

**Regional School District No. 7  
Board of Education Minutes  
February 11, 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

APPROVED 3/10/10

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:**

Tara Yard	Norfolk
Don Tarrant	Norfolk

<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b>	<b><u>ISSUE</u></b>
Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:35.	CALL TO ORDER
None	PUBLIC PORTION
<b>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to accept the minutes of January 13, 2010 as presented.</b>	MINUTES January 13, 2010
<b>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to accept the minutes of January 27, 2010 as presented.</b>	January 27, 2010
<p>Shelby Mainville provided a report on recent senior events and activities of the Student Senate. She stated that the Senate was working on a variety of school wide events including a program to improve the appearance of the hallways, a recycling drive for graduation, and a plan to involve students in a "countdown" when the solar project is formally initiated. She also provided an update regarding high school sports events and successes.</p> <p>Lior Trestman reported that the new hand driers had been installed in the girls' bathroom in the high school and appeared to be a success. He distributed information regarding the financial advantages of the driers over paper towels and commented on the increased cleanliness of the bathroom in general. There was further discussion and a consensus that as funds became available, additional driers (at least one to begin with) would be purchased and installed in the boys' bathroom in the high school.</p>	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

<p>Ms. Perez provided a report on the status of the middle school. Her report included information about the upcoming CMT testing process for March, the transition process for students in the elementary schools to the middle school, and the bullying program that was presented today. She commented on the number of students who are taken from school during the “presidents’ week” and impact on the students.</p> <p>Mr. Conner provided a report on the high school. He reported on the recent program for parents on “internet Safety.” This program involved both middle and high school parents and was well attended and received. He also reported on recent academic successes at the high school, including the Oratorical contest, the recent Math Team success at New Milford High School (R7 won first place) and the upcoming program on safe driving called “Survive the Drive.”</p>	<p>REPORTS PRINCIPALS</p>
<p>Mr. Montgomery provided information on the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Calendar Changes: As a follow-up from the previous meeting in which there was discussion of possible changes to the coming year’s calendar, Mr. Montgomery described the recommended changes from the principals. The principals collected information from staff and instructional leaders and department heads that suggested that there were too many lost student contact days in November. Therefore, they suggested that the two current November professional development days be moved to October (the 8<sup>th</sup>) and January (the 3<sup>rd</sup>). They also recommended that the current professional development day for April 25<sup>th</sup> be moved to March 25<sup>th</sup>. At the request of Mr. Montgomery, the principals discussed the reasons for the proposed changes. There was discussion regarding the impact on transportation costs (no impact) and the possible impact on parents with multiple and differing professional development days between the elementary schools and the Regional Schools. It was suggested that this decision be tabled until additional information could be gathered regarding the differences in the various sending districts’ calendars for the coming year.</li> <li>2. The Solar Project: Mr. Montgomery reported that the solar panels were currently operational and producing power. He reported that the website is up and running with real time data on the production of power. He stated that the Clean Energy Fund has indicated that an energy audit must be conducted and that the Institute for Sustainable Energy has agreed to conduct this audit for no cost. This audit is in progress and will be completed by the end of February. In the mean time the television screen and computer for the main entrance hallway of the school have been donated by groSolar and will be installed in mid February.</li> <li>3. The Budget: Mr. Montgomery provided an overview of the current status of the budget process. He shared with the BOE members the assumptions and premises behind the budget for 2010-11. He stated that the major factors were the continuing economic crises, very large increases in medical benefit insurance costs, increases in salary costs due to contractual agreements, uncertain revenue streams, and significant increases in special education costs. He stated that the goal of the administration continues to be the preservation of high quality educational services for the middle and high school students while recognizing the impacts of the budget on the four communities. Mr. Montgomery indicated that the budget, with input from faculty leadership, resulted in an initial increase of approximately 4.6%. After several meetings with the administration, large cuts have been made to the budget so that it is anticipated that the 2010-11 budget will result in an increase under 2%. He also stated that, based on a motion from the last BOE meeting, letters have been sent to the various bargaining units requesting meetings to re-open the contracts for a discussion of possible concessions. Mr. Montgomery stated that the Administrative Unit had met to re-open their contract and agreed to freeze all administrative wages for the coming year. Mr. Montgomery and Ms. Sexton Read discussed the recent meeting with the NTA and stated that the NTA had voted to not re-open the contract at this time. A letter will be delivered to the BOE chair to provide additional information by this Friday.</li> </ol>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT REPORT</p>

<p>Mr. Newbury indicated that the current year’s budget has been frozen as of the beginning of the second semester. There was discussion of the process for meeting with the various town officials. It was agreed that, in spite of the fact that there had been ongoing meetings occurring, the BOE would continue to hold these budget meetings in each town again this year. Mr. Newbury will prepare a calendar for these meetings and present it at the next BOE meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Newbury also discussed the process for the principal search. Mr. Newbury distributed a flow chart that described the timing for each of the steps in the process. After discussion, it was agreed that the Screening Committee would meet at the end of February and the dates for interviewing would occur as soon as possible.</p> <p>Lastly, Mr. Newbury reported that it was expected that the price for oil would be fixed within the next few weeks. He is working with the consortium in attempting to determine the date for optimal pricing. Political and economic events have made this particularly difficult this year.</p>	<p>REPORTS DIRECTOR OF FINANCE</p>
<p>There was a discussion of Mrs. Kenneson’s request that the BOE consider an earlier start time for the meetings. After discussion, it was agreed to start the meetings at 6 p.m. for the months of March and April on a trial basis.</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to move the start time of regularly-scheduled Board of Education meetings to 6:00 p.m. for the months of March and April 2010.</b></p>	<p>OLD BUSINESS  UPDATES</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations and contractual issues. Present in Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. D. Jerram, Mr. R. Jerram, Mrs. Kenneson, Superintendent Montgomery and Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.</b></p>	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION Negotiations and Contractual Issues</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.</b></p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>

Respectfully Submitted,



Clint Montgomery, Superintendent