MEETING MINUTES

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.7
Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Regular Meeting
August 19th, 2026- 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED 9.9.26

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice Chair Mr. Rob Jerram (NH), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Ms. Deb Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N) via phone call, Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Secretary / Treasurer, Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), 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: Student Representatives, Mia Doyle, and Ms. Mimi Duran (B).

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2.0 PUBLIC PORTION

None.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Deb Bell, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the July 7th, 2026, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

4.0 REPORTS

- **4.1 Principals' Report (R. Cornelius, G. Franklin)**
  - **Middle School:** Disseminated AI usage policies and received positive feedback from instructional leaders. Introduced a 7th-grade "College and Career Explorations" course partnered with EdAdvance covering state career pathways. Scheduled PowerSchool setup sessions for parents, WEB leader training for 7th-grade orientation, and class meetings for 7th and 8th graders. Updated PBIS to feature quarterly drawings for Highlander Store gift cards.
  - **High School:** The Vision of a Graduate (VOG) committee developed a 3-year proposal featuring 45-minute professional development sessions. Finalized an agreement with CCSU to expand dual enrollment options. Hosted new staff orientation and prepped for 9th grade/new student orientations, fall sports meetings, and schedule releases.
- **4.2 Superintendent's Report (S. LePage)**
  - Reviewed takeaways from the administrative retreat on change leadership, "bright spots," and district goals.
  - Outlined Convocation plans and PD updates, including reclaiming 20 after-school help days to create 11 PLC days and 9 professional learning sessions.

- Introduced Global Compliance Network (GCN) as the new district mandatory training platform ($1,400 annual cost).
- Provided a progress report on cleaning up and rebranding common area hallways and installing new bulletin boards.
- Summarized the Winchester High School Consolidation Study presentation; confirmed the district is open to receiving a formal proposal from Winchester, though no commitments or agreements have been made.
- Addressed an easement request from Winchester Water Company for a water line pressure relief valve vault on district-owned Barkhamsted land.

- **4.3 Director of Finance and Operations (J. Gaskins)**
  - Confirmed the fiscal year closeout is on track with the audit team arriving on-site in September.
  - Updated on completed summer projects, including LENS emergency notification system enhancements.
  - Announced participation in the state-funded free breakfast program for all students, expanding breakfast service offerings and hours.
  - Noted 22 bus routes are posted for the upcoming school year.
  - Facility updates: Hot lunch serving stations scheduled for September delivery; animal run-in shed pending delivery; bleacher installation pushed back to October.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

- **5.1 Updates:** Brief curriculum update regarding an upcoming breakfast meeting with EdAdvance, superintendents, and board chairs.
- **5.2 Discussion and Possible Action on BOE Goals:**
  - Board agreed to review existing board-specific goals on the website at the September meeting.

MOTION made by Deb Bell, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **ADOPT** the 2026-2027 Board of Education goals, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Goal 1: District: Develop an explicit system for measuring Vision of a Graduate skills and competencies across the district, implemented with fidelity, during our students' six years at Northwestern.

Goal 2: District: Develop a clear plan, communicated to all stakeholders across the district, outlining allowable AI use at Northwestern. Implementation of this plan will be led by a District AI Committee and shall include the development of clear guidelines, appropriate training, and targeted professional learning for all stakeholder groups.

Goal 3: District: Expand Career Pathway education and experiences so that all students have a broader understanding of their career options, and enhanced opportunities to experience a variety of careers while at Northwestern.

Goal 4: Board Development: Board members will actively follow district priority goals, review related updates, and seek additional information about these priorities at regular Board meetings and through the quarterly strategic plan update process. (The Board may request special reports and highlight presentations on strategic initiatives during regularly scheduled Board meetings.)

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- **6.1 New Hire Report**

MOTION made by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the hiring of Middle School Special Education teacher Samantha Pine. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

- **6.2 Discussion and First Reading of Policies:**
  - Held first reading and discussion on policies 0100 (Mission Statement), 0521 (Nondiscrimination), 0525.1/0521.1.1 (Grievance Procedure / Anti-Racism Policy clarifications to be sent), 3231 (Medical Reimbursement), 3511 (Compliance with 504), 3516.2 (Rescind COVID-19 Operations), 3520.13 (Data Management), 3524.1 (Integrated Pest Management), 3541.5 (Transportation Safety), and 3542 (Free/Reduced Meals). Superintendent to make grammatical adjustments and clarify policy numbering prior to second reading.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- **7.1 Letter of Resignation**

MOTION made by Terri Kenneson, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **ACCEPT** Middle School Special Education teacher Amy Bardino's letter of resignation, as presented**. AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

8.0 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Terri Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:39 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**