MEETING MINUTES REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center
Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 14, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
DRAFT

**PRESENT:** Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice Chair Mr. Rob Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Terri Kenneson (C), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Ms. Deb Bell (N), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Mr. Ryan Cornelius, Student Representatives Mia Doyle and Landon Nadeau, and Superintendent Steven K. LePage.

**ABSENT:** Ms. Mimi Duran

**1.0 Call to Order:** Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Building Committee Motions to be added:

MOTION by Rob Jerram, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to AMEND the agenda to add Item 6.4 for consideration of Building Committee capital project motions. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. MOTION PASSED.

**2.0 Public Portion**

- **Barkhamsted Water Line & Pressure Release Valve:** Barkhamsted First Selectman Megan Cook presented information regarding an upcoming project on the district's 12-acre parcel near the school property. The project involves installing a below-ground commercial water pressure-release valve vault and an associated retaining wall for the Winchester Water Company. A right-of-way/easement will be requested following final surveys and engineering designs.

**3.0 Approval of Minutes**

**3.1** September 9, 2026, Regular BOE Meeting Minutes

**MOTION** by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram, to **APPROVE** the September 9, 2026, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr.

Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Ms. Bell. MOTION PASSED.

**4.0 Reports 4.1 Student Representative Reports**

- Landon Nadeau & Mia Doyle:
    - School Climate & Activities: Highlighted a positive school atmosphere with minimal drama, strong student engagement, and heavy utilization of the Math and the Writing Help Centers.
    - Athletics: Fall sports are performing exceptionally well, including undefeated volleyball; strong class and Berkshire League rankings for boys' soccer and the golf team (including the Berkshire League Championship); and persistent effort from girls' soccer, cross country (despite a small team), and field hockey.
    - Senior Activities & Events:
        - ❖ Managing college application deadlines
        - ❖ Upcoming *Project Hail Mary* movie night fundraiser featuring an indoor planetarium/telescope setup by Dr. DeCerbo
        - ❖ Theatrical preparations for *Peter and the Starcatcher*
        - ❖ Band and wind ensemble preparations for the CABE/CAPSS convention
        - ❖ Student council community outreach: breast cancer awareness, Goblin Fair volunteering, turkey baskets, and elementary pen pals.

**4.2 Strategic Plan Quarterly Report**

- Superintendent S. LePage, HS Principal Mr. G. Franklin, and MS Principal Mr. R. Cornelius:
    - **AI Implementation & Guidelines:** Reviewed districtwide AI guidance, policy continuity levels (Default = No AI; Level 2 = Brainstorming partner; Level 3 = Co-creator), student chat transcript disclosure requirements, TPACK professional development, and upcoming integration of Gemini tools and NotebookLM for curriculum writing.
    - **VoG Integration:** Reviewed the 3-year plan developed by co-chairs Kim Perschmann and Nancy Wiecking and the VoG (Vision of the Graduate) committee. Highlighted maintaining current items: 7th-grade VoG introductions, homeroom slides/videos, classroom posters, freshman seminar, upcoming professional development sessions (facilitated by Dr. DeCerbo exploring VoG in the classroom and department-specific rubric mapping using the art department as an exemplar), staff survey feedback (showing positive engagement and constructive dialogue), the creation of

rubrics/look-fors for effective communicators and collaborators, and future multi-year proposals (senior English graduate showcase, VoG teacher learning fair, PowerSchool attribute integration, and grade-level reflections).

- **Career Pathways & Partnerships:** Highlighted new 7th-grade career exploration courses, dual-enrollment opportunities (CCSU and Connecticut State), local industry speakers, and expanded plans for career days at both the high school and middle school to include various speakers, including Newfield Construction, Riverton Fire Department, and prospective trade academy/manufacturing partnerships, including Goodwin College E-Camp and more.

**4.2 Principals' Report**

Detailed upcoming "Adulting 101" workshops, middle school PBIS hallway visual updates, and the upcoming wind ensemble performance at the CABE/CAPSS convention.

**4.3 Superintendent's Report**

**Regional Curriculum Alignment:** Discussed ongoing collaboration and challenges with elementary feeder districts and the K-12 Curriculum Council regarding math, ELA, science, and social studies coherence. Shared ongoing efforts to build bridges and support closer alignment and awareness of incoming student strengths and needs, and the expectations Northwestern has for incoming 7th graders.

**Current Facilities Work:**

- *Bleachers:* Project completion expected ahead of schedule, with the first volleyball game scheduled in the gym on Monday, 10/19/2026.
- *Trainer's Room:* Remodel is fully complete with upgraded flooring and new athletic training equipment.
- *Track Repairs:* Root intrusion at the far end of the track has been addressed to make it safe for use; final repainting is deferred to spring due to temperature requirements, ahead of full resurfacing next year.
- New exterior *NFHS Network Camera:* A new 20-foot pole and wiring have been installed near the athletic field for the NFHS streaming camera system, enabling community members to watch home soccer games remotely.

**4.4 Director of Finance and Operations:**

- **Budget & Audit Updates:** The annual audit and current fiscal year budget are proceeding smoothly. Budget development packets for next year were distributed to department heads.
- **Food Service:** The new hot food server station is installed and operational (featuring dual hot/cold zones for salad bars and condiments), funded entirely outside of the operating budget.
- **Budget Transfers:** Noted a minor quarterly budget transfer ($50 from math instructional supplies to dues and fees to cover math league expenses).

**5.0 Old Business**

**5.1 Updates**

Continuation of Policy updating and second reading of Series 4000 personnel policies

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram to **ADOPT** Policy #4000.1, 4200.1: Title IX Personal Certified, Non-Certified Students. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram, to ADOPT Policy #4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram to **ADOPT** Policy #4118.232, 4218.231 Drug Free Workplace. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram to **ADOPT** Policy #4115 Evaluation Supervision. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram, to ADOPT Policy #4152 Family and Medical Leave Act. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram to **ADOPT** Policy #4112.5 Fingerprinting and Criminal Justice Information Services. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram to **ADOPT** Policy 4111.3 Minority Recruitment. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram to **ADOPT** Policy 4118.11 Nondiscrimination. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram to **ADOPT** Policy 4111.1 Recruitment and Selection. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

- **MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Rob Jerram to **ADOPT** Policy 4121 Substitute Teachers. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**6.0 New Business**

**6.1 Compliance Policies & Regulations:**

- **Policy #3511 (504 Regulations): MOTION** by Kim Crone, seconded by Lisa Fragale, to **APPROVE** Policy #3511 on second reading, as revised to clarify Shared Services data gathering. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN**: None. MOTION PASSED.
- **Policy #5144.1 (Appendix C - Protective Measures Procedures): MOTION** by Kim Crone, seconded by Lisa Fragale, to **APPROVE** revised Appendix C of Policy #5144.1, updating terminology from PMT to CPI, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. **NAY**: None. **ABSTAIN**: None. MOTION PASSED.

**6.2 Review and Approval of BOE Transfers** (7/1/2026 – 9/30/2026): **MOTION** by Kim Crone, seconded by Lisa Fragale, to **APPROVE** Board of Education budget transfers for the period of

7/1/2026 through 9/30/2026, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. MOTION PASSED.

**6.3 Approval of Bond Counsel: MOTION** by Rob Jerram, seconded by Deb Bell, to APPROVE Pullman & Comley as Bond Counsel for Regional School District No. 7. **AYE**: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Crone, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. MOTION PASSED.

**6.4 Consideration of Building Committee motions for four capital projects:**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram seconded by Noel Gauthier to **AUTHORIZE** the administration to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the roof replacement with photovoltaic project at the combined middle school and high school building. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram seconded by Noel Gauthier to **ESTABLISH** the school building committee as the building committee regarding the roof replacement with photovoltaic project at the combined middle school and high school building.**AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram seconded by Noel Gauthier to **AUTHORIZE** the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the roof replacement with photovoltaic project at the combined middle school and high school building. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **AUTHORIZE** the administration to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the HVAC rooftop units' replacement project at the combined middle school and high school building. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **ESTABLISH** the school building committee as the building committee regarding the HVAC rooftop units' replacement project at the combined middle school and high school building. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **AUTHORIZE** the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the HVAC rooftop units' replacement project at the combined middle school and high school building. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram seconded by Noel Gauthier to **AUTHORIZE** the administration to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the VO-AG (ASTE) program enhancement project at the vocational agricultural (ASTE) building. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram seconded by Noel Gauthier to **ESTABLISH** the school building committee as the building committee regarding the VO-AG (ASTE) program enhancement project at the vocational agricultural (ASTE) building. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **AUTHORIZE** the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the VO-AG (ASTE) program enhancement project at the vocational agricultural (ASTE) building.**AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram seconded by Noel Gauthier to **AUTHORIZE** the administration to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the athletic fields renovation project at the combined middle school and high school facility. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **ESTABLISH** the school building committee as the building committee regarding the athletic fields renovation project at the combined middle school and high school facility. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION** made by Rob Jerram, seconded by Noel Gauthier, to **AUTHORIZE** the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the athletic fields renovation project at the combined middle school and high school facility. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**7.0 Correspondence** None.

**8.0 Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items** None.

**MOTION** made by Deb Bell, seconded by Kim Crone, to **CANCEL** the October 28 meeting. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Noel Gauthier, seconded by Kim Crone, to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 7:54 pm. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Crone, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, and Ms. Kenneson. **NAY**: None. **MOTION PASSED**