REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Meeting
January 8, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
APPROVED 1.22.25

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

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** the December 11th, 2024 Organizational Meeting Minutes, as presented. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED**.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the December 11th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS- Amaya Washington & Owen Langer

Amaya reported that in preparation for midterms, the NHS will be running a "Cocoa and Cram" event where students can come to get help from other students. The student council will be holding their annual semi-formal dance. Winter athletics are in full swing.
Owen reported that tryouts for the spring musical have begun. Seniors have started to get responses from colleges. He shared that the girls' basketball team is off to a great start at 7 & 1.

HS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Gary Franklin

SmartPass Update: The electronic SmartPass will be implemented in high schools in the near future, and middle schools are already using it. Fine details, including how many students will be allowed in the halls during educational blocks, are still to be determined.

Cell Phone Update: The phone “hotels” have been thoroughly reviewed and ordered. They will likely be implemented in classrooms at the beginning of the 3rd Quarter.

Graduation 2025: Planning for graduation for the 2025 class has begun. Mr. Franklin has contacted the Warner Theater to check availability.

HS Update: Charlotte Hungerford has awarded NWR7 a grant for $2,000.00 towards our ongoing Wellness Project. The NWR7 Magazine is “hot off the press” and seems to be going very well.

MS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Ryan Cornelius

MS Updates: iReady is scheduled to be fully implemented in the near future. The middle school staff is still working on codifying and solidifying structures for all math classes and how to better assist the students that need additional help with their math studies. A draft schedule for next year has been constructed and is being reviewed. He shared an example of positive feedback from a parent of a middle and high school student.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Graduation: Proposed date for 2025 Graduation is Thursday, June 12th, 2025. This will be confirmed when The Warner Theater and Granby YMCA confirm their availability for that date.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADOPT** June 12th, 2025, pending availability for both venues for the 2025 graduation date. If unavailable, the Board authorizes the Administration to set the date no earlier than June 12th, 2025. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

A Safety Committee meeting was held to review the incident that occurred before the winter break. At that meeting the team also addressed the breach that occurred in PowerSchool. The breach included demographic information about students, but no financial data. The system has been restored and the district was reassured that all information was now secure. Our staff are reviewing everything and working to ensure that all data is secure.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Transportation Contracts Update: NWR7 is still waiting for New Hartford's proposals. We are also waiting on a few counter proposals. At this time, NWR7 has reached an agreement with the Legeyt Bus Company, is waiting for the development of the bid to go out for a bus service for New Hartford and has an initial proposal from All-Star for Colebrook and Norfolk. Mr. Gaskins would like to move ahead with the agreement with Legeyt. The Board concurred.

2024-2025 Budget Transfers: Notified the Board of Education about the pending budget transfers from 10/1/24-12/31/24.

Vo-AG Roof Update: The Grant application was accepted. A brief discussion about the next steps in the application process.

Audit- The audit on the 2023-24 school year has been filed with the state. There were no findings in this audit.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates: The Board briefly discussed the revised policy on personal electronic devices with the central change being the requirement that each classroom or learning space has a cell phone holder and that each student leaves their device(s) in that holder during the entire instructional period.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, **to APPROVE** Policy 5131-81 on The Use of Personal Electronic Devices as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS

Bus Contract Review: Mr. Gaskins' proposed Legeyt Bus Contract is the best decision for the school. The Board concurred.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** the Legeyt Transportation Contract as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Budget Transfers: Mr. Gaskins explained the budget transfers from 10/1/24-12/31/24 and asked for their approval.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** the Board of Education Transfers from 10/1/24-12/31/24, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE
None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADJOURN** at 7:25 p.m. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk