REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Meeting
October 9, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
APPROVED 11.13.24

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Superintendent Steven K. LePage, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, Secretary / Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), HS Principal Gary Franklin, MS Principal Ryan Cornelius, and Student Rep. Amaya Washington.
Absent: 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. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **TABLE** the September 11, 2024, Board of Education Meeting Minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the September 18, 2024, Board of Education Work Shop Meeting Minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the September 25, 2024, Personal Electronic Device Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS- Amaya Washington

Student Council: Student council members participated in a themed educational "Hobgoblin" day at the Roaring Brook Nature Center for kids. The students dressed as different woodland creatures and educated the children on the animals they were dressed as.

Vo-Ag: Our Ag students are beginning to sell maple syrup, maple candy, and apple cider that they have made. A small group went to Torrington Middle School to show the students the benefits of joining our Ag Program. It was estimated that they presented to approximately 350 students.

Senior Events/ Projects: A student was photographing the events and rally the day of Homecoming with permission to do so, and provided the photos to the students for everyone to enjoy. The senior class had a brief discussion on refurbishing the garden in the median of the back parking lot and replacing the benches. At this time, no decision has been made if they are refurbishing the back garden.

HS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Gary Franklin

Principal Advisory Committee: The next meeting will be October 17, 2024 during the lunch block. The main point of discussion will be school climate. Surprise Squad is to potentially going to be brought back. Brief discussion followed.

Freshman Seminar: The seminar overall went very well. A post seminar survey was sent out to the students for the student body feedback. There will be future seminars, targeting 3 seminars total for the 2024/2025 school year and potentially making them full day sessions instead of partial day sessions. Brief discussion followed.

PSATs: PSAT prep, College App/ Financial Aid, Job Career search, and BYO Brand Workshops will be starting Thursday October 24, 2024.

Ag Program Visits: Following up on the student representative's report, Mr. Franklin emphasized that he felt the visits were overall a great success. He will be sending follow-up letters to the student body of Torrington, Hartland, and Gilbert schools, including a link and/or QR code to provide them with more information if they are interested in joining our program.

MS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Ryan Cornelius

Middle School Update: The middle school had a "Town Assembly Day" where students were broken up into various groups with the task of utilizing team work and different student's strengths and ideals to construct buildings our of marshmallows. The staff also participated and everyone involved said it was overall a great team building exercise amongst the students and staff alike.

Highlander of the Month: Brief discussion about possibly enacting a "Highlander of the Month" award to approximately four students as recognition for their good behavior. Reward is to be determined. Brief discussion followed.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Charlotte Hungerford: Would like to meet and speak with students about all of the different careers involved in the medical field. Ms. Barbara Beebe and Superintendent LePage to coordinate.

House of Heroes: Superintendent LePage spoke with a veteran who is involved with the program to gather the information needed to keep our students involved in this wonderful program for future projects that helps local veterans with small projects. Ex. Landscaping / gardening. Our school will be featured on Channel 8 for a Veteran's Day clip.

School Safety: Superintendent LePage had a meeting with the Secretary of the State which included all of the other superintendents in the state following the scare at Bristol High School. Brief discussion followed.

Curriculum Council: is to be rebooted and will utilize the "building BRIDGES" with other schools. Targeted timeline for their first meeting is the 1st of November/ December 2024.

2025/2026 Schedule: the proposed 2025 /2026 calendar draft is available for review and targeting approval at the Novemeber 13th meeting.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Transportation Contracts: are set to expire this year. Mr. Gaskins is working closely with the surrounding towns for upcoming contracts for the next school year.

Grants: we were approved for a 670k COPS Grant. This money is to be utilized for security, infrastructure, and improvements. Brief discussion followed.

2025/ 2026 Budget: is in the works and is to be out for review as of September 27, 2024. Reports back are to be submitted by October 18, 2024.

Audit Update: September 30th audit went very well.

OLD BUSINESS
Updates: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Title IX: FIRST READING – review of the Title IX and recommendations / concerns should be noted and ready for discussion at the November 13th 2024 meeting. Targeting to have changes made before the following meeting. Brief discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE
None.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **CANCEL** the October 23, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 7:18 p.m. **AYE**: **:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk