

AGENDA – Wednesday, November 12, 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 October 8, 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

6.1 Review and discussion of NWR7 2026-2027 School Calendar

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Dr. Steven Carvalho, Supervisor of Special Education, Letter of Resignation

8.0 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Enclosures: October 8, 2025, BOE Minutes
NWR7 2026-2027 School Calendar
Dr. Steven Carvalho's Letter of Resignation

Next Meeting: November 26, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center
December 10, 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

October 8, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

DRAFT

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

We believe that 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.

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, Ms. Mary Duran (B), Secretary / Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Student Representative, Ms. Amaya Washington, Student Representative Mia Doyle, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Mr. Ryan Cornelius, and Superintendent Steven K. LePage,

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: To approve the minutes of the September 24, 2025 meeting as presented.

Made by: Terri Kenneson

Seconded by: Deb Bell

Vote: In favor – Kim Crone, Deb Bell, Terri Kenneson, Rob Jerram, Lisa Fragale, Molly Sexton Read.

Abstaining: Noel Gauthier, Mimi Duran.

Motion carried.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS- Amaya Washington and Mia Doyle

- **Mia Doyle (Junior Rep):**
 - Reported on school athletics and strong student involvement.
 - Mentioned a new **Northwestern Athletics Instagram** and success under the new Athletic Director.
 - Discussed the **Homecoming event**, and upcoming **Hobgoblin Fair** participation by Student Council.
- **Amaya Washington (Senior Rep):**
 - Reported on **Spirit Week** and **Homecoming activities**.
 - Shared updates on **college applications, SATs, and yearbook deadlines**.
 - Highlighted Student Council's community participation at the Hobgoblin Fair.

PRINCIPAL REPORT- MS Principal Ryan Cornelius and HS Principal Gary Franklin

Principal Ryan Cornelius (Middle School) reported on:

- PBIS program (“Highlander Pride”) encourages positive behavior—students earn tickets for showing core values.
- Increased student engagement through dances, student advisory council, and mentorship between 8th and 7th graders.
- Focus on creating a 4:1 positive-to-negative interaction ratio.

Principal Gary Franklin (High School) reported on:

- Upcoming **PSATs (Oct. 23)**.
- Active **Agriscience outreach** to feeder schools, and efforts to recruit Hartland students to attend Northwestern for high school.
- Discussed ongoing work on district **instructional rounds** focused on learning targets and success criteria.
- **The Principal's Advisory Council** has expanded to 30 students who will be working in subcommittees on: Social Media and Marketing, School Climate, Improvement and Innovation, School Policy Review, Community Service and Outreach, School Spirit and Engagement, Alumni Engagement and Involvement, and Special Events and Activities

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Steve LePage reported on:

- **Strategic Planning:**
 - Launching a 5-year plan, currently with 15 members (including student reps, staff, parents, and community) and plans to add a few more.
 - The process will be led by **Jonathan Costa (EdAdvance)**; first meeting Oct. 23.
- **Instructional Focus:**
 - District-wide work to build leadership capacity and instructional alignment with an emphasis on purposeful teaching using learning targets and success criteria.
- **Facilities:**
 - Ongoing efforts are being taken to prepare for major **bond projects** including: main building roofs, agriscience upgrades (greenhouse, retaining wall/hill mitigation, program enhancements and restructuring), athletic field facility improvements, middle school locker replacement, and ADA-compliant bleachers for the main gymnasium, among other facility needs that are being considered.
 - The goal is to consolidate all projects into one bond proposal.

- **Community & Student Projects:**
 - **Coordinating a second House of Heroes** project on Nov. 10 helping a local veteran in Winsted, will look to do another project in one of the four regional towns if a veteran applies and is determined eligible for support.
 - Planning for school-wide **Veterans Day events** with greater community engagement and more veterans attending to be recognized and appreciated.
 - Upcoming **Penguin Plunge (March 21)** fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics and potentially Kindness in Motion.
- **AI Use & Policy:**
 - Developing guidance and **guardrails for AI** use at Northwestern, informed by state and national models. Committee work continues, and will expand to develop a model of best practices and training. Committee members include the superintendent, 3 administrators, 5 teachers, and soon students to support these efforts. The district is also sending 3 teachers for microcredential training in AI Integration for schools
- **Other updates:**
 - Ongoing district-wide painting and maintenance improvements are underway, using internal custodial staff to shift their work to continually refresh the building walls as was done with the middle school and athletics hallways over the summer.
 - Board members asked student reps about the **cell phone policy**, with students reporting it's now routine and effective.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

- **Roof replacement** ~95% complete (awaiting gutters), the hard to secure panel seamer is now with Young Developers, so this project is nearing completion.
- **Security grant:** new clocks, displays, and strobe lights installation underway, hoping to finish these systems up in the coming month.
- **Audit** nearly finished; new state requirement for detailed accrued-time valuation for each employee.

OLD BUSINESS None

UPDATES None

BOE Goals:

Board Goals reviewed and refined:

- Adjusted phrasing for clarity.
- Focus areas: commitment of resources, collaboration, reflection, and board function.

Approval of Updated Board of Education Goals (2025–2026)

Motion: To approve the updated Board of Education Goals as amended.

Made by: Terri Kenneson

Seconded by: Kim Crone

Vote: In favor – Kim Crone, Deb Bell, Terri Kenneson, Rob Jerram, Lisa Fragale, Molly Sexton Read, Mimi Duran, Noel Gauthier

Motion carried.

- **Committee Appointments:**

Appointment – Negotiating Team

Motion: To appoint Terri Kenneson, Rob Jeram, Noel Gauthier, and Molly Sexton Read as the negotiating team to work with the teachers' bargaining unit.

Made by: Terri Kenneson **Seconded by:** Kim Crone

Vote: In favor – Kim Crone, Deb Bell, Terri Kenneson, Rob Jerram, Lisa Fragale, Molly Sexton Read, Mimi Duran, Noel Gauthier

Motion carried.

Appointment – Strategic Planning Committee

Motion: To appoint Molly Sexton Read, Rob Jerram, Noel Gauthier, and Mimi Duran as members of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Made by: Lisa Fragale **Seconded by:** Kim Crone

Vote: Kim Crone, Deb Bell, Terri Kenneson, Rob Jerram, Lisa Fragale, Molly Sexton Read, Mimi Duran, Noel Gauthier

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Acceptance of Resignation – Kylie Benton

Motion: To accept the resignation of high school teacher **Kylie Benton**, with best wishes for her next professional endeavor.

Made by: Terri Kenneson

Seconded by: Deb Bell

Vote: Kim Crone, Deb Bell, Terri Kenneson, Rob Jerram, Lisa Fragale, Molly Sexton Read, Mimi Duran, Noel Gauthier

Motion carried.

Cancellation of October 22, 2025 Meeting

Motion: To cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled for October 22, 2025.

Made by: Noel Gauthier

Seconded by: Terri Kenneson

Vote: Kim Crone, Deb Bell, Terri Kenneson, Rob Jerram, Lisa Fragale, Molly Sexton Read, Mimi Duran, Noel Gauthier

Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:57 pm.

Made by: Kim Crone

Seconded by: Noel Gauthier

Vote: Kim Crone, Deb Bell, Terri Kenneson, Rob Jerram, Lisa Fragale, Molly Sexton Read, Mimi Duran, Noel Gauthier

Motion carried.

The next BOE Meetings are scheduled:

November 12, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center

November 26, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

2026-2027 CALENDAR

AUGUST (4)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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30	31					

SEPTEMBER (21)						
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OCTOBER (20)						
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NOVEMBER (17)						
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DECEMBER (17)						
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JANUARY (19)						
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FEBRUARY (18)						
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MARCH (22)						
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APRIL (17)						
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MAY (20)						
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JUNE (6)						
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JULY						
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Date	Event/Holiday
August 24-25	Teacher In-Service
August 26	First Day of School
September 7	Labor Day
September 8	MS Open House
September 10	HS Open House
October 9	Teacher In-Service
October 12	Columbus Day
November 3	Teacher In-Service
November 9 & 10	Early Release - MS Conferences
November 25 - 27	Thanksgiving Break
December 23	Early Release
December 24 - January 1	Winter Recess
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 12	Early Release
February 15 - 16	February Break
March 26	Good Friday
April 12- 16	April Recess
May 28	Early Release
May 31	Memorial Day
June 8	181st Day of School

Scheduled Early Release Dismissal Time: 12:05pm

Weather-Related Make Up Days:

The last day of school is scheduled for June 8, 2027. Make up days due to school cancellations which cause Regional School District No. 7 schools to be closed will be scheduled as needed beginning with June 9, 2027.



Approved:

DRAFT

10/31/25

Mr. Steven LePage
Superintendent of Schools
Northwestern Regional School District No. 7
100 Battistoni Drive
Winsted, CT 06098

Dear Mr. LePage,

I am writing to formally submit my resignation from my position as Supervisor of Special Education at Northwestern Regional School District No.7, effective 12/23/25.

I accepted another position at Berkshire Community College as the Coordinator of Disability Services. This decision was not made lightly as I have truly enjoyed my time in the district. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunities I've had to learn and grow professionally as well as to work collaboratively with students, families and staff. I appreciate the support and guidance you and the district have provided throughout my tenure.

I will do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition before my departure. Please let me know how I can assist in this process.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be part of Northwestern Regional School District No. 7. I wish the district continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Carvalho". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Steven Carvalho, Ed.D.