REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Meeting
September 11, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
APPROVED 11.13.24

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary / Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Mary Duran (B) Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Superintendent Steven K. LePage, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, HS Principal Gary Franklin, MS Principal Ryan Cornelius, and Student Rep. Amaya Washington, and Owen Langer.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS- Amaya Washington & Owen Langer

School Year 2024/2025: It was communicated that the juniors and seniors have had a very positive and exciting first few weeks. Homecoming themes are currently being voted on, and each class is beginning to prepare for decorating the halls. Fall sports have begun their season. Boys' soccer won their game on September 11, 2024, with a 2-1 score. Vo-ag is preparing for the work days at the Big E fair.

Senior Events: Senior Sunrise is scheduled for September 21, 2024.

HS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Gary Franklin

Open House: This is scheduled for September 12, 2024 from approx. 6:30-8:30pm.

School Climate Task Force: The first meeting was on September 9, 2024, and discussed multiple ways to improve school climate, including new ways to celebrate staff members and beautify the campus. They plan on meeting biweekly during the first quarter and then moving to monthly meetings starting the second quarter.

Principal Advisory Committee: Principal Franklin discussed that this committee consists of 14 students. They plan to hold their first meeting on September 13, 2024, to discuss any feedback the student body may have about the current Personal Electronic Device Policy. His plans are to have this committee meet biweekly. A brief discussion followed.

Seminar: The Freshman Seminar will be on Friday, September 20th. Our 9th grade students had an opportunity to participate in the following four workshops: Conflict Management and Working in Teams, Study Skills and Exam Prep, Stress Management and Self-Care, and the Student and School Partnership: How to Make a Positive Impact on School Climate.

MS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Ryan Cornelius

Open House: Open house for Middle School was September 9, 2024 and had a positive turnout. It was discussed that Mr. Cornelius plans on speaking with staff on a weekly basis about communication, training updates, and the activities they would like to line up for students. Brief discussion followed.

MTSS: Mr. Cornelius discussed his plan to utilize the multi-tiered system to best assist students with behavioral issues or need additional assistance in classes. This program is used to help case management and get students the assistance they need while also providing positive reinforcement for students when they display proper classroom behavior. Brief discussion followed.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Policy Progress: Superintendent LePage shared that there will be a focus on implementing the current policy about personal electronic devices with fidelity this year. Parents and students will be invited to be involved in discussion about this policy between September 23, 2024- September 27, 2024. There is a target date of updating the Personal Electronic Device Policy for the upcoming 2025 year. Brief discussion followed.

School Grounds: The main retaining wall has been measured and monitored, as some minor crumbling have been noted due to the excessive rainfall and earthquake. Superintendent LePage has been communicating with an engineer regarding the replacement and the structural integrity of the wall. No immediate repairs are needed at this time. A building committee meeting is to be held on October 9, 2024, at 5 p.m. A brief discussion followed.

SmartPass: Superintendent LePage communicated his plans to enact the SMARTPASS during the second quarter of the 2024/2025 school year.

Administrative Instructional Rounds: It was discussed that the Administrative Instructional Rounds will start soon. Superintendent LePage will observe classrooms and relay any feedback to the staff. His plans include relaying both positive feedback and constructive criticism.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

School Grounds: Emphasized that the retaining wall is not in critical condition but a project that will be monitored closely.

Audit: It was discussed that multiple finance department areas will be audited. Brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS
Updates

BOE Workshop—Date Confirmation—Ms. Sexton Read communicated holding a BOE Professional Development Workshop for all BOE members on September 18, 2024. This workshop will cover board members' responsibilities and the strategic planning process. CABE will conduct the workshop and discuss the topics at hand. A brief discussion followed.

BOE Goals - None

NEW BUSINESS

Technology Devices by Students: Ms. Sexton Read and Superintendent LePage communicated to the BOE the plan to create a subcommittee to gather information about use of personal electronic devices in school. Subcommittee will include teachers, administrators, BOE members , students and families.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **CREATE** the subcommittee for the Electronic Device Policy. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Ashley Roberts – Letter of Resignation September 3, 2024

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ACCEPT** Ms. Ashley Roberts' letter of resignation, as presented. The BOE wished all the best and thanked her for her service to the students, staff, and district. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADJOURN** at 7:41 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk