

Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education
November 28, 2007

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Student Representative Michael Welch, Meghan McCoy, Averille Cantwell, Roger Newbury, Director of Finance and Operations, Middle School Principal Perez, High School Principal Conner, and Clint Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Molly Sexton, who will be the new Board of Education Representative for Barkhamsted, was present as an observer.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of November 14, 2007.

MINUTES
11/14/2007

Terry Padua, Media Specialist, reported on some highlights of her current curriculum. She stressed the importance of the difference between online databases that have and have not filtered extraneous information. Currently, the district pays approximately \$17,000 for online access to these useful, informative, and filtered databases. She also reported that she spent a great deal of time over the summer sorting through sections of the library and discarding outdated and unused books. She presented additional information about future plans, materials and activities of the Media Center.

MEDIA
CURRICULUM

Middle School Principal Perez reported that the Blue Ribbon program has been very useful to the teachers for practicing CMT skills and for getting immediate feedback on the results of students' tests. They are able to use this information as a baseline for instruction now and to compare the results of the CMT scores in the spring of 2008.

PRINCIPALS'
REPORTS

Principal Perez updated the Board on the NEASC visit, which she thought went very well. The team seemed enthusiastic about everything going on Middle School, but there were no concluding remarks by the team at the close of the evaluation.

NEASC

Principal Perez reported that the recent Parent-Teacher Conferences were well attended.

Principal Perez reported that the field trip to the Goodspeed Opera House to see *1776* was a Success, and students seemed to enjoy the experience. The field trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum was also reported to be a success, especially because of the small groups and interactive tours given by the museum staff.

Principal Perez reported that 40 Turkey Baskets were made for Thanksgiving.

Principal Perez reported that there are DVD's of the NEASC visit available for Board Members and additional DVD's available for the 1st Selectman of each town.

High School Principal Conner reported that the 80th National FFA Convention, which he recently attended, was a great experience. It is the largest student organization in the country and he has great respect for the agriculture programs. Lindsey Coone, a NWR7 student, earned a silver pin for her project and received a "good news" letter from Principal Conner in recognition of her achievement. Virginia Bruce, another NWR7 student, earned a bronze pin as a symbol of her accomplishment and she received a "good news" letter from Principal Conner as well.

Principal Conner reported that Gabe Hardin was recently awarded 1st place in the drama category at the International Student Media Festival in Anaheim, CA. He also received a “good news” letter from Principal Conner congratulating him on his achievement.

Principal Conner reported that both the girls soccer and volleyball teams made it to the 1st round of the state championship. Girls field hockey made it to the 2nd round.

Principal Conner reported that 22 students participated in the football co-op with Gilbert.

Principal Conner reported that there were 85 scholar athletes this fall, which means that these students played a sport and earned at least an 88% average. A list of these students was distributed.

Principal Conner reported that Fred Williams, girls soccer coach, received a letter from the Western Connecticut Soccer Officials Association congratulating the team on being voted by the soccer officials to receive the annual Ted Alex Sportsmanship Award in recognition of their outstanding sportsmanship throughout the 2007 season.

Principal Conner requested the Board consider supporting Simone Hull, World Language Department, in leading a trip to Costa Rica with a group of students studying the Spanish culture and language. After some discussion, the Board would like Ms. Hull to present some details of the proposed trip, for informational purposes, at the next meeting, December 12, 2007.

Principal Conner reported that the family, who is currently hosting a student from Ecuador, would like to host another exchange student in the future. This student will arrive in January from Argentina.

Principal Conner reported briefly that Ziad Al-Shorafat felt very at home at NWR, and he appreciated the hospitality shown to him while he was visiting.

Principal Conner reported on a plan whereby each foreign student that attended school here, and for each country visited by a Northwestern student, he would like to hang a flag of the nation from which the student came/visited. These flags will hang in the main atrium and the Board of Education members felt this would be an effective and dramatic display.

Superintendent Montgomery reported that the AlertNow Notification Service is ready for use, and a test will be conducted on 11/29/07 at 7 P.M. A letter to the parents and staff was sent regarding the test. Copies were included in the Board packet.

ALERTNOW
SERVICE

Superintendent Montgomery reported that there is now an ATM machine outside of the gym and an armed guard from Dunbar will be in and out of the building. There is a camera at the machine and another camera pointing at it at all times. He stated that he has consulted with the Winsted police regarding the scheduled visits of the armed guard.

ATM

Superintendent Montgomery requested that in an effort to involve the community more, the Board consider distributing “senior passes” to allow senior citizens of the towns to have free access to school-wide events. The Board supports the plan and Principal Conner agreed that the Graphics Department at the High School can make the passes.

SENIOR
PASSES

Superintendent Montgomery reported that Simone Hull has made a request for an educational/linguistic training trip to Costa Rica. Approximately ten students would attend from upper level classes. Mr. Montgomery indicated support for this request. The Board of Education requested additional information from Mrs. Hull at the next meeting.

Superintendent Montgomery reported that a couple from Norfolk has generously donated a very sophisticated telescope to be used by students and perhaps a future astronomy club. TELESCOPE

Superintendent Montgomery reminded the Board that he is looking for volunteers for the Strategic Plan Review Committee, which will start up in January 2008. STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Newbury reported that the proposal from Enviro-Firm for the removal of the gym floor, should be in by the end of next week. Once that is received, then the application to the state can be submitted. Samples of the choices of the new gym floor will be seen by the Board when they are all in. GYM FLOOR

The Strategic School Profiles' reports were reviewed by Principal Perez and Principal Conner with the Board. STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILES

Principal Perez felt that there were no significant changes in the middle school report.

Principal Conner noted that there was a steady increase in AP enrollment. He also noted that in 2007, 50% of students that took AP courses scored a 4 or better and 84% of students who took AP Calculus scored a 4 or better. He is also pleased that the honors program is expanded from 9th-12th grade, which gives students a greater opportunity to earn a higher GPA that will enable them to apply to better colleges.

Principal Conner reminded the Board that they will be up for accreditation review in 5 years and he plans to revise the mission statement over the next year in preparation for NEASC's visit to the High School in 2012.

No comment from the public. PUBLIC

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Griffey, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations and possible legal action. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Present in Executive Session: Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Griffey, Roger Newbury, Director of Finance and Operations, and Superintendent Montgomery.
Guest in Executive Session: Molly Sexton.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Griffey, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 9:14 p.m. PUBLIC

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Tera B. Dunn