REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Regular Meeting
January 14, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
APPROVED 2.11.26

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

Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2.0 PUBLIC PORTION

No members of the public were present.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion** by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the minutes for the December 10, 2025, Organizational Meeting. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none Abstain: Ms. Duran.

- **Motion** by Kim Crone, seconded by Deb Bell, to **APPROVE** the minutes for the December 10, 2025, Regular Meeting, as amended. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none Abstain: Ms. Duran.

- **Motion** by Rob Jerram, seconded by Deb Bell, to **APPROVE** the minutes for the December 17, 2025, Special Meeting. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none Abstain: Ms. Duran.

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 Student Representatives

- **Mia Doyle:** Reported on winter sports (Girls Basketball 4-4, Boys 3-3). Discussed the new school bell system, which has been adjusted to a two-second tone to address feedback.

- **Amaya Washington:** Highlighted school store success, new welcoming rugs in the building, and the near-completion of the Wellness Room.

4.2 Principal's Reports

- **High School (G. Franklin):** Announced the "Highlander Speaker Series" featuring author **Mary Pope Osborne** on Feb 20. Shared updates on the "Jane Doe No More" program and the rebranding of the school store (voting on names like "Highlander Hub").
- **Middle School (R. Cornelius):** Presented exceptional mid-year **i-Ready** data. Reading growth reached **162%** of the target, and the new MTSS reading program saw a median growth of **209%**. Math growth is on track at 70%.

4.3 Superintendent's Report (S. LePage)

Strategic Planning: Finalizing actionable steps with the admin team; a full faculty overview with Jonathan Costa is set for Jan 26.

Retirement Incentive: Five teachers accepted the incentive. Total projected savings: **$443,843 (Year 1)** and **$527,799 (Year 2)**.

Policy Audit: CABE audit is complete. Priority will be placed on adopting ~20 mandatory state-legislated policies (e.g., mental health days in attendance).

HTA Relocation to Torrington: Supt. LePage and Quentin Rueckert visited the **Jeffrey Kitching Building** in Torrington. The High School Transition Academy (HTA) has officially signed a contract to move into space vacated by a Torrington program.

- **Financial Impact:** The move will result in significant cost savings compared to the previous location, where utility and lease costs were rising annually.
- **Programmatic Benefits:** The new location offers superior access to local job placements for students. The "Step" program staff have toured the facility and are pleased with the setting.

School Safety Committee Update: Supt. LePage and SRO Lada serve on a regional team including Winchester/Winsted police, fire, EMS, and school security.

- **Emergency Drill:** Currently coordinating with DEMHS Reg. 5 and CSP for a comprehensive drill at The Gilbert School.
- **Professional Development:** Supt. LePage is serving as a "trusted agent" for this drill, requiring the completion of ICS-100, ICS-200, and ICS-700 modules.

Meetings: Monthly forums rotate between area schools to improve emergency response communication.

4.4 Director of Finance and Operations (J. Gaskins)

VoAG Roof Project: Core roof finished; ongoing issues with gutters and state reimbursement tracking.

Facility Conditions Assessment RFP: The RFP has been officially released.

- **Key Dates:** Deadline for questions is **Jan 21**; Q&A responses posted by **Jan 23**; Bid opening on **Jan 28**.
- **Interest:** Two highly reputable firms in the state have expressed interest. The goal is a high-quality assessment at a competitive price.

Security & Finance: Received **$435,000** in federal grant money for the LENS security system.

Technology: Kickoff for **ADP Comprehensive Services** to automate Payroll, Time and Attendance, certification tracking, and several critical human resources functions.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

- **5.3 RSD7 AI Policy:** Second reading. Discussion centered on "guardrails" for AI use in the classroom. Supt. LePage noted that three teachers are undergoing AI credentialing to lead the rollout.
    - **Motion** by Deb Bell, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** the BOE AI Policy. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none Abstain: none.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- **6.1 BOE Transfers:** Review of a **$1,500** transfer for Tech Ed shop repairs and equipment following classroom changes.
    - **Motion** by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Deb Bell, to **APPROVE**
    - the budget transfers as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none. Abstain: none.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- **Motion** by Kim Crone, seconded by Mimi Duran, to **ACCEPT** Nicholas DallaValle's letter of resignation. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms.

Kenneson, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none Abstain: none The Board wishes him success in his new position.

- **7.2 New Hire:** Welcomed Luke Green as the new High School Special Education teacher.

8.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion** by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **CANCEL** the January 28, 2026, meeting. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none Abstain: none.

- **Motion** by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Terri Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:20 pm. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none. Abstain: none.

Next meeting: February 2026 (Superintendent evaluation scheduled).
