REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Meeting
October 8, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
APPROVED 11.12.25

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 Mla 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 Jerram, 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