REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Regular Meeting
September 10, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
APPROVED 9.24.25

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

Absent: Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Mary Duran (B), and Student Representative, Amaya Washington.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **APPROVE** the August 27th, 2025, AI Transcribed meeting minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Gauthier**. NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

STUDENT REPORT / HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT

The student liaison, Amaya Washington, was unable to attend. Mr. Franklin presented the report she shared with him prior to the meeting.

“The first two weeks have been going very well. The senior class is loving senior privileges like the courtyard and commons. As of this week, it appears that students have adapted smoothly to the Personal Electronic Device Policy and Smart Pass usage.”

Mr. Franklin then shared his report, informing the Board that the High School Open House is scheduled for September 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. There are several games scheduled for tomorrow evening, including volleyball, field hockey, and boys’ soccer. All should be done prior to the open house, allowing the students to be present. Mr. Franklin also shared information about the new administrative team structure, providing a focus on instructional improvements, but shared that Superintendent LePage would be sharing more on this later.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT

The first few weeks in the Middle School have been great, and there has been a lot of positive communication with parents and the student body. The Open House was smaller than anticipated, but it was a success overall. With the use of the iReady software, the Administrative Team was able to accommodate more students, particularly in the reading portion, providing them with the additional help they may need.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent LePage began his report by notifying the Board that he has reconstructed the Administrative Team into three separate structures with unique meetings centered around the areas of importance for each group. There is still a full administrative team meeting once a month, but also a new “Instructional Leadership Team” that meets monthly, with special meetings for instructional rounds built in as well. They plan to visit classes periodically, using a protocol to observe teacher practice and provide feedback. Aligned with instructional improvement, he is forming a subcommittee for the AI policy development and utilization in the school. This will consist of Superintendent LePage, Dr. Dan Carroll, Mr. Gary Franklin, Mr. Ryan Cornelius and five teachers from around the district who volunteered. The group is reading the book AI With Intention by Tony Frontier.

Invitations to serve on the District Strategic Planning Committee are in the process of being sent out, but Mr. LePage requested one or more additional members of the Board of Education to join.

The Teacher Contract Negotiation Committee members will include Ms. Molly Sexton Read, Ms.Terri Kenneson, Mr. Rob Jerram, and Mr. Noel Gauthier. They were asked to be present on October 8, 2025, at 4:30 pm for a Teacher Negotiations proposal discussion with Attorney Kenneth Weinstock, who will represent the district in this process. Mrs. Sexton Read and Mr. LePage met with Attorney Weinstock earlier in the evening to develop initial thoughts regarding the contract process. The meeting for any interested Board of Finance members from sending towns and our Board members will be on Monday, September 15, at 6:00 pm in the Library Media Center. Any Board members are welcome to attend.
Mr. LePage also shared that Mr. Jonathan Costa will be present to the Board on the Strategic Planning process, and to answer any questions at the scheduled September 24 Board meeting.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT
Transportation, Food Service, and Facility have all been operating smoothly. Mr. Gaskins informed the Board that they are actually utilizing one less bus route this year. Routes have been redesigned to accommodate the students. So far there have been no issues with the new routes.

The ongoing Vo-Ag roofing project is progressing steadily. There are currently 80% of the roofing panels up and 75% of the total job completed. The roofing crew is working around school operational hours to avoid any safety concerns, per the fire marshall and building inspector's requirements.

There are occasional power spikes and outages in the building. An electrician believes he has identified the source of the issue, and they are hoping to have it resolved shortly.

The audit process is underway, and the on-site visit is scheduled for September 21, 2025.
The preparation for the 2026-2027 Budget has begun.

Mr. Gaskins then closed out his report by stating that his office received a warning from the state regarding an unemployment scam currently going on in several districts. Our district has not been affected at this time, but is being closely monitored.

OLD BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS
None.

CORRESPONDENCE
None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Crone, to ADJOURN at 6:54 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Gauthier. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED**.

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk