REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Media Library Center
Board of Education Meeting
April 9, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
APPROVED 4.21.25

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C),Ms. Kim Crone via telephone, Ms. Mary Duran (B) Superintendent Steven K. LePage, Secretary / Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, HS Principal Gary Franklin, MS Principal Ryan Cornelius, and Student Representatives Amaya Washington and Owen Langer
Absent: Secretary / Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH) until approximately 6:30pm.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the March 26th, 2025 Norfolk Presentation Meeting Minutes as presented. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Lisa Fragale. **MOTION PASSED**.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the March 26th, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as amended. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the New Hartford Presentation Meeting Minutes as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Ms. Duran, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson.

STUDENT REPORTS

Amaya Washington started the report off by explaining that they are officially in the 4th quarter for the school year. Students have been signing up to move furniture into the new Wellness Center also known as the "zen den". Owen Langer then took over by listing the furniture they have ordered for the Wellness Center which included bean bags, a table with stools, and even a couch. A paint color has been chosen, at this point in time the room just needs to be painted and furnished, he believes the room should be complete by the end of the year. He then transitioned the conversation to a sports update. Our swim team received 2nd place in states, it was a great meet and everyone swam extremely well! All spring sports have begun as well. World Language Week has also been in full swing and two students won the cook off, the winning dishes included a Jamaican Chicken dish and Tres Leches dessert. Into the woods was this past weekend and had a fantastic turnout. Seniors are also beginning to make their college decisions. Overall, it's been a busy yet exciting time for students.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

MS Principal Ryan Cornelius began his report by informing the Board that starting April 28th 2025, testing begins for the middle school students. Both students and staff have been preparing and working hard for testing season and

they expect good results. He then explained that there are a lot of events coming up for the middle school students and their families alike to participate in. On April 24th 2025, a Holocaust survivor will be doing a presentation. His hopes for this presentation is that it will not only be powerful and humbling but a good opportunity for the students, their families, and the community to learn a piece of history first hand. On April 30th 2025, approximately 47 students will be traveling to New York City for a live Broadway show. Last but not least, on June 9th 2025, the 8th grade promotion will be held for those students preparing to go into high school for the upcoming school year.

HS Principal Gary Franklin began his report stating that SAT testing is officially complete. He anticipates receiving the NGSS results in approximately one month, and SAT results sometime in May. The school offered 2 Math Prep Sessions and 1 English Prep Session for the high school students prior to the SAT testing. AP testing is scheduled to begin May 5th through the 16th 2025 for all AP students. He then stated that the high school has a few upcoming events as well which includes on May 1st 2025, there will be a Career Day hosted for 10th and 11th graders. On May 23rd 2025, Senior Prom will be hosted at the Bella Vista in Waterbury. A school store is currently being worked on and is almost completely prepped, money to fund this project came from a grant the school received last year. The store will include apparel and gifts available for purchase designed by students in the graphic design program.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent LePage notified the Board that the DATTCO contract has been finalized saving both the town and the school money. He then talked about how the school may be potentially selling the older Vo-Ag bus. Vo-Ag Director, Any O'Brien suggested raffling the bus off but no official decision has been made in regards to selling the bus at this time. He then updated the Board on how the Budget Presentations for the four towns has gone and wanted to clarify that there was concern across all towns regarding the 40% of middle school students needing additional help in Math or Reading. He emphasized that no one was blaming the elementary schools and it has been determined that the learning gap is due to Covid shut down during the school year. He transitioned the conversation by informing the Board that the school recently had a lock down drill and all minor findings are being corrected. Overall, staff and students alike were quick and very efficient during the drill. Following this, he let everyone present know that there are 25 approved Kindness in Motion projects. He is incredibly happy with this number as last year only had 14 projects approved.

BOARD OF FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Gaskins notified the Board that a signature of intent was signed for the upcoming Vo-Ag roof project. They are currently waiting for sketches and bonding information. This project is on the move and should begin shortly after school is out for the summer. The COPS Grant is assisting with updating the phones and clock systems throughout the school.

OLD BUSINESS

There was brief discussion about the presentation in Barkhamsted.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADOPT** the 2025-2026 Regional School District No.7 Proposed Budget of $24,824,729.00 representing a 2.29% increase above the 2024-2025 Adopted Budget to take to the Annual Regional Budget Hearing on April 21st, 2025. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier to **APPROVE** the Board of Education Budget Transfers as presented by Mr. James Gaskins Director of Finance. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale to **CANCEL** the April 23rd, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell to **SCHEDULE** a Special Board of Education Meeting following the Budget Hearing on April 21st, 2025. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE
None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr.Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADJOURN** at 7:30p.m. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell to enter **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 6:58pm. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for April 21st, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk