AGENDA – Wednesday, October 8, 2025

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION
6:00 p.m.
Newbury Library Media Center

Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education Mission Statement:

We believe the public education is an essential component of a free and democratic society. In a partnership of family, school, community, and local and state government, our mission is to enable all students to meet high standards, make productive choices in their personal lives, contribute to a diverse global society and act as responsible citizens.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC PORTION

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 September 24, 2025, Regular BOE Meeting Minutes

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 Student Representatives Report - Mia Doyle, Amaya Washington
4.2 Principals' Report - R. Cornelius, G. Franklin
4.3 Superintendent's Report – S. LePage
4.4 Director of Finance and Operations – J. Gaskins

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Updates
5.2 BOE Goals

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Kylie Benton - HS English Teacher- resignation 10/3/25

8.0 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Enclosures: September 24, 2025, BOE Minutes
Kylie Benton's Resignation Letter

Next Meeting: October 22, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center
November 12, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center
November 26, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center

Members of the public are also welcome to submit comments through publicinput@nwr7.org. These emails will be included during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Thank you.

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 emphasized the importance of schools prioritizing "durable" human skills—such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, and adaptability—since AI will increasingly 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 concluded with reflections on balancing AI use, supporting staff, and maintaining a human-centered approach to student learning.

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

Resignation Letter

Kylie Benton
5 Brookside Ave
Winsted, CT 06098

September 22, 2025

Gary Franklin
Northwestern Regional High School

Dear Mr. Franklin,

I am writing to formally resign from my position as High School English Teacher at Northwestern Regional High School, effective 30 days from today, September 22, 2025, or sooner if a suitable replacement is secured.

This decision was not made lightly, as I have sincerely valued my time at Northwestern. I'm proud of the work I've done with students and grateful for the opportunities I've had to grow as an educator. The support of our colleagues and collaborative spirit of the English department has made this an especially meaningful experience.

At this time, I am pursuing other opportunities within the district that align my professional goals with my personal needs. I hope to continue to make a positive impact on students as I move forward.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this time of transition. I am truly grateful to have been a part of the Northwestern team.

Sincerely,
Kylie Benton