

**Regional School District No. 7  
Board of Education Minutes  
March 10, 2010  
6:00 p.m.  
Roger Newbury Library Media Center**

**Present:**

Daniel Jerram                      New Hartford  
Molly Sexton Read              Barkhamsted  
Janice Dorazio                    Colebrook  
Mark Lanctot                      Barkhamsted  
Rob Jerram                         New Hartford

CORRECTED AND APPROVED 3/24/10

Lior Trestman                    Student Representative

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

Wayne Conner                    High School Principal  
Candy Perez                      Middle School Principal

**Absent:**

Don Torrant                        Norfolk  
Theresa Kenneson                Colebrook  
Tara Yard                         Norfolk  
Shelby Mainville                Student Representative

<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b>	<b><u>ISSUE</u></b>
Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. while waiting for a quorum.	CALL TO ORDER
There were questions from the audience regarding the budget progress in regard to funds paid to teachers who are pursuing a Master's degree, wage freezes and concessions, and areas of cuts in the proposed budget.	PUBLIC
<b>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2010 meeting, as presented.</b>	MINUTES
<b>MOTION by Mr. Lanctot, seconded by Mr. R. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting, as presented.</b>	February 11,2010 February 24, 2010
Lior Trestman provided a report regarding the activities of high school students. He indicated that the Student Senate is working on a variety of ideas for generating donations for graduation at the Warner Theater. He also discussed the school's cell phone policy and indicated that recommendations will be forthcoming from the student representatives. Lastly, he reported on various sports events and community service activities, especially in relation to the Haitian crises.  There was a general discussion among BOE members regarding the use of cell phones and the policies in the middle and high schools. Stricter enforcement of cell phone policies have been recently instituted due to the rise in accidental 911 calls.	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS
Brief reports were provided by the principals on school activities. Ms. Perez provided an update on the CMT testing schedule, middle school social academic and activities, and plans for upcoming end of the year events. Ms. Perez also reported on the recent meeting in which the principals	PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

<p>were invited to attend and host the regularly scheduled Superintendents’ Council Meeting. Mr. Conner reported that the Arabic Language Club will begin on March 22. He also reported on the upcoming parent meeting and workshop related to drug and alcohol education and prevention information.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DISCUSSION OF THE “ALTERNATE GRADUATION INITIATIVE” (BAORD EXAMINATION SYSTEM): Mr. Montgomery reported on the workshop that several teachers and administrators will be attending on March 16<sup>th</sup> regarding a new initiative in the area of alternate graduation pathways. He indicated that the state is initiating a pilot program in this area to address improving the transition from high school to college. This initiative is in line with the current activities that are ongoing between R7 and NCCC.</li> <li>2. GRADUATION: Mr. Montgomery stated the date for graduation has been established for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. This date will be shared with staff and also placed on the R7 website.</li> <li>3. INITIATION OF THE SOLAR PROJECT: Mr. Montgomery stated that the solar panels began producing power on December 31<sup>st</sup> and that the output can be monitored through the “DECK” website available as a link on the district’s website. He also indicated that the monitor and computer that was donated by groSolar has been mounted in the school lobby and will be turned on during the “countdown” when the required energy audit has been completed in the next two weeks.</li> </ol>	<p>SUPERINTENDENTS’ REPORT</p>
<p>Mr. Newbury provided a financial report with a request for approval of several transfers. Mr. Newbury also reported on the status of the principal search process. He distributed a chart with the diagram displaying the time line and flow of activities to result in the selection of the final candidate. He indicated that the process has evolved so that four candidates will spend an entire day at R7 and meet with a variety of groups for input to the superintendent and eventually to the BOE. Mr. Newbury will post the flow chart on the website to share information about the process with the community.</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to accept the budget transfers as presented.</b></p>	<p>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>OLD BUSINESS Updates</p>
<p>Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Newbury reviewed the updated budget with the BOE members and distributed the updated copies of the Object Budget. Mr. Montgomery indicated that the budget increase remained at a 1.75% increase which resulted in an increase of assessment to only one of the four towns. The assumptions and rationale associated with the development of the budget were repeated and discussed. Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Newbury and Ms. Sexton Read indicated that the budget had been designed to maximize staff retentions and minimize program disruptions.</p> <p>There was discussion among the BOE members and administration regarding various line items and questions about areas where additional saving could be realized. Although there was no action taken on the budget, there was a general consensus that the general design and direction of the budget was in line with BOE recommendations.</p>	<p>OLD BUSINESS Budget Review</p>
<p>REGIONALIZATION: Ms. Sexton Read opened this discussion from the last BOE meeting with a summary of information from meetings with various town officials who have indicated interest in pursuing additional discussion regarding this topic. She reviewed the process to reach regionalization as provided by the school attorney. After a period of discussion and comments by the BOE members it was decided to table this topic until the BOE had completed the budget process.</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS Regionalism</p>

<p>Ms. Sexton Read indicated that letters had been received from all of the bargaining units. She indicated that the Administrative unit had agreed to a freeze while the other units declined at this time to open the contracts for discussion of possible concessions.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE  Letters from Bargaining Units</p>
<p>Additional questions from the audience were addressed to the BOE and administration regarding the possible loss of staff and programs due to cuts. Other questions addressed the impact on class size and other district services to students.</p>	<p>OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations and contractual issues. Present in Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. D. Jerram, Mr. R. Jerram, Mr. Lanctot, Superintendent Montgomery, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.</b></p>	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 8:56 p.m.</b></p>	<p>RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mr. R. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to accept the timeline for the Regional Board of Education budget development including changing the first regularly-scheduled Board of Education meeting in April to April 19, 2010.</b></p>	<p>POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mr. D. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.</b></p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>

Respectfully Submitted,



Clint Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools