

Regional School District No. 7  
Board of Education Minutes  
March 9, 2011

PRESENT: Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Superintendent Palmer, MS Principal Perez, HS Principal Chichester, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury, Student Rep. Lior Trestman.

The meeting called to order by Ms. Sexton Read at 6:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Sexton Read introduced Mr. Noel Gauthier. Mr. Gauthier is the new Board of Education member representing New Hartford. Assurance of oath of office has been confirmed.

NEW HARTFORD  
BOE MEMBER

Mr. Richard St. John, of the FFA Consulting Committee/Parents and Friends of FFA member, presented a proposal for an FFA student exchange program within the FAA Chapters in the United States. Students will be selected by the Parents Group with input from the Advisors. This year's exchange, if approved, will be with Georgia. The students will spend one week with a host family and participate in their Chapters activities, along with visiting and learning about the Agricultural environment unique to their State. Mr. St. John has worked three years on this project, has contacted several other FFA Chapters that already have this program in place and other State Chapters that are interested in participating with Northwestern FFA. The Parents Group will pay for expenses.

FFA STUDENT  
EXCHANGE  
PROGRAM

**MOTION** by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to approve the FFA Student Exchange Program as presented by Mr. Richard St. John, subject to Superintendent review.

APPROVE  
FFA EXCHANGE  
PROGRAM

**MOTION** by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, to approve the minutes of February 23, 2011. AYE: Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Dorazio, Ms. Sexton Read. NAY: None. ABSTENTION: Mr. Gauthier. Motion passed.

MINUTES  
2/23/11

Student Representative Lior Trestman reported on the winter sports teams. He commented that the games have been well attended. The Penguin Plunge was a great success. The event raised over \$500.00. The Green Team has submitted a video and essay to CL&P for an opportunity to win a grant worth \$20,000. Several high schools are participating. The public can view and vote for their favorite school at [clpenvironment.com](http://clpenvironment.com). Recycling containers will be placed throughout the school to increase awareness in recycling.

STUDENT  
REP.  
REPORT

MS Principal Perez reported the CMT testing continues. A pilot program is being developed through Power School to allow this year's seventh grade to register for their eighth grade courses. This will provide more efficiency for the counselors and the opportunity to decrease their paperwork. Amanda Cormier, Guidance Counselor, continues to follow up on Rachel's Challenge with the middle school students.

PRINCIPALS'  
REPORTS

Principal Chichester reported Lindsey Williams, social worker, continues with a large group of high school students involved in Rachel's Challenge. He stated he is very impressed with the program and the students who continue to participate. The Parenting Course has been a success, 15 parents are attending and participating. The staff and students

wish to welcome one of our two Chinese students, “Kona” Zhou Mengyu. Kona started school today and will be here for the next year. Mr. Chichester stated the CAPT testing is in progress.

Superintendent Palmer reported on two new clubs, one for the High School and one for the Middle School, “Friends of Rachel”. They will meet during the school day and after school. Both clubs will share resources. Dr. Palmer reported on the expansion and need for increased space for the Highlander Program run by Pam Lombard. Some of the students will be attending class at the Joyner Learning Center at NCCC. The core program continues at Torrington UCONN branch. Mrs. Kenneson requested an update presentation to the BOE on the Shared Services programs. Dr. Palmer will make arrangements.

SUPT.  
REPORT

Superintendent Palmer announced the arrival of our first Chinese student, Kona, and the second student will be arriving next week.

CHINESE  
STUDENT

Dr. Palmer will be sending out a “Good News” letter to the school community in the near future.

SUPT. “GOOD  
NEWS” LETTER

Director of Finance and Operations Newbury read a request from Doug Sebach to use the gymnasium July 18-22, 2011 for the Highlander Basketball Camp. This will be the 19<sup>th</sup> year it has been held at Northwestern. The camp includes grades three through eight and 95% of the students are from our Regional District towns.

HIGHLANDER  
BASKETBALL  
CAMP

MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to approve use of the gym from July 18, 2011 to July 22, 2011 by Mr. Doug Sebach for the Highlander Basketball Basketball Camp.

APPROVE  
GYM USE FOR  
CAMP

Mrs. Dorazio reminded the board members of the Regionalization Committee meeting on Monday, March 7, 2011.

REGIONALI-  
ZATION UPDATE

The second Reading of Policy 5131.81 – Electronic Devices was held.

MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to approve revised Policy 5131.81 Electronic Devices.

APPROVE  
POLICY 5131.81

Review took place on the 2011–2012 working budget. Athletics, student activities, salaries, stipends and overtime were discussed.

BUDGET  
DISCUSSION

Ms. Sexton Read received correspondence from King and King Associates, Auditors, that the Audit was completed and passed.

AUDIT  
COMPLETED

MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye M. Sweeney, Board Clerk