REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Meeting
February 12, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
APPROVED 2.26.25

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary / Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Mary Duran (B), 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: None.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** the January 22nd, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED**.

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS- Amaya Washington & Owen Langer

Updates: Feedback from student body regarding Personal Electronic Devices and SmartPass: students overall feel it works and administration along with staff made the transition easy. Although there does seem to be some mild frustration amongst the upperclassmen. There was more discomfort directed towards SmartPass as the sign in and out process was not as smooth as initially anticipated. Since the rollout of these policies students have acknowledged improvements with utilizing the system after a few weeks.

Winter Sports: Madelyn (Maddie) Topa scored her 2000th point in the game of Northwestern vs. Gilbert! So far the girls have a 15-4 season.

HS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Gary Franklin

SmartPass/ Phone "Hotel" Update: All classrooms have officially been fitted with their own telephone "hotels". This transition has been slow, but positive. The media center will be utilizing its own pass system to alleviate any SmartPass system jams or pass issues as this was a noted issue with the initial roll out of the SmartPass system.

HS Update: Highlander welcome night was on February 11th for our 8th graders. Administration was able to speak with the upcoming HS students.

Music Department: The planned upcoming trip will soon be unveiled to students and families.

MS PRINCIPAL REPORT- Mr. Ryan Cornelius

MTSS Updates: Rough outline of reading program has been produced. Brief discussion about what the tiers of intervention would be and how they will help provide the best support for any student struggling with reading or mathematics.

iReady Update: Approximately two weeks ago results came in and showed that the MS is in need of the MTSS program. Mr. Cornelius emphasized how this program will help struggling students improve their skills and get them any support they may need.

Digital Citizenship: A State Trooper and SRO Stan Lada will educate the students on safety and the potential consequences of being on social media, online gaming, and utilizing AI.

MS Updates: Counselors are hard at work to transition the 8th grade class to HS, as well as onboarding the new incoming 7th grade class to MS.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Graduation: Graduation date is confirmed: June 12th, 2025!

First Readings: Brief discussion about the following policies: Policies #4146, #5131.911, #5144.12(a).

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Transportation Contracts Update: The board was asked to accept the All-Star Transportation contract for the towns of Colebrook and Norfolk.

Vo-AG Roof Update: Meeting and Plan review went very well; job went out to bid as of February 6th 2025. Targeting a pre bid walkthrough for February 25th 2025 with open bidding to follow approximately March 12th 2025. The finance department is still in the process of solidifying a bid and is hoping to accept one near the March 12th 2025 date.

Vo-Ag Bus Grant: A request was made to approve the final payment to complete the Vo-Ag Activity Bus project.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADOPT Policy 1340:** The Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Fragale, **to ADOPT Policy 1700:** The Deadly Weapons or Firearms Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADOPT Policy 1320:** The Green Cleaning Program, to be issued as Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADOPT Policy 1301:** The Non-Discrimination Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADOPT Policy 1322:** The Pesticide Application on School Property Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADOPT Policy 1600:** The Security and Safety Plan as Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADOPT Policy 1331:** The Smoking on School Property Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADOPT Policy 1330:** The Use of School Facilities Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to keep the existing **Policy 1316** (Public Conduct at School Activities) in place, and also **ADOPT Policy 1111:** The Visitor Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADOPT Policy 1110.1:** The Volunteer Policy, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADOPT updated Policy 1400:** Distribution of Materials by Students**,** as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **REMOVE Policies**: **#1220, #1260, #1312, #1322, #1324, and #1110.1** from current district policies, as discussed, since they are no longer necessary or relevant. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ACCEPT** the completion of the Vo-AG Activity Bus Project. The Regional School District No.7 hereby accepts as complete Vo-Ag Activity Bus Project No: 22DASY207031VE0522 and authorizes the Director of Finance to 1) make final payments to New England Transit Sales, Inc. and 2) submit a request for final payment to The Connecticut Department of Administrative Services for reimbursement of the Vo-Ag Activity Bus Project No: 22DASY207031VE0522 and final acceptance of the project as complete (and any further notices required for the same). **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** The All-Star 5-year transportation contract for Norfolk and Colebrook, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

First Readings: Brief discussion about the following policies: Policies #4146 RSD#7 Graduation Policy, #5131.911 School Climate Policy, and #5144.12(a) Restorative Practice Policy.

CORRESPONDENCE

Volleyball Camp Request: Coach Adam Vaccari requested the use of RSD7's gymnasium to host a volleyball camp starting August 4th through the 7th.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the Volleyball camp dated for August 4th – 7th 2025 in the school's gymnasium, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. Fragale, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:28 p.m**. AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** the increase of the Superintendent's salary for 2025-2026 to reflect the average increase of the current administrator's three-year contract. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ADJOURN** at 7:55 p.m. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk