

**Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
April 7, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Colebrook Town Hall
SPECIAL MEETING**

Present:

Molly Sexton Read	Barkhamsted
Theresa Kenneson	Colebrook
Janice Dorazio	Colebrook
Daniel Jerram	New Hartford
Don Tarrant	Norfolk

APPROVED 4/19/2010

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

Absent:

Tara Yard	Norfolk
Rob Jerram	New Hartford
Mark Lanctot	Barkhamsted

<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>
Ms. Sexton Read determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.	CALL TO ORDER
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. It was explained that the major factors impacting the budget were significant increases in special education costs, health insurance premiums, and contractual obligations. Ms. Sexton Read discussed various activities for increasing revenue, including efforts at attracting additional tuition students. 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 Colebrook realized the a decrease in the R7 assessment of \$16,184 related primarily to the decrease in Colebrook students attending the middle and high schools in relation to other districts.	INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET
Questions and comments from the public were addressed by the BOE and administration. Concerns were expressed by some of the public regarding the loss of middle school staff and the impact on the program and services. It was explained that although there will be an impact on class size, the average class should be within a range of 18 to 20 students depending on the team and specific class. Ms. Perez is in the process of finalizing the middle school schedule and every effort will be made to maintain services and programs. It was also explained that the staffing plan calls for non-renewed staff to be re-hired at .6 full time equivalents and that the "looping" program will continue. In response to questions about study halls, it was explained that the current plan calls for no student in seventh or eighth grade to have more than two daily study halls. Some members of the public requested that the BOE attempt to find other sources of revenue or cuts in order to fully staff four teams at the middle school. In response to a question regarding the cost of reinstating the middle school staff, Mr. Montgomery stated that the cost would be approximately \$100,000. There was a question from the public regarding the exploration of a "Pay for Play" plan for generating revenue. Ms. Sexton Read indicated that this	PUBLIC INPUT

<p>topic has been explored in depth by the BOE and was rejected for present but was also tabled for additional discussion for future budgets. An additional question was addressed to the BOE regarding concessions by the various contractual units at R7. Ms. Sexton Read indicated that the teachers had been approached on several occasions regarding concessions and chose not to enter into informal or formal negotiations regarding this topic. She added that the administrative unit did meet and agreed to a freeze for the coming year.</p>	
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of personnel. Present in Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Tarrant, Mr. D. Jerram, Superintendent Montgomery and Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION</p>
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.</p> <p>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Kenneth L. Chichester with confidence and full support as high school principal beginning July 1, 2010.</p>	<p>RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION</p> <p>K. CHICHESTER APPOINTED PRINCIPAL</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Tarrant, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.</p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>

Respectfully Submitted,



Clint Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools