REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Meeting
November 13, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED 12.11.24

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)- arrived late to meeting approximately 6pm, 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. Owen Langer.
Absent: Student Rep. Amaya Washington.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to APPROVE the September 11, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Jerram, and Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to APPROVE the October 9, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes, as amended. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, and Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to APPROVE the October 9, 2024, Regular Building Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, and Ms. Fragale. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Sexton Read, to APPROVE the October 30, 2024, Regular Personal Electronic Device Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Ms. Crone NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Jerram, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier, and Ms. Bell. MOTION PASSED

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS- Owen Langer

HS Sports & Theater: The boys' soccer team is going to State Finals! Registration for all other winter sports is starting now. Theater's "Sleepy Hollow" will be showing on November 22 through the 24th at 7pm. Tickets are available for purchase.

VoAg: Students from our AG Program went to Indianapolis to compete in Mechanics at National Level.

House of Heros: As spoken about at the previous meeting, a group of students assisted a local veteran out of Winsted in cleaning up his yard. WTNH and Channel 8 came out and interviewed some of the participants.

HS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Gary Franklin

HS Data Report: Mr. Franklin shared the results from the PSATs and SATs over the last couple of years. While the trends for each cohort show growth over time, there is some decline year over year between cohorts. The information is being used to develop plans to address improving the students' performance.

NGSS: Dr. DeCerbo shared data from the results of the standardized science exam. He explained the ways in which the science courses are being realigned to ensure that all areas of the exam are covered. He also discussed the current AP offerings and possible expansion.

MS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Ryan Cornelius

MS Data Report: Mr. Cornelius shared the results of the testing done in the middle school. He described the ways in which the data is being used to identify specific skills the students need support in. He introduced the plan to use iReady as a screening tool which will provide better information. He is in the process of identifying available resources and working to find ways to build a system that will more efficiently deploy these resources to meet the needs of students.

Future Improvements: Mr. Cornelius voiced that he plans to continue working on refining MTSS to better assist the students and their needs. He described his plan to develop several new features within the system to better serve the students; these may include: universal grading policies, schedule arrangements to meet extra class help needs, and an ELA Tier program targeted to be operational for the next school year. Brief discussion followed.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

House of Hero's / Veteran's Day: Following up on what Student Rep. Owen Langer stated the House of Hero's project went extremely well and he is proud to announce that the district will be doing more projects with the program in the future. Along with cleaning up a Veteran's yard the school hosted a Veteran's Day breakfast. There was a great turn out, some of our very own NWR7 staff was recognized for their service. Overall both events were fantastic!

Personal Electronic Device Policy Update: Mr. LePage gave a brief overview of the second subcommittee meeting. The survey results were discussed by the committee. A consensus grew out of those conversations for expanding the current policy of no phones during class to explicitly cover the entire instructional time period, in the classroom and outside of it. The committee also supported the idea of each classroom having a place to hold the students' phones during class. The timing of the implementation was discussed. A draft of the policy will be brought to the whole BOE at the December meeting.

Building Committee Update: Briefly discussed ideas of construction for the ongoing Retaining wall project along with the possible combination of the Greenhouse with Hydroponics.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Transportation Renewal Contracts: All transportation companies should be providing their quotes for the upcoming renewals, all contracts should be in by Thanksgiving for review. At this time, we are open to new bids specifically for the Town of New Hartford.

Budget Update: The budget is in progress, input is being provided by staff and administrators.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to APPROVE the updated version of Policy #4000 Title XI as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to ACCEPT the Proposed 2025/2026 School Year Calendar, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, and Ms. Duran. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

MOU: An MOU was signed by Superintendent LePage and submitted to the Winchester Youth Service Bureau. The MOU formalizes our partnership with WYS as we both work to provide students with the support they need.

CORRESPONDENCE
None.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell to CANCEL the November 27, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Duran, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, and Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. MOTION PASSED.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Duran, to ADJOURN at 6:30 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Duran. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. MOTION PASSED.

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk