

Regional School District No. 7  
Board of Education Minutes  
April 9, 2008

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Yard, Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Griffey, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Dorazio, Roger Newbury, Director of Finance and Operations, and Clint Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2008. Aye: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Yard, Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Dorazio. Nay: None. Abstentions: Mr. Griffey. Motion passed.

MINUTES  
3/26/2008

MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Ms. Sexton Read, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 26, 2008. Aye: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Yard, Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Dorazio. Nay: None. Abstentions: Mr. Griffey. Motion passed.

MINUTES  
3/26/2008

MOTION by Ms. Sexton Read, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, to approve the minutes of March 31 with the following amendment: Add Mr. Lanctot and Ms. Sexton Read as being present. Aye: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Yard, Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Dorazio. Nay: None. Abstentions: Mr. Griffey. Motion passed.

MINUTES  
3/31/08

Superintendent Montgomery updated the Board on the upcoming pupil suspension law. He also updated the Board that he anticipates some increase in the number of candidates for the STEP program based upon requests from the Superintendent of Schools in Winchester. Superintendent Montgomery stated that Regional has taken Winchester students into this program for the past ten years.

UPDATES

Director of Finance and Operations Newbury updated the Board on the progress on the gym floor project. He said that approval had been given by the State to go out to bid. The project has been advertised and a pre-bid conference is scheduled for April 11, 2008. Bids are due back on April 21, 2008.

GYM  
FLOOR  
UPDATE

Superintendent Montgomery informed the Board that the Torrington High School ROTC program is willing to make positions available to Northwestern students with Regional only paying for transportation. He also informed the Board of a schedule change anticipated for next year where the morning periods will rotate and the afternoon periods will rotate as opposed to all the periods throughout the day rotating. This will allow more options for students to access such programs as the NWCC courses, cooperative banking initiative with Northwest Community Bank, ROTC program, work study and mentoring and other programs as they are developed.

TORRINGTON  
ROTC PRGM.  
  
SCHEDULE  
CHANGES

Budget Discussions: Freshman basketball was questioned on the basis of the number of students served. It was decided by consensus to allow it to remain and re-evaluate next year. Mr. Jerram raised the question of adding back late buses that had been dropped in previous budgets. Administration indicated that based upon current student response that it would be well to further study the situation for consideration in a future budget and use the money for items with greater immediate need.

BUDGET  
DELIBERATIONS

Mr. Jerram put forth a proposal to remove the \$200,000 capital plan from the budget and take the \$60,000 that is in the current budget in principal and interest and transfer it to the maintenance replacement account. This would provide current year funding of part of the items with the intention of increasing funding for the remaining items in future years. The Board reached a consensus on this item to accept Mr. Jerram's plan.

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to adopt a budget totaling \$17,602,371 or 3.98% increase over last year to present at the Annual District Budget Meeting.

ADOPT BDGT  
FOR DIST.  
MEETING

Superintendent Montgomery reported on a proposal from EcoStream to place solar panels on the roof to generate electricity at no cost to the District. The system is anticipated to produce 500+ kw or about 20% of our electrical usage. We would then purchase this energy at a 20% discount estimated to save about \$15,000 annually. The system would be installed in the summer and be operational by mid to late fall. Board members had a number of questions about the advantage of this type of arrangement over outright purchase; others felt that the opportunity to change the carbon footprint without extending debt makes sense at this time. It was felt that more information was needed and that it should be presented at the next meeting. Superintendent Montgomery will arrange to have a representative from the company available for the next meeting. Superintendent Montgomery emphasized that time is running out for this program because federal seed money will disappear after January 1, 2009. All systems must be totally operational at this time to qualify for funds thus the company installing the system must have sufficient time to get it in place and test its output by this date. Companies only find it advantageous with this funding.

ECOSTREAM  
SOLAR  
PANELS

MOTION by Mr. Griffey, seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to continue negotiations with EcoStream.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Griffey, and passed unanimously, to adopt the Call of the Annual District Budget Meeting as stated.

CALL OF ANN.  
DIST. BDGT. MTG

There were no members of the public to speak on agenda items.

MOTION by Mr. Lanctot, seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Newbury  
Director of Finance and Operations