AGENDA – Wednesday, June 24, 2026

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOE RETREAT

2:00 p.m.

AT THE ROOFTOP Restaurant

220 Albany Turnpike, Canton, CT 06019

Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education Mission Statement:

We believe the 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.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 June 10, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting
2.2 June 12, 2026, Special Board of Education Meeting

3.0 DISCUSSION ON TOPICS INCLUDING, YET NOT LIMITED TO:

A. District Performance Data
B. Identify Areas of Need
C. Strategic Priorities
D. Board Input on Goal Development for 2026-2027
E. Areas of Focused Improvement
F. Identification of Next Steps and Follow-Up Actions
G. Other topics of discussion

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

Enclosures: June 10, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting
June 12, 2026, Special Board of Education Meeting

Next Meetings: July 7, 2026, Special BOE Meeting, Newbury Library Media Center @ 6:00 p.m.
July 8, 2026, Regular BOE Meeting ~ CANCELLED ~

Members of the public are also welcome to submit comments through publicinput@nwr7.org. These emails will be included during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Thank you.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Regular Meeting
June 10th, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

DRAFT

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Ms. Mimi Duran (B), Ms. Deb Bell (N), Secretary / Treasurer, Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), 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. Kim Crone (N).

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Molly Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:13pm.

2.0 PUBLIC PORTION

No members of the public were present to speak. The public portion was skipped.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 May 13, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting

MOTION by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Deb Bell, to **APPROVE** the May 13, 2026, Regular Board of Education Minutes, as presented, **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Duran, Mr. Gauthier. **MOTION PASSED.**

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 Student Representatives Report — Mia Doyle, Amaya Washington

- **Mia Doyle:** Expressed excitement for the upcoming summer break. Noted that senior finals are underway and yearbook signing has begun. Provided updates on Spring Sports:
    - *Baseball:* 10-10 record; lost in Berkshire League Finals and 1st round of State tournament. Two All-Berkshire League athletes, one All-State athlete.
    - *Softball:* 10-10 record; lost in 1st round of State tournament. Two All-Berkshire League athletes.
    - *Boys Tennis:* 7-7 record; three All-Berkshire League athletes.
    - *Girls Tennis:* 2-10 record; three All-Berkshire League athletes.

    - *Boys/Girls Track:* Three All-Berkshire League athletes for boys; Mia Doyle was the sole All-Berkshire League athlete for girls track. Mia and others are continuing with the hammer throw at the State Open.
    - The All-Berkshire League Banquet was held on Thursday, June 4 to recognize these athletes.
- **Amaya Washington:** Reflection on her two years serving as a student representative to the Board. Noted June 12 is the final day for seniors, with a final exam on Friday morning, followed by Graduation on Monday evening, June 15. The Senior Sports Awards Ceremony was held on June 8 and went very well. The Booster Club provided funding for new uniforms and mats for the cheer team. The Student Council hosted a successful flea market on June 6.

4.2 Principal's Report — R. Cornelius, G. Franklin

- **Ryan Cornelius (Middle School):**
    - Reported that 44 students attended the Washington D.C. Civil Rights trip. All returned safely, and parents generously sent gift baskets to the four teacher chaperones.
    - The 8th-grade Semi-Formal at Crystal Peak was highly attended (105 out of approximately 120 students).
    - The Boulder Ridge trip included roughly 200 students and was highly successful.
    - 8th-Grade Awards are scheduled for Friday, June 12, with roughly 45 students receiving recognition. 8th-Grade Promotion will take place on Tuesday, June 16 at 5:00 PM.
    - Administration is wrapping up end-of-year teacher conferences and evaluations.
- **Gary Franklin (High School):**
    - Highlighted recent major events: High School Awards Ceremony, Senior Prom, Senior Sports Banquet, and the Kindness in Motion celebration.
    - Coordinated with elementary school principals (Antolini, Bakerville/New Hartford, and Colebrook) for a "Senior Graduation Walk" on Monday, June 15, allowing graduates to return to their elementary schools in cap and gown.
    - Interviews for the new Junior Board of Education Representative were held today; eight qualified candidates were interviewed, with a finalist expected by next week.
    - The final draft of the Northwestern Magazine was approved and is heading to print.
    - The Credit Enhancement Program is finalized for June 22 – July 8, with 35 registered students across courses such as Algebra 1 Readiness, Culinary, Exploring Art, Exploring RVN STEM, Exploring Rapid Design, and 21st Century Careers.
    - Announced selection to a 10-principal state focus group for Governor Ned Lamont's Connecticut Career Pathways Commission, chaired by former U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. The commission will propose a 5-year pathway development plan before the fall legislative session.

4.3 Superintendent's Report — S. LePage

- **Personnel Updates:**
    - Reegan Blore has been selected as the new High School English Teacher (pending Board approval tonight).
    - Michael Pauletto (a New Hartford resident) has been hired as the new Career Pathways/Step Coordinator in conjunction with Shared Services.
- **Kindness in Motion:** The celebration took place last night in a full, intimate room. Superintendent LePage thanked the Board for their support, as well as the community fundraising efforts for the Dr. Judy Palmer Kindness Award. The district is considering shifting the application window and celebration timeline next year to ease the end-of-year scheduling crunch.
- **Correspondence/Community Outreach:** Read a letter from the Executive Director of the Community Kitchen of Torrington thanking NWR7's Social Justice Club, Mr. Rodenberg, and teacher Christine Mitchell for their regular Friday night volunteer and food donation efforts.
- **Educational Assistants Negotiations:** After two meetings spanning four hours, a tentative contract agreement was reached with the union president and state union representative. It was ratified by the union yesterday.
- **Theater Updates:** Met with the NGA union regarding equity pay, specifically balancing pay scales for Assistant Director Anne DeServo and Director John DeCheso. The teachers' union initially declined to reopen the contract but ultimately proposed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) adding $3,052 to the pool. This adjusts Ms. DeServo's pay up to equity parity (matching John's previous rate + 1%). Superintendent LePage recommended accepting this compromise. Additionally, electrical renovations funded by an allocation will be performed in the theater this summer via Delta.
- **Hallway Review and Reimagining Committee:** The committee met today for 35 minutes to discuss aesthetic and cultural upgrades to the school's hallways. Initial steps include establishing unified bulletin boards requiring principal approval and removing aged, non-current large paintings. The art department supports shifting to dynamic student art showcase areas. The district will look into hiring a marketing company to establish an official Northwestern style guide (standardizing school colors/red tones).
- **Calendar Change Request:** Recommended adjusting the quarterly marking periods to a uniform 83 days each, correcting historical imbalances caused by midterm and final exam schedules.
- **Weather Service Update:** The regional superintendents group is transitioning away from John Bagioni's services to Drake Weather Services. The new service utilizes a streamlined text-alert protocol and a consolidated billing invoice across 33 participating towns.
- **Special Education Recognition:** Read an emotional letter sent from a parent (the Pashkevych family, who relocated from Ukraine/Belarus) to former Secretary Miguel Cardona, praising NWR7's *Links Program* and teachers Ms. Megan Ficke and Ms. Rhonda LeKang. The letter highlighted that after 13.5 years, their daughter Anna spoke the word "Mama" for the first time due to the program's impact.

4.4 Director of Finance and Operations — J. Gaskins

- **Solar Project Update:** Referenced the Building Committee presentation on solar canopies held prior to this meeting. No formal action has been taken yet; detailed discussions will occur under New Business.
- **Facility Condition Assessment:** The on-site assessment took place the week after Memorial Day. A comprehensive report is expected in a few weeks, which will require deep review.
- **LENS Grant Closeout:** The Lockdown Emergency Notification System grant has progressed excellently. Out of the $500,000 project cost, the state has already reimbursed $498,000. The final closeout request has been submitted.
- **Gymnasium Bleachers:** An order was executed for new composite red and gray gym bleachers, coming in under budget. Based on coaching feedback, a row of branded team seats will be installed on the floor, slightly shortening the right-side bleacher bank. By removing an old center partition, the company will install one continuous, long row of bleachers on the opposite side. Total gym seating will be 1,052.
- **Summer Facility Projects:** General painting, carpet replacement (excluding the auditorium), epoxy flooring installations at the athletics entryway, and a fire alarm system upgrade funded via a safety grant are slated for July.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Updates

- The Board Chair and Superintendent met with the four towns in hopes of aligning the K-12 curriculum. The town of Hartland was invited to attend the next meeting on June 23, 2026. There were voiced concerns but the team is working through any possible issues. The Superintendent is working with EdAdvance for a curriculum audit to make this process easier. The cost would be divided among 5 budgets, the four towns and the school. The Board is hoping to have a decision by November and build this cost into the 2027-2028 budget.

5.2 BOE Goals

None.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed 2026-2027 Calendar Changes - Review of Marking Period Quarters

- **Discussion:** The Superintendent proposed to the Board that he would like to have each quarter equate to 83 days, in place of shortening the 2nd and 4th quarters.

6.2 Discussion and Possible Action on the RSD#7 Educational Assistants' Contractual Agreement

MOTION by Deb Bell, seconded by Terri Kenneson, to **APPROVE** the Education Assistant's Contracts, as negotiated. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

6.3 Discussion and Possible Action on the Solar Project Proposal

- **Discussion:** The Board reviewed the presentation details from the prior Building Committee session regarding solar canopy implementation. Board members raised questions about layout, structural logistics, and fiscal timelines.
- **Action:** No binding action was taken; item tabled for future evaluation pending additional reports.

6.4 Approval of New Hire ~ HS English Teacher – Reegan Blore

MOTION by Deb Bell, seconded by Lisa Fragale, to **APPROVE** the hire of English Teacher Reegan Blore. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

6.5 Discussion and First Reading of Policies:

The Board conducted a collective first reading of the following policy updates and accompanying administrative forms:

- a. Health Assessments and Immunizations 5141.3
- b. Reporting of Child Neglect 5141.4/R5141.4
- c. Use of Physical Force 5144.1
- d. Restraint and Seclusions Law In CT (Appendix) 5144.1 A
- e. Protective Measures Procedures (Appendix) 5144.1 C
- f. Protective Measure Report (Appendix) 5144.1 D
- g. Form #1 Physical Restraint Report Form 5144.1 Form #1
- h. Form #2 Seclusion Report Form 5144.1 Form #2
- i. Form #3 State Incident Report 5144.1 Form #3
- j. Sexual Abuse Prevention & Education- Student Opt Out Form 5145.511
- k. Title IX U5145.44

Note: These policies will be moved to a second reading and potential adoption at the next scheduled meeting.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent LePage shared the Community Kitchen of Torrington thank-you letter and the Pastukhovich family commendation letter during his main report.

8.0 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments were made.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Terri Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:58pm. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Superintendents Office
Board of Education Special Meeting
June 12th, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.

DRAFT

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

1.0 Call to Order

Molly Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 3:50 PM.

2.0 Discussion and Possible Action on the Solar Project Proposal

Summary of Building Committee Findings

Chair Sexton Reed briefed the full Board on the details gathered from the Connecticut Green Bank representative, Mackie Dykes, regarding the Direct Ownership model for the proposed solar canopy project:

- **Financing Structure:** The district would secure an 18-year loan from the Green Bank. No payments would be due until the system was fully connected and generating electricity, though construction interest would accrue during the development phase.
- **Revenue Generation:** The project would be structured with a 125% revenue-to-debt service cushion. Revenue from selling generated electricity back to the utility would completely cover the loan payments, yielding approximately $70,000 in gross annual cash flow back to the district.
- **Operational Requirements:** Direct ownership would require the district to maintain an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contract (estimated between $8,000 and $12,000 annually), which would reduce the net benefit to around $55,000 to $60,000 per year.
- **District Risk:** The structural risk remains with the district. If the system fails to generate power as designed, Northwestern Regional School District No. 7 (NWR7) would still be contractually obligated to repay the loan in full. While the Green Bank reported a 95% to

99% historical fleet performance success rate across 100+ municipal and school projects, the financial liability would belong to NWR7.
- **Committee Punting:** Chair Sexton Reed noted that due to outstanding questions, the Building Committee chose to "punt" and chose not to vote definitively one way or the other, instead moving the project to the full Board for final deliberation. However, if forced to choose between the Aces Up third-party lease and direct ownership, the committee elements favored the Green Bank route.

Board Deliberation and Key Concerns

Board members engaged in an extensive conversation regarding the project's parameters, ultimately expressing profound hesitation across several areas:

- **Financial Return vs. Risk Profile:** Superintendent LePage and various board members noted that while the project represents a positive environmental initiative, the net financial impact is modest. The proposed array would only offset roughly 14% of the district's total energy consumption (worth approximately $190,000 annually). Members felt that taking on a multi-million dollar loan liability for a net return of roughly $50,000 to $60,000 per year introduced an unfavorable risk-to-reward ratio.
- **Imposed Time Constraints:** The looming July 4th regulatory deadline forces a compressed decision-making window. General contractor Aces Up requires a firm commitment at least two weeks prior to the deadline to order safe harbor materials. Board members expressed strong discomfort with "turning themselves inside out" and rushing into a major 20-year commitment under artificial time pressures without absolute clarity.
- **Sequential Logistical Issues:** Under the current compressed timeline, NWR7 would have to legally lock themselves into an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract with Aces Up before knowing with absolute certainty that the Connecticut Green Bank loan approval process was finalized. Members compared this unfavorably to buying a house without a pre-approved mortgage.
- **Integration with Core Infrastructure:** Chair Sexton Reed and Superintendent LePage emphasized that the project is a standalone canopy system feeding directly into the general grid revenue pot, rather than an asset integrated into NWR7’s building energy footprint.

Future Sustainable Energy Outlook

The Board determined that a more logical, strategic approach would involve waiting to align solar investments with the upcoming major roof replacement project, targeted for **2027** or slightly later:

- The planned roof project will explore high-efficiency PVC roofing systems with fully integrated solar infrastructure.

- Waiting protects the district from current deadline pressures and allows NWR7 to see if future federal administrations offer refreshed tax credits or incentives for solar batteries and fuel cells after 2028.
- The Board expressed an explicit desire to cultivate a long-term planning relationship with the Connecticut Green Bank and Aces Up, exploring alternative options (such as municipal lease programs) without the stress of an immediate deadline.

Board Consensus and Action

Board members Noel, Deb, and Lisa explicitly voiced agreement with the consensus to bypass the current proposal due to the excessive number of "what-ifs," unknown variables, and the structural necessity of repaying the loan under catastrophic failure scenarios.

Because the Board reached a clear consensus to decline the proposal, it was determined that a formal vote to reject or table the motion was procedurally unnecessary. The administration will notify Aces Up that the district will not be moving forward with the canopy solar project at this time.

Superintendent LePage and Chair Sexton Reed expressed deep gratitude to Keith Boyle, James Gaskins, and the administrative staff for their exhausting, diligent work in collecting comprehensive data over the preceding days.

3.0 Adjournment

MOTION by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Lisa Fragale, to **ADJOURN** at 4:08 PM. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale**. NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None.