REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of EducationRegular Meeting
May 14, 2025 – 6:00 p.m
APPROVED 6.25.25

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), 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: Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Mary Duran (B).

Mr. Gary Franklin began the recognition of the top 10 students in the 2025 class. He expressed how proud he was of each student for their academic success this school year. He wrote a brief summary about each of the ten students, i ncluding the student's favorite classes, memorable moments, and their future plans. Congratulations to the top 10 students: Elijah Block (NH), Aurora Correll (C), Maya Crociata (NH), Grace Dempsey (B), Ash Hobro (NH), Mackenzie Janco (NH), Owen Langer (B), Emma Maltby (NH), Hannah Orlov (NH), Kaley Ouellette (H) and the class of 2025!

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AMEND** the May 14,2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting Agenda to include two new motions from the Building Committee Meeting. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED**.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:57p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the April 21, 2025, meeting minutes, as amended. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson **. NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Mr. Gauthier. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** the April 24, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Mr. Gauthier. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the May 5, 2025, meeting minutes, as amended. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED**

STUDENT REPORTS

Amaya Washington started the student report off by letting the Board know that there are several big happenings coming up. May 19th is the school's award ceremony, May 30th is the Vo-Ag award ceremony, and Senior Prom is May 23rd. As of this Friday, all AP testing is done! Owen Langer then joined the report by giving an update about how Spring sports are doing as they come to the end of their seasons. Track and Field has multiple students going to Berkshire League Championship Meet on June 1st and May 28th is the Senior Athlete Awards. The National Honor Society made posters for all of the retiring teachers and administrative staff. He closed out his report by stating that

the Wellness Center is almost complete and is to be painted within the upcoming week.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mr. Ryan Cornelius notified the Board that the Middle School is still in the middle of their testing that started at the end of April. Unfortunately, there was a delay in the process as the State had made changes to the testing system around the same time as the testing start date and a lot of tests and data were not ported over correctly, causing them to restart the testing as soon as the computer issues were corrected. The State was very responsive and helpful and everything is operating smoothly since the reboot. Aside from testing, the Middle School has several fun activities coming up in the near future including the Boulder Ridge day trip and the Dance. On June 3rd there will be an induction for Junior NHS for the 7th and 8th grade students. He also informed the Board that the Holocaust presentation that was held on April 24th 2025, was an incredible experience and success. The entire auditorium was filled with staff, students, their families, and people from the public. Overall, it was a great presentation and he hopes to do it again in the future.

Mr. Gary Franklin let the Board know that the High School is in the process of receiving the test results from SAT and NGSS testing. SAT scores have improved as anticipated, and NGSS scores had an impressive jump. The scores went from being some of the lowest, to the second highest. He is extremely happy with the incoming results so far.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent LePage gave a brief overview about the Building Committee Meeting and answered some questions as to why we withdrew our original contract with Armor-tite. He explained that we are currently in the process of releasing the bonds with Armor-tite. The Building Committee decided that the contract from Young Builders LLC is a better fit for the project. He then transitioned the conversation to give updates about current events going on with the student body. Career Day was hosted and approximately twenty-five presentations were done for the students. Kindness in Motion projects are underway and there was positive feedback in regards to the “High Tea on the Hill” project. Local seniors were invited to the school for a tea / luncheon afternoon and expressed that we should host tea every year! Overall, he is extremely impressed with the positivity and creativity of the projects. The conversation then switched gears as he notified the Board about Mr. Fred Williams’ resignation. He thanked Mr. Williams for his many years of service to the District and is happy to hear he still plans on coaching the girls’ basketball team. He also notified the Board that he received word that the Federal Mental Health Grant was cut and is to be over as of December 31st, 2025. There are multiple outlets fighting the decision to cut the grant, many of which are claiming it was not done legally. He will keep the Board updated as he receives more information. He explained that Chromebook insurance has been requested very frequently by the parents. He presented the idea that the District could offer a self insurance plan for families. Families could chose to enroll, at a reasonable fee, in the plan which would then cover any repairs needed during the year. He would like to see this implemented for the beginning of the 2025/2026 school year. He then closed out his report by congratulating the class of 2025 top 10 students and turned the floor to Mr. Gaskins.

BOARD OF FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Gaskins explained to the Board that he is currently in negotiations with the Food Service Unit. He was pleased to announce that the Board’s goals and the Food Committee’s goals aligned quite well and they were able to finalize the majority of items in only two meetings. Following this statement, he gave a brief overview of the Finance Departments requests. The lists of requests included: 1) Raising the price for lunch by $0.75, making the new price $4.25. 2) The use of the Capital account for the District’s portion of the COPS Grant.) Approve the changes regarding the Vo-Ag Roofing Project. 4) Approve the end-of-year 2024/2025 adjustments and transfers.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sexton Read opened the floor for ideas, comments, concerns on how to raise additional monies for the Judy Palmer Kindness Award. As it currently stands, there is enough money to cover this year's award winners, but next year is not covered. The award is given to one Middle School student and one High School student as a recognition for their kindness throughout the year. Brief discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AUTHORIZE** the Director of Finance to make end of year 2024/2025 adjustments and transfers, as needed. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AUTHORIZE** Superintendent LePage to fill vacancies pre-approved by the Board of Education and to hire grant funded positions for special purposes for the 2025/2026 school year. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **AUTHORIZE** the Director of Finance to borrow up to $500,000.00 in advance of receipts for necessary upcoming school projects**. AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED**.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **RAISE** the price of a full school lunch from $3.50 to $4.25 for the 2025/2026 school year. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **UTILIZE** the Capital Account for the COPS Grant. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ACCEPT** the contract with Young Builders LLC for the Vo-Ag roof project. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to allow the Superintendent to **EXECUTE** a contract with Young Builders LLC for the Vo-Ag roof project. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ACCEPT** Mr. Fred Williams', Athletic Director, letter of resignation. The Board wishes him the best of luck on his future endeavors and thanks him for his many years of dedicated service to Regional District No. 7. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **CANCEL** the Regular Board of Education meeting scheduled on May 28, 2025. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN**: None. **MOTION PASSED**.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **CANCEL** the Regular Board of Education meeting scheduled on June 11, 2025. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE
Mr. Fred Williams, Athletic Director, resignation letter was presented to the board.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:55pm. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram seconded by Ms. Crone, to **ADD** Health Insurance Coverage in retirement to the Superintendent's contract for the 2025/2026 school year. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Mr. Gauthier. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:46p.m. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for June 25th, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk