

Regional School District No. 7  
Board of Education Minutes  
March 8, 2005

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Egbertson ( 7:40 p.m.), Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Lafave, Mrs. Kenneson, High School Principal Conner, Middle School Principal Osypuk, Superintendent Dr. Roberta S. Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury, Visitors: Mr. Michael Fox, First Selectman Barkhamsted, Mr. William Baxter, First Selectman, New Hartford.

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

CALL TO ORDER

A brief question and answer period followed with members of the attending public.

PUBLIC

Mr. Michael Fox 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman of Barkhamsted inquired about the surplus monies in the budget and how it may affect the percentage in the increase to the towns. Finance Director Newbury responded that the higher than usual amount was due to a very favorable BAN market which was taken advantage of instead of issuing permanent financing in the form of bonds. A member of the public asked if Mr. Thomas Jokubaitis's recent review of the Administrative Organization was available for members of the public to review. Dr. Ohotnicky replied that it was available in the library for public review.

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2005 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

APPROVE  
MINUTES  
2/22/05

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Sweeney, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2005 special meeting of the Board of Education.

APPROVE  
MINUTES  
3/1/05

Middle School Principal Osypuk reminded the Board members of the upcoming Middle School PTO sponsored events. These include the 2<sup>nd</sup> "After School Fun Day" on March 15<sup>th</sup>, Parent's Day on April 28<sup>th</sup>, and Grandparent's Day on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Osypuk also reported that a course selection meeting for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents will be held on March 10, 2005. Middle School Guidance counselors will be in attendance to answer any questions the students or parents may have.

MS  
RPT.

High School Principal Conner reported on the following for the High School: 1.) The Ag-Ed program recently held its first "Come See What We Are All About Night" as part of their recruitment. Over 85 parents and potential students from within, and out of district attended. We also recently celebrated National FFA Week which involved many different activities. 2.) Northwestern Honors Math students recently took the American Mathematics exam at our school. Six of our students qualified for the second round of competition. These students placed in the top 5% of all students taking the test. The students are Matt Brett, Melissa Kitch, Nathan Smith, Robert Phillips, Rebecca Dunlop and Mariel Fredericksen. 3.) World Language Week is being celebrated this week. Fifty students from our French program will be attending a luncheon at the Litchfield Inn. 4.) Howard Winterson's "Law and Justice" class participated in a mock trial at Waterbury Superior court. 5.) The Science Department is in the process of their annual crime scene investigation. Students have to use their "tools" of forensic science in order to determine who the victim and the perpetrator are.

HS  
RPT.

- 6.) Our school is the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner of the Michael's Achievement cup in Class M Athletics. We also recently learned that for the second year in a row, the Michael's Jeweler's Unified sports committee recognized Northwestern as one of the top five schools in one or more of the committee's three categories of achievement. Fred Williams was named Connecticut Coach of the year and the Region One Coach of the year for Girl's basketball.
- 7.) Our Theater Arts and Music students will be performing selections from this years' spring musical "Tommy" during our annual Broadway Cabaret on the evening of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Dr. Ohotnicky commented on the letter recently received from NEASC and the accomplishments that the High School has achieved since the initial report. Dr. Ohotnicky stated that we have applied for and received grant monies in the amount of \$64,350.00 to be used for infrastructure needs within the school.

SUPER-  
INTEN-  
DENT  
RPT.

Director of Finance and Operations Mr. Newbury presented the budget report and the transfers that need the Board's approval. (See attached report.)  
MOTION by Mrs. Lafave, seconded by Mr. Egbertson, and approved unanimously, to approve the transfers as presented by Mr. Newbury.

BDGT.  
RPT.

Mrs. Lafave stated that she attended "Day on the Hill" which was held on Wednesday March 2, 2005. Mrs. Lafave stated that she will follow up with our representatives and update the Board members on their comments. Mrs. Lafave reported that she testified on the ECS Grant and Special Education funding at the Education Commission on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>.

UPDATES

The Board members continued their budget discussion concerning the Athletic Director position. Board members were asked to review the current job description of the Director of Athletics, Intramurals, and Student Activities. The Board discussed the language of the job description along with the job's goals. It was decided among the Board members that Candy Perez will be asked to attend the budget workshop to be held on Tuesday March 15, 2005 to discuss her position.

BDGT.  
DISCUSS

High School Principal Conner spoke to the Board members about his ideas, plans, and visions for the High School. He addressed the areas of curriculum, organization and climate needs. Principal Conner talked about expanding course offerings by adding more electives, reinstating at least two Languages in the World Language Department and expanding our offerings of Level One Honors courses in all curricular areas. Mr. Conner also talked about attending the "Breaking Ranks II" workshop this summer to become more familiar with research based practices and initiatives.

HIGH  
SCHOOL

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mrs. Sweeney, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Re Johnson

