

Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
January 12, 2005

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Egbertson, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Lafave, Mrs. Kenneson, Superintendent Dr. Roberta S. Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.
Visitors: Sheila McKay, CAFE, Attorney Mark Sammaruga, Register Citizen Reporter Leanne Fontana.

Mr. Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

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

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to move Executive Session to the first item on the agenda. EXEC. SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 7:04 p.m.

Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Egbertson, Mrs. Lafave, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Kenneson, Superintendent Dr. Roberta S. Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operations Mr. Newbury, Attorney Mark Sammaruga.

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 8:06 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to return to the listed order of the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Sheila McKay attorney for CAFE gave a presentation on CAFE's legislative issues for 2005. CAFE
She gave an overview of the legislative priorities of CAFE. They are as follows: 1.) The removal of the ECS Cap. 2.) Raising the Special Education funding for high cost students. 3.) Funding for early childhood education. 4.) Supplying resources to assist the District in meeting the requirements of "The No Child Left Behind Act." 5.) Supporting bills to reduce education personnel shortages. 6.) Providing alternative routes to certification and incentives for personnel in shortage areas. 7.) Modifying binding arbitration; supporting the special education payments going to the District in current year. Mrs. Lafave stated that these are issues that should be posed to the legislators who will be attending the legislative breakfast held on January 25, 2005. She also pointed out that the issue of regional governance is expected to come up again in this session. Mrs. Lafave reminded the Board members that the "Day on the Hill" will be held on March 2, 2005 and she encourages all Board members to attend.

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Lafave, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2004 regular meeting of the Board of Education as amended. APPRV. MINUTES 12/14/04

Aye: Mr. Egbertson, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Lafave, Mrs. Kenneson. Abstain: Mrs. Yard.

There was no Student Representative Report at this time. STD.REP. RPT.

Dr. Ohotnicky gave the reports from the Middle School Principal and High School Principal. MS/HS RPTS.

She announced that on April 9th 'Projection Graduation' is holding a tag sale at the Barkhamsted garage. Anyone who has items to donate should contact Mrs. Donna Williams at the High School. Dr. Ohotnicky also reported that there is a change in the exam schedule due to school closings. The exams will be held January 21st thru the 26th.

Dr. Ohotnicky reported on the recent bus accident which occurred on Tuesday January 11th. She said that cell phone reception was limited in the area depending on service providers. She reported that all responding parties performed well and students reacted to the situation very well. Chairman Thomson praised all involved for a quick and effective response time. Dr. Ohotnicky handed out the newsletter for the Board member's final approval. She said that Mrs. Joan Auclair was instrumental in formulating the newsletter and thanked her for her assistance. The newsletter will be going out later in the week.

Director of Finance and Operations Newbury distributed the budget report and the transfers that need the Board's approval. Mr. Newbury stated that the current oil prices have exceeded the budgeted amounts due to the unexpected high cost of fuel and that this is one of the reasons for the transfers in the report. Mr. Newbury also remarked that there was a need to make transfers between the Special Education accounts, although these transfers have no effect on the bottom line of the budget. BDGT. RPT.

MOTION by Mrs. Lafave, seconded by Mr. Egbertson, and passed unanimously, to approve the transfers as presented by Mr. Newbury. (See attached report).

Chairman Thomson explained to the Board that Updates have been added to the agenda to provide an opportunity for the Board members to question where past agenda items stand or to share progress in various areas. UPDATES

Mr. Thomson raised a question to the Curriculum Committee as to the updating of the presentation schedule. Mrs. Kenneson asked about the status of the Principal search. Dr. Ohotnicky responded that it would be on the agenda for the next Board meeting on January 25, 2005.

Dr. Ohotnicky relayed a message from Sergeant Thomas Serra thanking all school staff for their quick response to the recent bus accident. In addition she read a letter from Ginny Minihan praising the school personnel at the scene. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was read from the Education Connection offering a scholarship to a High School senior in one of their member districts. This information has been passed to the Guidance Department.

Leanne Fontana, reporter for the Register Citizen inquired whether the Legislative Breakfast was open to the public. She was told that it is not a public function, but members of the press are welcome to attend. PUBLIC

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MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to go into EXEC.
Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. SESSION

Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Egbertson, Mrs. Lafave, Mrs. Yard,
Mrs. Kenneson, Superintendent Dr. Roberts S. Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operations,
Newbury.

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to come out
of Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

MOTION BY Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the ADJOURN
meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sandra Re Johnson
Clerk