the Town Clerks of each of the member towns.

The Board of Education for Regional School District No. 7 has designated that the vote on the motion to adopt the budget shall be by a "yes" or "no" vote on the optical scan machines in each of the member towns on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, with hours to be set by individual towns as established by state statutes.

Notices were posted on all four (4) town signposts, and an advertisement was placed in the local newspaper.

Mr. Thomson asked for a **MOTION** to **ACCEPT ITEM #1 and #2** of the **CALL OF THE MEETING.**

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, Town of Colebrook, seconded by Ms. Bell, Town of Norfolk, to **ACCEPT ITEM #1 and #2** of the Call of the Meeting as follows: "To authorize the Regional Board of Education to apply for, accept, and expend, in addition to the regular school budget, any state, federal, or private grant money which may be available for special purposes during the fiscal year 2024-2025. To accept the annual budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024. Copies of the budget are on hand in the offices of the Town Clerks of each of the member towns."
AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None.
ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Mr. Thomson returned the meeting to Ms. Sexton Read, who advised that since the Board of Education has designated that the vote on the motion to adopt the budget is by "yes" or "no" vote on optical scan machines in each of the member towns on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, with the hours to be set by individual towns as established by state statute, declared the District Budget Meeting be **ADJOURNED TO REFERENDUM** on May 6, 2024, at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett, Board Clerk

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER

Board of Education Meeting

May 8, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

DRAFT

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone, 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: Owen Langer and Fiona Leon.
Absent: Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH).

RECEPTION FOR THE TOP TEN STUDENTS 2023-2024:
RECEPTION held for the Top Ten Students, Class of 2024. 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: Nikolas Bodnar- Barkhamsted, Ayla Fritz- Colebrook, Kelsey Gallaway- New Hartford, Alexia Lefkowski- Barkhamsted, Brooke Nelson- New Hartford, Siena Nguyen- Barkhamsted, Halyee Norway- New Hartford, Isabella Roepke- New Hartford, Mattea Young- Colebrook, and Meredith Zematis- Barkhamsted.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **AMEND** the **BOE AGENDA** to reflect Ms. Angela Sabolcik's ~MS Science~ letter of resignation, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Annual District Budget Hearing and the Board of Education Minutes of April 22, 2024, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORTS: Mr. Langer provided the Board of Education updates pertaining to: Track- Berkshire League Championship will happen on May 18, 2024. Many track students are qualified to attend. Junior class had the Junior Prom last weekend. The feedback was the food was good, yet the D.J. was "alright." The Model UN club is hosting its first conference at RSD#7 this coming Friday, inviting Louis Mills to participate. The issues of discussion will be the Equadorium Gang Crisis and Fast Fashion. Pizza will be provided by Mario's in Winsted. A/P Testing this week. A few students are holding fundraising events for their Capstone Projects- one student is holding a volley ball game at Brodie Park in New Hartford, and another student is having a trail run.

Ms. Leon provided the Board of Education with updates pertaining to: Ms. Leon expressed as the school year wraps up, more activities are happening. In past events, there was Mary Poppins presented by the theater students, and Mary Poppins actually "flew" for a moment during the play! This week's happenings- Berkshire Scholar Athletes Banquet, the Sports Banquet, and there was a Mary Poppins breakfast where the theater students all dressed up in their costumes and served breakfast. A/P testing is underway. There is the choir spring concert coming up, and the spring sports are celebrating seniors. In the future, there is a New York City field trip to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Anatomy and Physics field trip to Lake Compounce Amusement Park in Bristol where the students complete experiments about anatomical reactions to rides. The

National Honor Society is participating in Read Across America where the students will be visiting the elementary schools in New Hartford to read to the younger students. May 24, 2024, is Senior Prom at the La Bella Vista in Waterbury and the Senior Picnic.

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FRANKLIN

Principal Franklin's report was the Top Ten Students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AMARA

Principal Amara communicated that last week was 7th Grade Incoming Parents' Night. There was over 100 people in attendance. The actual program is approximately 25 minutes long coordinated by Amanda Cormier and Principal Amara. Discussions were about the Middle School and what to expect, and the transition process. Principal Amara opened parts of the Middle School to tour for the parents and students. The library was available to tour, the MS Science classroom, a MS Math classroom, and a MS English classroom. Two visits of the incoming 7th graders from New Hartford had occurred in the beginning of the week. Barkhamsted incoming 7th graders will visit next week, and Colebrook and Norfolk incoming 7th graders will visit the week after. Events coming up in the Middle School- Boulder Ridge Day, 8th grade class night and 8th grade promotion.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Tuition for certified staff members to attend RSD#7: Superintendent LePage shared the updated version of the proposed agreement of allowing certified staff members' children to attend RSD#7 as tuition students at a reduced rate. Brief discussion followed.

Teacher Sick Bank MOU Proposal: Superintendent LePage explained this MOU was started before he had come to RSD#7. This proposal is a sick bank for teachers who have catastrophic long term illnesses and do not have enough personal sick days. This proposal is a way to allow other teachers to donate sick days on a structured basis and tighten the process of the teachers' sick bank, record keeping and structure in this process. Superintendent LePage had met with the NTA Union Members to discuss this proposal and all were in favor.

Superintendent LePage's Evaluation: Superintendent LePage expressed that his evaluation is long, yet he completed an executive summary to highlight the positive points, and areas of improvement for himself and also for the district.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Budget Items 2024-2025: Mr. Gaskins expressed congratulations to the BOE for the passing of the 24-25 RSD#7 Budget. Mr. Gaskins expressed that the hard work on a daily basis of the Board of Education Members, Superintendent LePage, Principal Franklin and Principal Amara with the community, students, staff and parents is what supports the RSD#7 BOE Budget. Mr. Gaskins thanked the principals, Superintendent LePage and all the BOE members for the daily commitment to the students, staff, community and parents.

Vo-Ag Bus: Mr. Gaskins communicated that the bus was delivered, yet then picked back up by the vendor, due to punch list of items that did not get completed before delivery and it did not get registered. Holding payment pending this punch list and registration.

Retaining Wall at RSD#7: Analysis of the retaining wall was "no immediate concerns." Mr. Gaskins explained that RSD#7 will monitor due to a few measurements that had changed a couple hundredth of an inch vertically and horizontally over a year. Mr. Gaskins explained that there will be three more measurements to complete over the next year, and this will be closely monitored by Mr. Gaskins and the administration.

Grants: SVP (School Violence Prevention Program) is currently in process. They have been no updates on the State's security grant, and the Federal COPS grant is due on June 14, yet the team is planning to process by May 24, 2024. Mr. Gaskins explained that the Federal COPS grant is selected by a few factors, one being a prescreening based on community, wealth, crime rate and support systems in the area.

Gym Floor: There is an agreement between the contractor and the insurance company in place. The work is slated to begin on June 14, 2024. Mr. Gaskins thanked Principal Franklin and Superintendent LePage for all the preparation work of this process.

Food Service: Mr. Gaskins will be discussing a price increase on food service items for the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Gaskins need to review the financials for this year before determining the increases.

OLD BUSINESS

Tuition Proposal for Certified Staff Member's Children as a Reduced Tuition to Students: Ms. Molly Sexton Read made the suggestion edit that some of the wording be updated for the special education services wording of the MOU. This edit will be pending approval via the RSD#7's attorney. Ms. Molly Sexton Read discusses that this would be a benefit to the teachers and their families. Brief discussion followed.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **TABLE** the Vote on the Tuition Proposal for Certified Staff Member's Children as a Reduced Tuition to Students until a special meeting on May 15, 2024, 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

Authorization to make End-Of-Year Adjustments within the 2023-2024 Budget Limits.
MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **AUTHORIZE** Superintendent LePage and Director of Finance and Operations Mr. Gaskins to make end-of-year adjustments as necessary within the 2023-2024 budget limits. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

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, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Authorization for the Superintendent to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education and hire grant funded positions for special purposes for the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Fragale, 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, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Angela Sabolcik's Letter of Resignation: Ms. Sabolcik is the MS Science Teacher. She is resigning as of June 30, 2024. The Board and Superintendent LePage wishes Ms. Sabolcik all the best moving forward.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

MOTION by Ms. Crone seconded by Ms. Bell, to **MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:48 p.m.** for discussion and possible action on the Superintendent's evaluation and performance review, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The board exited EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **OFFER** a 3% salary increase for the 2024-2025 School Year, with appreciation of his effective leadership. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **CANCEL** the May 22, 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 Ms. Fragale, seconded by Mr. Jerram, **to SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOE MEETING FOR MAY 15, 2024** to discuss and possibly take action on the Tuition Proposal for the Certified Staff Members' children to attend RSD#7, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ADJOURN** at 9:03 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
May 15, 2024 – 6 p.m.
DRAFT

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH)- by phone, Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Mary Duran (B) -by phone, Ms. Lisa Fragale(C), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Superintendent Steven K. LePage, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins.
CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Sexton Read completed a brief synopsis of the proposed MOU of Understanding between the RSD#7 and the Northwestern Teachers' Association for certified teachers' children who do not live in the district to attend RSD#7 at a tuition cost equal to 50% of the net current per pupil expenditure per capita. Ms. Kenneson communicated that this MOU would be a the positive impact on revenue and the addition of students to a declining enrollment. Ms. Bell stated that this is a wonderful opportunity for teachers for retention and new hires as an incentive. Ms. Crone stated that she could not understand why this would be a negative impact on RSD#7. Ms. Crone stated that it is a plus for revenue, student enrollment, and overall retention of teachers. Ms. Fragale stated that as long as the wording protects RSD#7, she expressed that this agreement would be positive for RSD#7. Ms. Duran by phone expressed that her employer (school in Simsbury) also establishes this practice and it has been positive for the school and teacher retention. Mr. Jerram suggested that a reduced tuition has negative consequences for RSD#7 and expressed that all out-of-district students should pay full tuition. Mr. Gauthier stated that there are inequities.
A brief discussion followed.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADOPT** the **MOU of Understanding between the RSD#7 and the Northwestern Teachers' Association for certified teachers' children who do not live in the district to attend RSD#7 at a tuition cost equal to 50% of the net current per pupil expenditure per capita,** as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION DEFEATED.**

Ms. Duran and Mr. Gauthier exited the meeting by phone.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **CANCEL** the **Regular BOE Meeting for June 12, 2024,** as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **CANCEL** the **Regular BOE Meeting for June 26, 2024,** as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADJOURN** at 6:33 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

NEW HIRE REPORT 2024- 2025

LAURA BROCHU – 1.0 High School Technical Education Teacher – HS Grades 9-12

Replacing Kurt Dougan- retired teacher and educator at NWR7 for 3 years-allowable by CSDE
Former 6th grade teacher at Thomaston Public High School (2018-2024)
Received Tech Ed Certification in March 2024
BA Science Salve Regina University
MA Arts University of St. Joseph
Level III Step 8

TERYN GOULET - 1.0 Agricultural Education Teacher – HS Grades 9-12

Replacing Erick Wildes who resigned on 6/30/24
Former ASTE Intern for Wamogo Agriscience (2023-2024)
Former Intern at Litchfield County 4-H Extension Office (2022)
Farmhand at Geer Family Farm (2019-present)
MA Vocational Agriculture Instruction and Curriculum University of Connecticut
BA Agriculture and Natural Resources with Minor Agriculture Learning/Outreach University of Connecticut
Level III Step 1

JACOB GREEN – 1.0 Science Teacher – HS Grades 9-12

Replacing Kelsey Leach, who resigned after a 1 year extended leave on 6/30/24
Long -Term Substitute for Ms. Leach for 2023-2024 school year
BA Health Science/Pre-Physical Therapy, Minor in Health Care Management Springfield College
Doctoral Studies in Physical Therapy Springfield College
Level V Step 2

DANIEL PORRI - 1.0 Music Teacher - MS Grades 7-8

Replacing Jim Lesieur who retired on 6/30/2024
Former Music Educator and Band Director at Litchfield Public MS/HS and Wamogo MS/HS since August 2007
Former Instrumental Music Director for Litchfield MS/HS (2010-2022)
MA Music Education Boston University
BA Music University of Connecticut
Level III 12

AMANDA SOLTIS – ATHLETIC TRAINER

RSD#7 Graduate - basketball, soccer, and softball player
BA Science in Athletic Training Central Connecticut State University (May 2019)
Intern Athletic Trainer Newington High School
Head Athletic Trainer for Hartford Health Care- Litchfield High School (March 2020- present)

Students

Electronic Devices

Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

Students may possess privately owned technological devices on school property and/or during school sponsored activities, in accordance with the mandates of this policy and any applicable administrative regulations as may be developed by the Superintendent of Schools. The Region 7 Board of Education ("Board") considers allowing students to bring to school such devices to be a privilege and not a right. The Board reserves the right to revoke this privilege if a student fails to adhere to the following guidelines and/or the Board's acceptable use and student discipline policies.

Parents and/or guardians must read and sign the attached agreement form before a student may be permitted to bring to school a privately owned technological device.

Definitions

Board Technology Resources

For the purposes of this policy, "Board Technology Resources" refers to the Board's computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources used by the school district and accessible by students.

Privately Owned Technological Devices

For the purposes of this policy, "Privately Owned Technological Devices" refers to privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving, storing, etc. These devices may include, but are not limited to, personal laptops, Smartphones, network access devices, Kindles, Nooks, cellular telephones, radios, walkmen, CD players and walkie-talkies, Blackberries, personal data assistants, I-Phones and other electronic signaling devices.

Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices

Privately owned technological devices may not be used during instructional time, except as specifically permitted by instructional staff.

Use of any such device for an improper purpose is prohibited. Improper purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Sending any form of harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to Board technology resources;
- Damaging Board technology resources;
- Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene or contains pornography;
- Cyberbullying;
- Taking pictures without the specific permission of the subject of the picture;
- Using a privately owned technological device to violate any school rules, including the unauthorized recording (photographic or audio) of another individual without the permission of the individual or a school staff member; or
- Taking any action prohibited by any Federal or State law.

Search of Privately Owned Technological Devices

A student's privately owned technological device may be searched if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Any such search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

Responsibility for Privately Owned Technological Devices

Students are responsible for the safety and use of their privately owned technological devices. If a privately owned technological device is stolen, lost, or damaged, a report should be made to the building principal, who will investigate the loss in a manner consistent with procedures for stolen or damaged personal property. Students and parents should be aware that the Board is not liable for any privately owned technological device that is stolen, lost, or damaged while at school. Furthermore, the Board shall not be liable for any data plan charges or any other costs associated with the use of private technological devices. For that reason, students are advised not to share or loan their privately owned technological devices with other students.

Students shall take full responsibility for their device and shall keep it safely stored when not in use. Classroom teachers will determine the best storage location for such devices. Students are required to take home their privately owned technological devices at the end of each school day.

Disciplinary Action

Misuse of the Board's technology resources and/or the use of privately owned technological devices to access or utilize the Board's technology resources in an inappropriate manner or in a manner inconsistent with this policy will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. For students, a violation of this policy may result in loss of access privileges, a prohibition on the use and/or possession of privately owned technological devices on school property, and/or suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Board's policies related to student discipline.

Access to Board Technology Resources

It is the policy of the Region 7 Board of Education to permit students, using their privately owned technology devices, to access the Board's computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources used by the school district and accessible by students. Additionally, it is the expectation of the Board of Education that students who access these resources while using privately owned technology devices will act at all times appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local, state, and federal laws.

Through the publication and dissemination of this policy statement and others related to use of the Board's computer systems, as well as other instructional means, the Board educates students about the Board's expectations for technology users.

The Board technology resources shall only be used to access educational information and to promote learning activities both at home and at school. The Board considers access to its technology resources to be a privilege and not a right. Students are expected to act at all times appropriately in ways which are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local, state, and federal laws when using the Board technology resources. Failure to do so will result in the consequences outlined herein and in other applicable policies (including, but not limited to, the Bullying Policy, Student Discipline Policies and the Use of Computers Policies).

Students must abide by the procedures outlined in this policy and all policies and applicable regulations outlined in the Board's computer use and other applicable policies. Students will be given specific information for log-on and access procedures using school accounts. No user may deviate from these log-on/access procedures. Students are advised that the Board's network administrators have the capability to identify users and to monitor all privately owned technological devices while they are logged on to the network. Students must understand that the Board has reserved the right to conduct monitoring of Board

technology resources and can do so despite the assignment to individual users of passwords for system security. Any password systems implemented by the Board are designed solely to provide system security from unauthorized users, not to provide privacy to the individual system user. The system's security aspects, message delete function and personal passwords can be bypassed for monitoring purposes. Therefore, students should be aware that they should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of privately owned technological devices to access Board technology resources. This provision applies to any and all uses of the Board's technology resources and that any privately owned technological devices access same.

Harm to Board Technology Resources

Any act by a student using a privately owned technological device that harms the Board's technology resources or otherwise interferes with or compromises the integrity of Board technology resources will be considered vandalism and will be subject to discipline and/or appropriate criminal or civil action.

Closed Forum

This policy shall not be construed to establish a public forum or a limited open forum.

(cf. 5114 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.8 - Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. 5131.82 - Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material)

(cf. 5131.911 - Bullying)

(cf. 5131.913 - Cyberbullying)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline/Punishment)

(cf. 5145.5 - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.51 - Peer Sexual Harassment)

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes

10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

31-48d Employees engaged in electronic monitoring required to give prior notice to employees.

53a-182 Obstructing free passage: Class C misdemeanor.

53a-183 Harassment in the second degree: Class C misdemeanor.

53a-250 Definitions.

Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 28 U.S.C. §§2510 through 2520.

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

Policy adopted: 7/21/2010
Policy revised: 3/9/2011
Policy revised: 7/18/2012
Policy revised:

James Lesieur
Northwestern Reg 7
100 Battistoni Drive
Winsted, CT 06098
May 11, 2024

Dear Mr. LePage, Ms. Sexton Read, and Northwestern Board of Education Members,

I am writing to inform you of my retirement at the end of this current school year. After 30 years of teaching, 26 of them being at Northwestern, I feel that now is the right time for myself and my family.

For a long time, retiring after 30 years has been my goal. However, as this year has approached and the reality of actually leaving Northwestern has become more real, making the final decision became more difficult than I anticipated. Leaving my Northwestern family is bittersweet for me, as my memories and experiences here have been so overwhelmingly positive. The word I use when talking about Northwestern to family and colleagues from other schools is Utopia. You, the superintendent and Board of Ed, have provided every support needed to make both this school and music department special. The thought, time and care you put into your jobs has helped make Northwestern a family. Our administration has been unbelievably supportive of our music program, and our collaboration and partnership has helped music flourish at Northwestern. The faculty and staff here is without peer, and it has been an honor to teach with so many wonderful educators. I have also been fortunate to work with so many amazing families who support our program and are willing to volunteer in so many ways. Finally, the students at Northwestern have been a joy to work with and have made my job so satisfying and fulfilling. I appreciate all of you and what you do to make our school so special, and will miss this incredible place where I have been honored and privileged to work.

Ultimately I have decided that spending more time with family and being able to pursue other interests, both musical and non-musical, wins out. And I am so happy that I am leaving our music department in the hands of Dylan Pedersen and Charlotte D'Aleo. They both are truly incredible teachers who will continue to lift our students up and lead the bands and choirs to greatness.

Thank you for all you do each and every day to make Northwestern a place so many people want to teach. Thank you for the support you have shown me for 26 years. Thank you for putting students first and also valuing our teachers and administrators. Northwestern will always have a special place in my heart.

Musically Yours,

Jim Lesieur

Jim Lesieur

Lori A. Foote
5 Bellflower Road
Windsor, CT, 06095
(860)716-9161
FooteL@yahoo.com

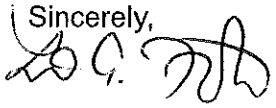
Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Dear Superintendent LePage, Principal Franklin, and Principal Amara:

I am writing this letter with sadness as I am submitting this as my official letter of resignation. The past four years at Region 7 has been one of much happiness, growth, and fulfillment. I have appreciated all of the relationships I have built and the work that I have been a part of to support the students and families of Region 7. While I look forward to what the future holds for me in my new position as a School Counselor at the CT River Academy, I will always look back to my experiences here with many wonderful memories. This is truly a special district and one that I will miss very much.

Please let me know how I can be of help during the transition period. I wish everyone the very best going into the 2024-2025 school year and beyond.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Foote

NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

100 Battistoni Drive, Winsted CT 06098 Phone (860) 379-7243 Fax (860) 738-6205

Francis J. Amara, Principal
Darcie Tokarz, Administrative Assistant

Jessica Searson, School Counselor
Amanda Cormier, School Counselor

July 1, 2024

Dear Superintendent LePage,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I submit my letter of resignation from the position of principal at Northwestern Middle School, effective August 23, 2024. I have accepted the position of School Climate Specialist at EdAdvance, a role that will allow me to leverage the experiences and success we have achieved at Northwestern to benefit other schools across Connecticut.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Region 7 Board of Education for its unwavering support during my time here. Through-out my eleven years in the district, our BOE has worked collaboratively and effectively to support the exceptional educators at Northwestern and build programs that are second to none for our students. Their commitment to the families of our school district and to the betterment of our educational environment has been truly inspiring.

It has been an honor to work alongside such a dedicated team of teachers, counselors, staff and administrators that have shaped me as a school leader. We have faced challenges, celebrated successes and through-out it all, we have supported students and families.

I would like to thank you and our administrative team for dedicated leadership, collaboration and support of me and our school. This collaboration has allowed us to focus on what matters most, the students at Northwestern.

The decision to leave Northwestern was not an easy one. The relationships I have built with the students, families, staff, administrative team and community members are incredibly meaningful to me. These relationships have shaped me as a school leader and as a person. Together, we have worked diligently to create a nurturing and dynamic environment for our students, and I am immensely proud of all that we have accomplished.

I am excited about the opportunity to take on the new challenges and responsibilities that come with being a School Climate Specialist. In this role, I look forward to bringing all that we built at Northwestern to other schools to support them in creating positive, inclusive, and effective learning environments, much like we have strived to do at Northwestern.

Thank you again for your trust, support, and collaboration. I am confident that Northwestern Middle School will continue to thrive and achieve great things. I am available to support the transition of leadership in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

Francis J. Amara

Francis J. Amara

NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

BARKHAMSTED, COLEBROOK, NEW HARTFORD and NORFOLK

The mission of Northwestern Regional High School is to foster academic and personal excellence in every student. In partnership with families and communities, we create a safe learning environment dedicated to developing the skills of lifelong learning. Our dynamic and challenging educational program prepares individuals to respect diversity and become responsible citizens in a rapidly evolving global environment.

Gary B. Franklin, Principal
gfranklin@nwr7.org

Andrew P. Bakulski,
House I Assistant Principal
abakulski@nwr7.org

Daniel P. Carroll,
House II Assistant Principal
Director of Student Activities
dcarroll@nwr7.org

Dr. LePage,

I am writing this letter to request the use of our gymnasiums for a four-day volleyball camp this summer from August 12th-August 15th. The camp would run from 9:30-12:00 each day, and be for girls in our area entering grades five through nine. I believe that our volleyball program has been successful because our players start their high school career with two years of volleyball experience from our middle school program. We are so fortunate to have that middle school program bolstering the foundation of our high school team. To advance our program even further with skill and participation, I would love to both grow the game of volleyball with our student-athletes earlier, and spend time improving the skills of our current middle-school players. Thank you for both your consideration and the consideration of the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Adam Vaccari

Math Educator & Varsity Volleyball Coach