REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center

Board of Education Regular Meeting

December 10, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED 1.14.26

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

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **AMEND** the Agenda for the December 10, 2025 meeting to include the Approval to hire a Special Education Director. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale**. NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the November 12, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Gauthier **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

STUDENT REPORTS

Mia Doyle informed the Board that the Relaxation room is nearly complete and there will be a big reveal soon. Winter sports have started and so far are going very well.
Mia also shared Amaya's report including an update on the Principal's Council and the subcommittees. She also reported that she was working with the technology department to get a video monitor for the Wellness room.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Mr. Franklin started his report by explaining the Program of Study for the 2026-2027 school year is currently being reviewed and will continue to be reviewed until winter break. The school store is progressing wonderfully. It is now open during the school day and provides items that range from snacks, school supplies, and apparel. It will be open for the public to shop on December 13 and December 20 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for holiday purchases. He was also pleased to tell the Board that they were able to send 15 freshmen women to a leadership conference at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, CT.

Superintendent LePage read Middle School Principal Mr. Ryan Cornelius's report as he was absent for the meeting. The entire Middle School was able to go on a field trip to Hartford Stage to watch A Christmas Carol production. All students had positive reviews of the play and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. NAPE has chosen our Middle School to participate in their math and reading testing. Parents will be notified of the testing within the next

few weeks. As of now, the plan is for 25 students to participate in the math section and 25 students to participate in the reading section.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent LePage began his report by sharing with the Board that the drafts of the Teachers and Administrators' contracts have been finalized. Brief discussion on the increases followed.
The OSHA review report is expected to arrive any day. When that report comes in, he will be requesting an informal meeting with them to review the steps taken already. He then noted the team's diligence and willingness to make the building as safe as possible and bring everything up to code.
There was a candidate chosen to fill the Special Education Supervisor position. Ms. Marie McManus was unanimously chosen out of approximately 20 applicants for the position.
Hartland has asked to join our insurance consortium to avoid an enormous increase within the Winchester group where they are now. In collaboration with all members of the consortium and our insurance brokers, the decision was made to add Hartland to the consortium.
He shared that the AI Policy has been shared with the Board for the first reading.
Setting the 2026 graduation date was brought to the Board's attention in order to reserve a date at the Warner Theater. He proposed the Board consider voting on the new graduation date and suggested June 15, 2026.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Mr. Gaskins shared that the ongoing Vo-Ag roof project is almost completed. Gutters were placed on the building this afternoon. The security / infrastructure project is in the final stages of completion where minimal tasks such as phone programming are left. He noted that the government shutdown delayed some of their payment allocation for funding projects, but the school did receive one $200k allotment from their first request. Overall a positive outlook for the upcoming year as the budget is starting below the prior year's amount.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates: None.

Goals: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Brief discussion regarding the increases of the newly negotiated contracts occurred. Teachers will have a 13% increase over a 3-year span, which is lower than national average by .1%. Administration will have a 9.75% increase over a 3-year span.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ACCEPT** the Northwestern Teachers Association 2026-2029 contract, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale**. NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **ACCEPT** the Northwestern Administrators Association 2026-2029 contract, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **AUTHORIZE** Superintendent LePage to sign the MOU agreement with Winchester Youth Service Bureau. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale**. NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, **to APPROVE** the hiring of Ms. Marie McManus as the new Special Education Supervisor**. AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Crone, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **SET** RSD#7 graduation date at this moment for Monday, June 15th, 2026. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:18 p.m. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale**. NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

The next BOE Meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk