REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center

Board of Education Workshop

September 18, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED 10.9.24

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary / Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N) entered at 6:25 p.m., Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C) by phone, Superintendent Steven K. LePage, Nicholas Caruso, Sr. Staff Associate for Field Services and Coordinator of Technology for CABE.
Absent: None.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the BOE Workshop to order at 6:18 p.m.

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the August 28, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes, as presented. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale and Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Crone. **MOTION PASSED**.

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The facilitator was Nicholas Caruso, Sr. Staff Associate for Field Services and Coordinator of Technology for CABE.

1. Examination of the Roles of the Superintendent and the Board of Education

Mr. Caruso passed out a worksheet that contained 33 different items that the BOE members had to review each item and determine if the item listed was the responsibility of the Board, Superintendent or both. All BOE members had to answer with either a B for BOE or S for Superintendent or SB for both. Mr. Caruso discussed the worksheet and answers with the board members. Brief discussion followed.

2. Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning: Superintendent LePage communicated that he is currently reviewing RSD#7 Strategic Plan dated 2014-2019. He located the RSD#7 plan involving an enrollment study projection and other comprehensive communication approximately 83 pages long. Superintendent LePage has been operating from the Theories of Action. Superintendent LePage communicated that the BOE should revisit the Strategic Plan, basically what the BOE would like to have in place five years from now, what action steps are needed, noting the shifts in RSD#7. Currently, the superintendent and staff are busy with the personal electronic device policy, the TEVAL system (teacher evaluation policy), the dress code policy, and the reconstruction of the MTSS system. Superintendent LePage is requesting to begin a plan soon. The planning structure may involve town council members, BOE members, state-level politicians, teacher representatives, and student representatives. Superintendent LePage would like to have a proposal for the process by the end of June 2025. A brief discussion followed.

3. Exploration of how the BOE members view the roles as being elected/appointed to RSD#7 Board from the four towns

Roles of the Board from four different towns: Ms. Sexton Read expressed that BOE Members are elected by each town. She began the conversation by stating what is the role of a BOE Member? Ms. Sexton Read expressed there is a continuum – on one end, the BOE members represent the people that live in the town, and on the other end is that the town chooses the BOE members, and the BOE members feel that he/she will do what he/she thinks is best. The question lies in where each BOE member falls on this continuum.

Ms. Duran expressed that her BOE position is approached by what is best for the students and school. Ms. Kenneson expressed that she approaches her BOE position in what is in the best interest for the students and the school, teachers, administrators and the school community. Ms. Crone feels that she is a representative to the school, and the town she represents is not on the forefront of her thoughts and decisions. Ms. Crone's first responsibility as a BOE Member is to the students and the school

as a whole. Ms. Crone mentioned that she constantly seeks ways to maintain the towns' connection. Mr. Gauthier said he was honored to be appointed to the RSD7 Board of Education and he expressed it is a pleasure to serve. He communicated that the best way to serve on this BOE is to take the best care to the students' education, take care of the school building and staff. Mr. Jerram communicated that he is a representative of the Town of New Hartford, yet his role is to assist the students in acquiring everything they need to graduate and be the best that they could be in the future. He stated that the Board is not only the Board of Education, yet also is the Board of Finance for RSD#7. Every decision that is made, there is a dollar amount attached. Ms. Sexton Read expressed that she was elected to complete the job of the board chair and she needs to complete this job to the best of her ability. She communicated that the weighted voting gives the opportunity to reach a consensus, and she strives, as the board chair, to try to reach a consensus.

Mr. Caruso communicated that the statue that gives the BOE member his/her authority, the primary role is to govern the school district and serves as a leader and champion for public education in the community. School board members represent the interests of the entire district. The board of education is considered a nonprofit board and with this premise, there is a duty of care and loyalty in a nonprofit where the organization becomes the board's responsibility. Ms. Sexton Read, Ms. Duran and Ms. Bell stated that the weighted voting is never on the forefront within the discussions and votes of the board, yet they understand it is part of the process. Mr. Gauthier stated that every voice is heard on this board.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADJOURN** at 8:05 p.m. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone and Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barrett
Board Clerk