

**Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
March 24, 2010
6:00 p.m.
Botelle School Cafeteria, Norfolk**

Present:

Mark Lanctot	Barkhamsted
Molly Sexton Read	Barkhamsted
Theresa Kenneson	Colebrook
Janice Dorazio	Colebrook
Rob Jerram	New Hartford
Daniel Jerram	New Hartford
Don Tarrant	Norfolk
Tara Yard	Norfolk

APPROVED 4/19/2010

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

Absent: None

<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>
At 7 p.m. Ms. Sexton Read initiated the Informal Meeting for the presentation of the R7 budget to Norfolk residents and town officials.	INITIATION OF THE INFORMAL MEETING
<p>Ms. Sexton Read presented the R7 budget with a detailed analysis of the assumptions and major factors influencing the budget, indicating that the budget was designed to be a balance between the difficult economic times, the needs of the community and the importance of maintaining quality programming at the middle and high schools. She reviewed the major areas of increase and decrease that resulted in a total budget increase of 1.75% over last year. She indicated that Norfolk realized the greatest increase in the assessment due to the relationship between the higher number of Norfolk students and the decrease in students from the other three towns.</p> <p>Questions from the audience were answered by BOE members and administrators in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The increase in special education costs (approximately \$400,000), 2. The increase in insurance costs and the reasons for this increase (approximately \$400,000), 3. The impact on services and programs to students by the 1.75% increase and the reduction in staffing (slightly larger class size, reduction in the number of classes available to students), 4. The BOE's attempts at seeking concessions from the various bargaining units (several meetings were held with the NTA with no agreement to date. The administration agreed to a freeze in salary for the coming year), 5. The amount saved if a full freeze was obtained with the teachers' contract (approximately \$308,000). 	INFORMAL PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET
Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 7:57 p.m. while waiting for a quorum.	CALL TO ORDER
None	PUBLIC

<p>MOTION by Mr. Lanctot, seconded by Mr. D. Jerram, to accept the minutes of the March 10 Board of Education meeting as corrected. Aye: Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. Tarrant, Mr. D. Jerram, Mr. R. Jerram. Nay: None: Abstentions: Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Lanctot. Motion passed.</p>	<p>MINUTES March 10, 2010</p>
<p>None</p> <p>Mr. Montgomery indicated that at the last meeting it was decided that the issue of “Pay for Play” would be discussed at the current meeting. Mr. Montgomery stated that members of the BOE have requested a study be conducted regarding the number of students participating in various activities, sports, and clubs. It was also requested that an estimate of possible revenue be prepared. He distributed this report to the BOE members. Mr. Montgomery indicated that the study showed a very large number of students participating in these various activities and that approximately \$43,000 would generated through sports activities alone if \$50 per sport was charged. Mr. Montgomery stated that he concurred with Mr. Williams, the Athletic Director, that charging for these activities would result in a drop in the numbers of participants and might be discriminatory against those with limited resources.</p> <p>There was a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of “Pay for Play” with several BOE members expressing reservations about instituting this charge for any student activity. There was discussion about a possible survey in the future and the consensus of the BOE members was to table the discussion and decision for a later date.</p> <p>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to table discussion of activity fees.</p>	<p>REPORTS</p> <p>OLD BUSINESS</p> <p>Discussion of Activities Fees</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>After additional discussion of the R7 budget, a consensus was reached to maintain the budget at the current increase with no changes.</p> <p>MOTION by Mr. Tarrant, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to adopt a budget of \$17,910,412. to take to the District Hearing.</p> <p>The BOE discussed the District Budget Hearing date and agreed to hold this meeting on April 19, 2010 on the same date as the regular BOE meeting.</p> <p>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to accept the Call of the District Hearing as read.</p>	<p>OLD BUSINESS</p> <p>Budget Review</p> <p>Adoption of the Budget</p> <p>District Budget Hearing Date 4/19/10</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p>

A question was addressed to the BOE members and administration regarding the details of a possible survey of parents and/or community residents regarding the issue of activities fees.	OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS
MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. for the purpose of a possible expulsion hearing and negotiations. Present in Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. Tarrant, Mr. D. Jerram, Mr. R. Jerram, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Lanctot, Superintendent Montgomery, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.	EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.	RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION
MOTION by Mr. Tarrant, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.	ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Clint Montgomery

Clint Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools