REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Meeting
September 24, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
DRAFT

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

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. Crone, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** the September 10th, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson**. NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Bell. **MOTION PASSED.**

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent LePage introduced Mr. Jonathan Costa from EdAdvance and his presentation about the Strategic Coherent Planning process.

Costa's presentation emphasized how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping education. He argued that traditional assumptions—that students must first learn rules before applying them, and must store content for later recall—are being disrupted by AI tools that can instantly generate, analyze, and explain content. He highlighted examples like ChatGPT and Google's NotebookLM, showing how they can produce essays, flashcards, podcasts, and analyses in minutes.

Costa stressed the need for schools to prioritize "durable" human skills—critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, adaptability—since AI will handle routine tasks. He proposed aligning curriculum and teaching with the district's "vision of the graduate," focusing on uniquely human capacities. This alignment will be a focus of the Strategic Planning process.

Discussion followed about trust in AI, cheating vs. learning, teacher use of AI, and the economic impacts of automation. Concerns included engagement, resilience, the role of higher education, and how to keep teachers motivated. Costa noted that AI is both a challenge and an opportunity, depending on how it is applied.

The group reviewed logistics for upcoming strategic planning meetings, emphasizing stakeholder involvement, retreat scheduling, and quorum considerations. The session closed with reflections on balancing AI use, supporting staff, and keeping student learning human-centered.

OLD BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS
None.

CORRESPONDENCE
None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ADJOURN** at 7:14 p.m. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for October 8th, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk