

Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
March 14, 2007

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gregor, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Lanctot, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Yard, Acting Superintendent Newbury, High School Principal Conner, Middle School Principal Perez, Student Representative Ryan LeBlanc. Guests: David Villa, Network Engineer; Ron Aubel, Board of Finance Chair, Colebrook.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gregor, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Lanctot, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard, Acting Superintendent Newbury. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Griffey, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. PUBLIC

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Griffey, and passed unanimously, to authorize settlement of the pending grievance involving teacher salary step placement, based upon the terms discussed in Executive Session, pending further legal review. GRIEVANCE

Mr. Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

Dawn Renfrew of Barkhamsted spoke in support of Freshman Basketball. PUBLIC PORTION

Ron Aubel of Colebrook asked the Board to more closely review staff costs due to the 60% increase in wages. He asked questions about the increase in Special Education and the need for new musical instruments. Mr. Newbury pointed out that costs were driven the number of special education students and transportation needs. Many of the current instruments were in bad shape and needed replacement.

Matt Lefevre of New Hartford spoke in favor of Freshman Basketball.

Shelly Lloyd supported the Freshman Boys Basketball, but understands there is not enough interest in Freshman Girls Basketball.

James Miller of Colebrook was concerned that the budget has grown by 6%, twice the rate of inflation. Mrs. Kenneson pointed out we need to offer students more courses and programs to keep up with technology, while at the same time, keeping an eye on taxpayer dollars.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2007 regular meeting with the correction of the spelling of Mr. Thomson's name in the correspondence section. APPROVE MINUTES 2/28/07

High School Principal, Wayne Conner, informed the Board of an AD Merit Award given to Ms. Perez at the CIAC Basketball Tournament Dedication Ceremony on March 10, 2007. Letters were sent to the parents of the following three students for recognition and outstanding accomplishments in the area as noted: Maridel Frederickson–Music; Ashley Jakubowski–Theatre; and for James Yuan who was recently accepted into the HS PRINC. REPORT

Ryan LeBlanc attended CABE's 'Day On The Hill' and found it informative and interesting listening to Governor Rell speak.

ST. REP.
REPORT

Mr. Newbury reviewed the Monthly Budget transfers noting that property liability had not gone up and fuel consumption was lower than usual this year.

BUDGET
REPORT

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Yard and passed unanimously, to approve the budget transfers as presented.

Mrs. Yard reported the Mountainside program is cost effective and is going very well. There are 16 students involved in the high school and plans are being made to expand the program to the middle school in the hope that earlier intervention would be of benefit.

MOUNTAIN
SIDE
REPORT

Mr. Gregor asked the status of getting the tennis courts redone. Mr. Newbury stated they expected to accomplish this in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Villa, Network Engineer, was present to explain the budget item for the need for electrical backup of the school system. With the high volume of computer use, phone system, air conditioning, the need to protect the equipment, and for the safety of the data contained therein, he feels it would be a major disaster if the system should go down. Mr. Griffey requested a breakdown of what the electrical backup system would cover.

BUDGET
DISCUSSION

Mr. Griffey questioned the budget line for library books.

The Board reviewed the New Staff Costs in the 100 Account—Salaries. Each line item was discussed and board members stated their support and/or concerns for each. Further discussions are pending.

Mr. Newbury presented a Capital Plan which included musical instruments, boiler replacement, electrical backup and computer equipment.

Mr. Newbury was asked to show the effect on the budget with the following cuts: Freshman Basketball, restructure of the English teacher position, Capital Plan inclusion at \$300,000., and oil cost reduction due to boiler replacement.

Shelly Lloyd was glad to hear the tennis court repairs were pending; she also expressed her understanding of the necessary high cost to replace musical instruments; and suggested students could assist in some of the office clerical functions to offset the overload on the secretary.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mr. Gregor, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ganci, Clerk