

**Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
January 13, 2010
6:30 p.m.
Newbury Library Media Center**

Present:

Mark Lanctot	Barkhamsted
Molly Sexton Read	Barkhamsted
Janice Dorazio	Colebrook
Theresa Kenneson	Colebrook
Daniel Jerram	New Hartford
Rob Jerram	New Hartford
Tara Yard	Norfolk
Candy Perez	Middle School Principal
Wayne Conner	High School Principal
Shelby Mainville	Student Representative
Lior Trestman	Student Representative
Clint Montgomery	Superintendent of Schools
Roger Newbury	Director of Finance and Operations

Absent:

Don Torrant	Norfolk
-------------	---------

<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>
Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. after BOE pictures were taken for the school yearbook. Mr. Montgomery reported that he has received a letter from the Town of Barkhamsted indicating that Mr. Mark Lanctot has been sworn in for a BOE term from 1/1/1/ to 12/31/13.	CALL TO ORDER
None	PUBLIC PORTION
MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mr. D. Jerram, to approve the minutes of December 9, 2009 with the deletion of the presence of Mrs. Dorazio. Aye: Mr. D. Jerram, Mrs. Yard, Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. R. Jerram, Mr. Lanctot. Nay: None. Abstention: Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Dorazio	MINUTES December 9, 2009
Ms. Changying Bishop, the new Chinese teacher, provided an update on the Chinese (Mandarin) language program at both the middle and high schools. She indicated that there are 66 students currently taking Chinese classes and 35 students participating in the Chinese Club afterschool. She reported on her successful efforts in finding and connecting with a sister school in China. Various exchange opportunities have been planned. In addition, through another state sponsored program, a teacher from China will be visiting the school for several weeks this January.	CHINESE PROGRAM REPORT
Shelby Mainville discussed senior class activities with a focus on fundraising activities for worthy community needs. The class has been very successful in this regard and won recognition for raising the most amount of money on behalf of Diabetes treatment and research. Shelby also reported on the activities of the Senate and reported that the Student Senate will be looking for opportunities for donations for graduation (use of the Warner Theater). Lior Trestman stated that the new hand driers had been installed today in the high school girls' bathroom. He will continue to monitor the data regarding the cost versus the health and ecological benefits. Lior also reported on the senior class fundraising activities for families in the community. He reported that \$5500 had been raised to date for the benefit of 50 families.	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

<p>Ms. Perez provided a report on the middle school. She reported that the middle transition programs had begun (sixth grade to seventh and eighth grade to ninth grade in the high school). She also reported on the recent successful parents’ night and orientation, progress with the RtI program, and various technology initiatives.</p> <p>Mr. Conner remarked that he was pleased by the publicity surrounding the recent award of a Silver status to the Northwestern Regional High School. He also reported on the high school’s plan regarding outreach to Haiti and the support provided the high school teacher from Haiti who currently teaches French and Spanish. Mr. Conner also stated that he is working with a teacher of Arabic to initiate an Arabic Club at the school in the spring</p>	<p>REPORTS PRINCIPALS</p>
<p>Mr. Montgomery provided information on the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Montgomery indicated that the policy manual was approximately 70% complete and that he will set up a time with Dan Jerram and Janice Dorazio (Policy subcommittee of the BOE) to review the manual as soon as it is completed. 2. The Solar Project: Mr. Montgomery reported that the final aspects of the project have been completed and the system has been successfully tested. MP2, the owner of the system, is sending two of their own engineers from California within the next five days to do their own inspection. This last inspection is important since it is required to actually start the system. Once they have made their inspection and given their blessing, the switch would be thrown sometime next week. 3. Grants: Mr. Montgomery stated that he has been working with a representative from Lowe’s to submit a \$90,000 grant related to the development of a green technologies shop at the school. In addition, he stated that representatives from the district have been working with the NW Chamber of Commerce and NCCC on the CLP grant for \$300,000. This will take at least a month to complete and we will hear from CLP by April. NCCC would be the fiduciary agent and the money would be used by R7 for a full time Green Sciences Teacher, a Green Lab/Shop and materials. NCCC would use some of the funds to set up a certificate and associates degree in the Green sciences and technology fields. Lastly, Mr. Montgomery reported that staff will also continue to pursue the second level of School Improvement grant related to the Student Success Plans (we received the first phase of this grant last spring) The first phase has been completed and resulted in the creation of a platform for web based individualized plans for each student to address customized career planning and related course selection. There will be a report to the BOE by the guidance department regarding the Student Success Plans at one of the upcoming BOE meetings. 4. The Wind Turbine: After the approval of the Barkhamsted P and Z board, the next step will be to review the project with the BOE in February. 5. The Budget: We have completed the meetings with the town officials and have shared information about expectations for the coming year. The original budget projections and plans will need to dramatically altered based on the recent notice that the district’s insurance benefits will increase in the range of 30 to 35%. 6. Possible School Calendar Change: Mr. Montgomery explained that the changes made to the current calendar have resulted in one less student contact day in November. He indicated that the department heads and Instructional Leaders have requested that the calendar be adjusted so that the professional development days be moved from November to two other months (October and March). Mr. Montgomery stated that he will make a formal request to for a calendar change after discussing this more with the administration and will address it at one of next two BOE meetings. 	<p>SUPERINTENDENT REPORT</p>
<p>Mr. Newbury reported that negotiations have begun with the bus companies. Contracts will be arranged, as requested, so that all contracts will be aligned together.</p> <p>Mr. Newbury presented an overview of the plan for the selection of a high school principal for July 1st, 2010. He explained the interview and site visit process with a plan to have two BOE members on the interviewing committee. One final candidate would be presented to the BOE for</p>	<p>REPORTS DIRECTOR OF FINANCE</p>

3 | Board of Education Minutes

approval.	
Ms. Sexton Read indicated that the Reach To The Top (RTTT) grant will be sent in to the state with the understanding that the district could choose to opt out of the grant at a later date, depending on the benefits.	OLD BUSINESS
None	UPDATES
None	NEW BUSINESS
Mr. Montgomery indicated that there are two additional teachers who have turned in letters indicating that they have chosen to retire at the end of the school year. MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mr. D. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to accept letters of retirement from Mr. Favuzza and Mr. Veretto with regret.	CORRESPONDANCE
None	OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 8:34 p.m. for negotiations and contractual issues. Present in Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. Lanctot, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. R. Jerram, Mr. D. Jerram.	EXECUTIVE SESSION Negotiations and Contractual Issues
MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. The BOE members discussed the current budget crisis and the need to develop a budget as soon as possible that would reflect the impact of the large deficit on current staffing, services and programs. The BOE decided that they would hold the second BOE meeting of the month in January with the purpose of discussing the implications of the budget challenges.	RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION
MOTIN by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m.	ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,



Clint Montgomery, Superintendent