REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Regular Meeting
April 8, 2026 6:00 pm
APPROVED 4.20.26

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Deb Bell (N), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Secretary / Treasurer, Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C) via phone, Ms. Mimi Duran (B), Student Representatives Amaya Washington and Mia Doyle, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, Superintendent Steven K. LePage, High School Principal Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Ryan Cornelius
Absent: None

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by the Board Chair.

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2. PUBLIC PORTION

John DeShazo (Theater Director) & Anne DeCerbo (Co-Director):

- Provided an overview of the theater program's educational impact, emphasizing the application of geometry and physics in set design.
- Raised concerns regarding the **2027–2030 contract stipends**, estimating an effective hourly rate of **$4–$7/hour** based on 566 annual work hours.
- Highlighted safety concerns regarding the auditorium's **1980s-era wiring** and requested a formal performance review of the program.
- Superintendent LePage acknowledged the program's value and committed to reviewing the contract and facility issues with the administration.

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3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Kim Crone, to **APPROVE** the minutes for the March 18, 2026, Budget Presentation. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson and Ms. Bell. Nay: none. Abstain: Ms. Fragale and Ms. Duran.

3.2 Motion, by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Deb Bell, to **APPROVE** the minutes for the Budget Presentation on March 23, 2026. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson and Ms. Bell. Nay: none. Abstain: Ms. Fragale and Ms. Duran.

3.3 Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Deb Bell, to **APPROVE** the minutes for the Special Meeting on March 23, 2026. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none. Abstain: Ms. Fragale and Ms. Duran.

4 REPORTS

4.1 Student Representatives: Reported on the transition to Quarter 4, the successful run of the *Addams Family* musical, and the completion of SAT/NGSS testing for juniors.

4.2 Principal Cornelius (MS): Highlighted a successful Family Night (30–40 families) and upcoming 6th-grade transition visits on April 27.

Principal Franklin (HS): Reported that 50% of the 2026–27 master schedule is complete. Announced end-of-year dates (Junior Prom: May 2; Senior Prom: May 22; Graduation: June 15).

4.3 Superintendent LePage:

- **Strategic Planning:** Updates on leadership transitions and upcoming interviews for the Director of Athletics and Student Affairs and English positions.
- **AI Policy:** Reviewed faculty survey results and professional development plans for AI integration and academic integrity.
- **Kindness in Motion:** 18 grants awarded. Benefit concert scheduled for May 1 featuring the "Bored of Ed" band.

4.4 Director of Finance Gaskins:

- **Vo-Ag Roof:** Subcontractor claim filed against the performance bond; final payment withheld pending repair of cupola leaks and other items on the punch list.
- **ADP Transition:** Progressing with payroll/HR system migration.

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5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 2026-27 Budget: Consensus reached to advance the current budget.

5.2 Security Position Discussion: The Board reached consensus on posting an **Armed Security Officer (ASO)** position for after-hours coverage. Members emphasized the need for a retired law enforcement professional to account for isolation and response times.

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6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Adoption of budget to take to the Annual Budget Hearing

Motion by Kim Crone, seconded by Terri Kenneson, to **ADOPT** the 2026-2027 Regional School District No.7 Proposed Budget of $25,257,227.00, representing a 1.74% increase over the 2025-2026 Adopted Budget, to take to the Annual Regional Budget Hearing on April 20, 2026.

AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson, and Ms. Duran. NAY: None.

6.2 Facilities Condition Assessment

Motion by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Deb Bell, to **AWARD** the contract for the Facilities Condition Assessment to Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. including an energy audit. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson, and Ms. Duran. NAY: None.

6.3 Budget Transfer

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the budget transfers presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson, and Ms. Duran. NAY: None.

6.4 Policy Review (First Reading): Discussed ten policy updates (CABE-based). The Board directed the Superintendent to edit **Policy 5118** (Non-Resident Attendance) to remove "childcare" loopholes and clarify "physical/mental health" entry vs. retention. Board will review the policies and contact the Superintendent with any questions in advance of the special meeting on **April 20.**

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7. CORRESPONDENCE

None

8. OPPORTUNITY for Public to Speak on Agenda Items

- John DeShazo offered volunteer labor to assist with theater wiring removal to reduce future contractor costs.

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9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Terri Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:35 pm. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson and Ms. Duran. NAY: None.