

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

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard; Clint Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools, Roger Newbury, Director of Finance and Operations; High School Principal Wayne Conner, Shelby Mainville (new Student Representative to the Board).

Chairman Thomson called meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Thomson introduced new Student Representative, Shelby Mainville

NEW STD.REP.

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

PUBLIC

MOTION BY Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of June 11, 2008 with one correction.

MINUTES
6/11/08

Mr. Conner reported that the 2008 Graduation, held at The Warner, was perhaps the best ever.” In addition to being the 50th, some of the positives were the pageantry, excitement and decorum resulting from the faculty participation, an alumnus as keynote speaker, the graduates being “center stage” and well behaved. There were a few suggestions made about the details of the program. Kim Russ is putting together a survey to get the opinions of the parents and the 2009 graduates. The Warner would need to be booked for next year in September 2008 for the 2009 graduation if this is the decision of the Board. Project Graduation went well also, being “uneventful” and very enjoyable for the students. Mr. Conner also stated that the results from the CAPT testing scores show Northwestern did very well, better than last year. However, that information can not yet be shared at this time since it has been embargoed by the State of Connecticut.

HIGH SCH
PRINCIPAL
REPORT

Mr. Montgomery reported that the solar panels have been delivered to the installing company. The frames have also been delivered to EcoStream. The date of installation will depend upon the type of panel chosen by EcoStream. A new more efficient model will be available this September. Mr. Montgomery stated that he is still waiting for the final grant letter from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund detailing the amount dedicated to Regional #7.

SOLAR
PANELS

Mr. Montgomery provided a full-day in-service about establishing goals for Administration and staff next year. All schools in the State of Connecticut will be using the CALI (Connecticut Accountability For Learning Initiative). Focus is on the academics in a positive school climate and the use of Data Teams. Some Department Chairs will be trained this summer along with the administrators.

PROF.
DEVELOP.
ACTIVITIES

Mr. Montgomery reported that the Strategic Plan will eventually need to be re-developed.

STRATEGIC
PLAN

A plan is being put together to establish the new class schedule. Assemblies will be held with students to go over the new schedule and the new opportunities it presents for students	NEW SCHEDULE
There will be 16 regular education students from Hartland attending Northwestern Regional High School next year. A letter is going out offering free transportation. A second letter will go out later in August indicating location of the centralized bus stops.	HARTLAND STUDENTS/ TRANSP.
Mr. Montgomery explained that ProTraxx, a software program for the coordination of CEUs and professional development activities is being reviewed and considered.	PROTRAXX CEU/PROF. DEV.
Mr. Montgomery reported that the American Mural Project curriculum has been completed with a theme based on "Innovations of Immigrants."	AM. MURAL PRJT. CURRICULUM
The City of Neighborhoods Grant Project was also briefly explained by Mr. Montgomery.	CITY OF NEIGHBORHOODS
Envirothon, a Regional #7 team/club, took part in a competition in Windsor and placed 12 out of 35. Their project was explained briefly and was available in the room for Board members and audience members to examine.	ENVIROTHON TEAM COMPETITION
Mr. Montgomery stated Alcoa is also working with Regional #7 on a grant related to environmental sciences and astronomy.	ALCOA GRANT
Mr. Montgomery provided an update on the Intensive Learning Program with Winsted students. He stated that initially there were no referrals, but at this date, there are between 7 and 9 referrals.	RtI PROGRAM
Mr. Montgomery reported that The Safety in Driving Council is growing and is active. and working closely with the school to plan activities for next year.	SAFE DRIVING COUNCIL
Dattco Bus Company sent a letter instead of a bill for the four busses used for Graduation. They provided their services free of charge. Mr. Newbury will send a letter of thanks.	DATTCO BUSES
Mr. Newbury reported that the asbestos removal is proceeding and being constantly monitored by a company the school hired (EnviroTech). They are encountering some problems with the removal but that is not unusual. They are also going to do another small abatement project in the old physical education storage shed where the tile is breaking up and has evidence of asbestos.	ASBESTOS REMOVAL
Mr. Newbury indicated that he is in the process of finalizing the Vocational Agriculture grants we received.	VO-AG GRANT

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously to accept the Vo-Ag Grant, 207-0206, and to instruct the Superintendent or his designee to submit the grant to the State Department of Education for final calculation.

ACCEPT
VO-AG
GRANT

Mr. Montgomery discussed the concept of an Educational Endowment. Greg Cantwell, Selectman from Barkhamsted, sees a need for a Foundation designed to accept money to expand the opportunities available to students. This 501.C3 organization would work closely with the school, but be independent. The intention would be to avoid paying regularly budgeted items, but projects, programs and services outside of the budget that provide enrichment opportunities. Mr. Montgomery will be meeting with the superintendent from Region 19 who has a large and very successful endowment. He will be meeting on July 14 with Mr. Cantwell to see how to assist Mr. Cantwell and put together a Steering Committee.

EDUC.
ENDOW-
MENT

Three textbooks for Spanish were presented to replace 1996 books. It is a series of three, but only the first is to be purchased this year. They have been reviewed and approved by the teachers and Administration.

SPANISH
TEXTS

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to approve the purchase of Realidades 1, Realidades 2, Realidades 3 textbooks by Peggy Boyles, Richard Sayers, Myriam Met, Carol Wargin for Grades 7-12, Spanish IA, IB, II, III, and IV.

TEXTBOOK
APPROVAL

Regarding the plan for policy review, Mr. Montgomery reported he has been given the policy manual from Region 19 to use as a reference as needed. Mr. Montgomery will work with an administrative intern to use the CABE report to begin the writing of the Regional #7 manual.

PLAN FOR
POLICY
REVIEW

Mr. Montgomery reported that there is a signed agreement with the NTA which states that next school year (2008-2009) would include one additional instructional day to make up for the lost day in June due to weather related problems.

CALENDAR
CHANGE

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Sexton Read, and passed unanimously, to approve a modification to the 2009 school year calendar to include one additional instructional day.

The Board of Education Agenda Item 6.4 Board Self Evaluation was tabled.

BOE SELF EVAL.

The Board Of Education schedule of meetings was discussed by Mr. Thomson. Traditionally, the Board Of Education meets twice a month except for the months of July, August and December. It was decided to try to aim for one meeting per month. Mr. Thomson asked to make the Agenda for the first meeting of the month focused on actionable items. Members will need to be more prepared and informed. Also an attempt will be made to limit Department Chair presentations to 10-15 minutes. The Board of Education will meet on the second date only if needed.

BOE
SCHEDULED
MEETINGS

MOTION by Ms. Sexton Read, seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to accept the letter of resignation from Casey DiBella.

DiBELLA
RESIGNATION

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to accept the resignation of David Ambrose.

AMBROSE
RESIGNATION

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

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations. Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard, Mr. Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Newbury, Director of Finance and Operations.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to accept the Educational Assistants' contract as presented.

APPROVE EDUC.
ASSTS. CONTRACT

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Ober