

**Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
February 24, 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
Don Tarrant	Norfolk

APPROVED 3/10/10

Candy Perez	Middle School Principal	excused
Wayne Conner	High School Principal	excused

Shelby Mainville	Student Representative	excused
Lior Trestman	Student Representative	excused

Clint Montgomery	Superintendent of Schools
Roger Newbury	Director of Finance and Operations

Absent:

None

DISCUSSION	ISSUE
Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:34.	CALL TO ORDER
Dawn Renfrew addressed the BOE with concerns regarding the reduction of staff in order to balance the upcoming budget. She made suggestions regarding re-organization of the administrative staff and also Prek-12 regionalism as more appropriate methods for reducing costs and saving instructional position. The BOE members addressed Ms. Renfrew's questions. Members also stated that it was possible that the issue of regionalism will be addressed in a more formal manner in the near future. BOE members decided to add this issue to the next BOE meeting. Additional questions regarding the budget and possible staff reductions were received from members of the press in the audience.	PUBLIC PORTION
Mr. Montgomery informed the BOE that school districts have been provided with information regarding an Alternative (Early) Graduation Initiative through the State Department of Education. High Schools have been asked to consider participating in this program where students who passed specific examinations would be able to concentrate on college classes through the community college programs. Mr. Montgomery stated that he had been in touch with Mr. Tom Murphy at the State Department of Education to gather additional information. Since this program has many similarities to the current Partnership Program with NCCC, Mr. Montgomery was encouraged to continue to gather information about the program and report back to the BOE. Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Newbury distributed copies of the 2010-2011 budget to BOE members. Mr. Montgomery provided information regarding the assumptions and the goals of the budget. There was a general discussion of the broad issues underlying the budget including the increases that have driven the budget higher for next year. Mr. Montgomery reported that the current budget calls for a 1.75% increase over last year. In order to reach this goal the budget calls for a reduction of 17.9 staff.	NEW BUSINESS

<p>Most of these positions to be discontinued are part-time to maintain as many programs and services as possible and also allow for increases in staff time should the economy recover in the near future.</p> <p>There was a discussion of the calendar of meetings for meeting with town officials to present and discuss the budget. It was decided to add an additional meeting for March 17, 2010 as a budget workshop and to hold one regular BOE meeting in Norfolk (March 24, 2010). In addition, Mr. Montgomery stated that there will be another meeting on March 5, 2010 at R7 with the Chairmen of the four Boards of Finance. Mr. Newbury will finalize the calendar of meetings after this meeting, which will include the BOE chair. It was requested that this calendar be emailed to each of the BOE members as soon as established. The New Hartford Board of Finance has requested that R7 representatives attend the Saturday workshop in New Hartford on March 13, 2010.</p>	
<p>None</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p>
<p>There were additional questions from Kari Banach from the Waterbury Republican regarding the issue of possible lost positions and the response of the various bargaining units to requests for concessions.</p>	<p>OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Tarrant, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations and contractual issues. Present in Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. Tarrant, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. R. Jerram, Mr. D. Jerram, Superintendent Montgomery, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION Negotiations and Contractual Issues</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Tarrant, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.</p>	<p>RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION</p>
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.</p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Clint Montgomery

Clint Montgomery, Superintendent