

**Regional School District # 7
Board of Education Minutes
March 14, 2006**

PRESENT: Chairman Thomson, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Lafave, Mrs. Yard, Mr. Griffey, Mrs. Sweeney, Mr. Gregor, Mr. Lanctot, Superintendent, Dr. Roberta S. Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operations, Mr. Roger Newbury, Middle School Principal Osypuk, and Student Representative, Ryan LeBlanc.

Chairman Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Mrs. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Lafave to approve the minutes of the February 21st regular meeting of the Board of Education.

**APPROVED
MINUTES 2/21/06**

Motion by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by M. Lanctot to approve the minutes of the February 28th regular meeting of the Board of Education.

**APPROVED
MINUTES 2/28/06**

Student Representative R. LeBlanc updated the board on student activity including upcoming S.A.T.'s, athletic and band events.

REPORTS

Middle School Principal Paul Osypuk handed out copies of the newsletter and updated the board on middle school participation in the Word Power Contest. Two middle school students, Ian Robinson and Scott Atkinson were selected to go onto the state level. Ian Robinson placed in the top ten in state competition. Mr. Osypuk updated the board on the middle school accreditation process (see attached). He indicated there is a steering committee in place and the mission statement has been completed. He stated that he would continue to update the board as the process continues.

A letter requesting the use of the gymnasium facility for the Highlander Camp during this summer was read.

CORRESP

Motion by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Lanctot to approve the Highlander Camp, subject to the fee structure approved earlier in the year.

A letter was received from Michael's Jewelers naming Northwestern as one of the top five schools in the state for it's unified sports award.

A second letter from Michael's Jewelers was read indicating Northwestern had received second place achievement cup award for Class M schools.

A letter was read requesting use of the gymnasium by AAU Team, Extreme Heat.

Motion by Mrs. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Lanctot to approve the gymnasium use subject to special use provisions adopted last year for the AAU Teams. Passed with one abstention from Mr. Gregor.

The board reviewed work to date on their 2005-2006 goals. Goal #1–To enhance

OLD

BUSINESS

communications with the public. The board members have continued discussions with the Elementary Schools member towns on websites. Discussion between the board members and town officials on budget related matters continues on an ongoing basis.

Goal #2–To improve board organization and operations. Development of a schedule for budget meetings in member communities, scheduling future policy update for board officer definitions and job descriptions.

Goal #3- To review existing programs, staffing, needs and resources. The board has been working at regular and special meetings to define these in terms of budget requests.

Goal #4–To continue to pursue advocacy for public education. Mrs. Lafave attended “The Day on The Hill” also, traveled to Washington, D.C. as a part of the CAFE Delegation to advocate on the state wide.

Goal #5–To monitor the implementation of the Regional School District No. 7 Strategic Plan 2005-2008. Dr. Ohotnicky reported the plan committee met recently to do a review.

Dr. Ohotnicky will report on this at a future meeting.

Chairman Thomson, opened up the budget discussions by stating that the present **BUDG. DISC.** budget has three problems:

- 1) A decline in student population in New Hartford
- 2) An increase in student population in Barkhamsted
- 3) Revenue decreasing

Chairman Thomson handed out a chart showing the interrelationship of student population with assessment (see attached). In starting the discussion, he stated the we are the Board of Education, not the Board of Finance and thus, it is our responsibility to put forth a budget which is responsive to educational needs of the students. The budget discussion developed around individual board member’s view of priority items within the budget. After much discussion and questions, the board asked administration to bring to the next meeting a list of proposed cuts with priorities.

Report on Strategic Plan Review

FUTURE AGENDAS

Mrs. Shelley Lloyd reminded the board of a number of Music Department activities including the upcoming Caberet, band trip and a concert at the Warner Theater.

PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Lanctot, seconded by Mrs. Sweeney and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 9:17 p.m.

Motion to come out of Executive Session by Mrs. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Lanctot at 9:40 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Lanctot at 9:41 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy G. Cunningham