

**Regional School District No. 7  
Board of Education Minutes  
March 11, 2009  
6:30 P.M.  
Newbury Library-Media Center**

**Present:**

Molly Sexton Read	Barkhamsted
Mark Lanctot	Barkhamsted
Janice Dorazio	Colebrook
Theresa Kenneson	Colebrook
Daniel Jerram	New Hartford
Schuyler Thomson	Norfolk
Tara Yard	Norfolk

**APPROVED 3/25/09**

Averill Cantwell	Student Representative
Clint Montgomery	Superintendent of Schools
Roger Newbury	Director of Finance and Operations
Wayne Conner	High School Principal

**Absent:**

Shelby Mainville	Student Representative
John Griffey	New Hartford
Candy Perez	Middle School Principal

<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b>	<b><u>ISSUE</u></b>
Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.	CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Greg Cantwell addressed the BOE regarding the Highlander Education Foundation. Mr. Cantwell indicated that the foundation has been officially established and has begun accepting funds. He described the purpose of the foundation, i.e., to accept applications for services, programs, materials, etc. from any source that would benefit Northwestern Regional students. He indicated that no funds are solicited for programs or staff or services that should be funded through the regular district budget. He described the next steps to the process, including setting up a brochure and a website. It was suggested that information (and an eventual link to the website) be placed on the current R7 website.  Several town officials in attendance responded to Ms. Sexton Read's invitation for input regarding the proposed R7 budget for 2009-2010. Town officials were thankful to the BOE for the zero increase to the budget, but also suggested that the BOE undertake long term planning for contingencies depending on how long the negative economic conditions continue.	PUBLIC PORTION  Educational Foundation    Town Officials Input regarding the Budget
<b>MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of February 25, 2009, as presented.</b>	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mr. Bruce Van Valen provided an overview of the new schedule for the middle and high schools which had been designed by a committee within the guidelines approved by the BOE previously. He described the major components and the desired outcomes and advantages. He stated that information about the new schedule had been presented to the current tenth and eleventh grade	PRESENTATION OF THE NEW SCHEDULE

<p>students at a recent assembly since it would impact some of the students' selection of classes. He also described the current program opportunities for these students that have resulted from the change in the schedule. Lastly, he described the administrative guidelines that have been developed to assist in the coordination and organization of these program options. It is hoped that between ten and twenty students will take advantage of these options during the first year of the schedule change.</p>	
<p>Averill Cantwell provided a report on high school activities highlighting the results of the winter sports. She reported on the successes of both the girls' and boys' basketball teams and described the planned United Nations trip sponsored through the school's LEO club.</p>	<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS</p>
<p>Ms Perez was not available due to the superintendent's request that she cover one of the out of district basketball games. Mr. Conner read a letter from her requesting approval for the River Cruise event.</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, second by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to approve the middle school Second Annual Dinner Cruise for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade scheduled for May 30, 2009.</b></p> <p>Mr. Conner provided a high school report, highlighting the recent parent meetings regarding the Safe Teen Driving and Substance Abuse initiatives. He discussed the survey created by the Substance Abuse Task Force that would require BOE approval prior to completion by the students. This survey will be administered through the computer to both middle and high school students. He also reported on the status of the postings for the proposed positions resulting from resignations and retirements.</p>	<p>PRINCIPAL REPORTS</p>
<p>The superintendent's report included an update on the status of graduation. He stated that the district has been able to secure the June 19<sup>th</sup> date for the graduation at the Warner Theater. This is the last day of school and represents an ideal date for the parents and staff participation. He indicated that Mr. Blumenthal has reserved that date as speaker for graduation.</p> <p>Mr. Montgomery also updated the BOE on the status of the Data Teams that meet once a month as a result of the latest teacher contract. He stated that Mr. Chichester will make a detailed presentation on the Data Teams at a subsequent meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Montgomery reported on the impact of the new schedule on the relationship between R7 and the NCCC. He stated that there will be many new opportunities for students to take free classes through the college and the conditions necessary for taking these classes. He presented the Memorandum of Understanding from the college and requested approval from the BOE.</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to approve and authorize the Superintendent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Northwestern Connecticut Community College relative to college courses to be offered to Regional #7 students.</b></p> <p>Mr. Montgomery also updated the members on the status of the proposed wind turbine project with Optiwind. He indicated that R7 was one of four possible sites and should R7 be chosen, a full presentation would be made to the board for consideration.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</p>
<p>Mr. Newbury provided a brief report related to the proposed dates for presentation of the budget to the towns. He reported on the recent meeting with New Hartford and stated that there will be a meeting this Saturday again with the New Hartford Board of Finance.</p>	<p>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT</p>

<p>Ms. Sexton Read discussed the issue of the budget referendum and discussions that have recently been held with town officials.</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mr. Thomson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to take the 2009-2010 budget to referendum on May 5, 2009. Aye: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Thomson. Nay: Mrs. Dorazio, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard. Motion passed.</b></p>	<p>OLD BUSINESS: Updates</p>
<p>Mr. Montgomery reviewed the changes that were made to the two policies addressed at the most recent BOE meeting.</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Thomson, and passed unanimously, to approve Policy #4118.231/4218.231 – Smoking, Drinking, and Use of Drugs on School Premises.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to approve Policy #6162.51 – Survey of Students.</b></p> <p>Mr. Montgomery also distributed a proposal for a policy regarding the use of private vehicles to transport students. He discussed the legal and financial concerns related to this practice which is will be officially prohibited through this policy.</p> <p>The BOE reviewed with the administration the proposed 2009-2010 budget. There was discussion of specific line items as well as the materials to be used in the presentation to the towns. Mr. Montgomery stated that the administration was able to retain the .6 FTE math teacher position (originally cut from the budget) by making changes in the purchased services account.</p>	<p>OLD BUSINESS</p> <p>Policy #4118.231/ 4218.231-Smoking, Drinking &amp; Use of Drugs on School Property Policy #6162.51- Survey of Students</p> <p>Policy Discussion- Use of Private Vehicles</p> <p>2009-2010 working Budget</p>
<p>Mr. Montgomery read a letter from Ms. Sarah Guenther resigning from her full time position as high school math teacher. He stated that it is the expectation that the administration will work with Ms. Guenther to make a transition to the .6 math position that is now open. In this way, a full time math teacher position will be open at the high school and this will be much more easily filled.</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mr. Thomson, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to accept the resignation of Sarah Guenther.</b></p> <p>Mr. Montgomery also read a letter from Ms. Jennifer Hurley-Coughlin that requested a leave for maternity.</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to accept the leave request of Jennifer Hurley-Coughlin in accordance with F.M.L.A. regulations.</b></p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Guenther Resign.</p> <p>Hurley-Coughlin Leave</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mr. Thomson, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.</b></p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

*CA Montgomery*  
Clint Montgomery,  
Superintendent of Schools