REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
Roberta S. O'Hotnicky Little Theater
Board of Education Special Meeting
April 20, 2026, 7:00 pm
APPROVED 5.13.26

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), Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, and Superintendent Steven K. LePage.
Absent: None

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by the Board Chair.

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2. PUBLIC PORTION

None

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3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Motion by Rob Jerram, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the minutes for the April 7, 2026, Budget Presentation in New Hartford as amended. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none. Abstain: Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, and Ms. Crone.

3.2 Motion, by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Kim Crone, to **APPROVE** the minutes for the Regular Board of Education meeting on April 8, 2026. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

3.3 Motion by Deb Bell, seconded by Mimi Duran, to **APPROVE** the minutes for the April 9, 2026, Budget Presentation in Barkhamsted as amended. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Ms. Crone, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none. Abstain: Ms. Fragale, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, and Ms. Kenneson.

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4. REPORTS

4.1 Superintendent LePage:

Board Retreat: Proposed a retreat for **June 24th (2:00 PM – 5:00 PM)** followed by dinner. The focus will be setting Board goals aligned to the new strategic plan. These goals will provide the foundation for subsequent district, school, and

department goals that will be developed at the administrative and instructional leader summits. Venue options (on-site vs. off-site) are being explored.

Meeting Change: The July Board meeting will be moved from Wednesday, July 8th to **Tuesday, July 7th** to accommodate the Superintendent's schedule.

Personnel Updates: 12 candidates applied for the Director of Athletics and Student Affairs; 6 (1 internal, 5 external) to be interviewed, moving to first-round interviews.

Interviews for English and PE positions (including several alumni candidates) are scheduled for the coming week.

The position of Career Pathways Coordinator has also been posted and we have received several well qualified applicants.

Hallway Review Committee: Seeking 1-2 Board volunteers to join a committee to improve school branding and aesthetics (cleaning up old displays, standardizing colors/style guides), and also developing identified areas within the building where sign boards, electric and/or cork style, will be installed for a cleaner way of announcing approved upcoming events.

4.4 Director of Finance Gaskins:

- **Auditor Appointment:** Recommended renewing King & King as auditors for **$34,500**.

  In addressing a resident's question from the New Hartford budget hearing regarding bidding out auditing services Mr. Gaskins noted that RSD7 receives a significant "local discount" compared to neighboring districts (which pay $50k–$60k) due to the efficiency of the district's business office and the long standing relationship with King & King.

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5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 2026-27 Budget: Consensus reached to take the current proposed budget to referendum.

5.2 Updates: None

5.3 Action taken on reviewed policies:

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5113, Attendance, Excuses, Dismissal. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5113.2, Truancy. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5114, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5118 Non-resident Attendance. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5118.1, Homeless Students. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5125 Student Records Confidentiality. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5125.11 Health/Medical Records. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5131.91, Hazing. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** Policy #5141.21, Administering Medications. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

Motion by Rob Jerram, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **table a vote on** Policy #5131.61 Smoking Policy. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

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6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Adoption of the 2026-2027 Budget to take to the Annual Meeting and Referendum

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Rob Jerram to **ADOPT** that the RSD#7 Board of Education agrees to proceed with the 2026-2027 Regional School District No. 7 proposed budget of $25,257,227; representing a $1.74% increase above the 2025-2026, adopted budget, to take to the annual district budget meeting on May 4th, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the RSD#7 Little Theater.
AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

6.2 Call of Annual District Meeting with Referendum

Motion by Kim Crone, seconded by Mimi Duran, to **ADOPT** the Call of the District Meeting of the Regional School District No. 7 that will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the school building in Winsted, Connecticut, for the following business:

1. To authorize the Regional Board of Education to apply for, accept, and expend, in addition to the regular school budget, any state, federal, or private grant money which may be available for special purposes during the fiscal year, 2026-2027.
2. To accept the annual budget for the fiscal year, commencing July 1, 2026. Copies of the budget are on hand in the offices of the town clerks of each of the member towns.
3. The Board of Education for Regional School District #7 has designated that the vote on the motion to adopt the budget shall be by a yes or no vote on the optical scan machines in each of the member towns on Tuesday, May 5th, 2026, with hours to be set by individual towns as established by state statute.

This is dated at Winsted, Connecticut, the 20th day of April, 2026, signed by Molly Sexton Read, Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education Chair.
AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.

6.4 Authorization of Explanatory Text

Motion by Rob Jerram, seconded by Kim Crone to **AUTHORIZE** the Secretary of the Board of Education, to prepare and cause to be printed and disseminated, a concise explanatory text with respect to the 2026-2027 budget referendum question that will be submitted to the district's voters, subject to any necessary further legal review and approval by District Legal Counsel, and which shall otherwise be prepared, printed and disseminated in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes. Section 9-369B, and the secretary's discretion, and to be amended as necessary.

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

6.5 Appointment of Auditors

Motion by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Kim Crone, to **APPOINT** King & King as the District's auditors. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran, and Ms. Bell. Nay: none.
Motion by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Deb Bell, to **AWARD** the contract for the Facilities Condition Assessment to Kaestle Boos, 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.

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7. CORRESPONDENCE

Acknowledged receipt of letters of gratitude from Jeff Sousa, Superintendent in New Hartford and Erika Sacharko, Superintendent in Barkhamsted for the SEED Grant funds that stayed with their districts.

8. OPPORTUNITY for Public to Speak on Agenda Items

None

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9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rob Jerram, seconded by Terri Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:50 pm. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Kenneson, and Ms. Duran. NAY: None