

**Regional School District No. 7**  
**District Budget Hearing and Board of Education Minutes**  
**April 19, 2010**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**Roberta S. Ohotnicky Little Theater**

**Present:**

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

APPROVED 5/12/2010

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

**Absent:**

Candy Perez              Middle School Principal – excused – scheduling conflict

<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b>	<b><u>ISSUE</u></b>
<p>Ms. Sexton Read called the District Budget Hearing meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Confirmation was established that the meeting had been posted appropriately in all towns.</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p>
<p>Ms. Sexton Read provided a brief presentation on the 2010-11 budget. She reviewed the expenses and revenue, stating that there are no new programs and staff in the budget. She discussed the staff layoffs in relation to the need to have the budget reflect the current economic conditions and the needs to the community. She also emphasized that class sizes and offerings would be impacted by this budget but that every attempt had been made to minimize the reduction of services to students. She stated that should any additional revenue be available through grants or teacher concessions, then staff and programs would be able to be reinstated.</p> <p>Several residents and parents in attendance responded to Ms. Sexton Read’s invitation for input regarding the proposed R7 budget. Questions and comments focused on the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Concern regarding the reduction of an art teacher and the impact on the arts at the two schools.</li> <li>2. The loss of electives for students to choose from.</li> <li>3. The need to maintain programming for special education students within the district and the financial and social benefits associated with this action.</li> <li>4. The application of any savings to the budget from the installation of the solar panels.</li> <li>5. The impact on the middle school schedule and services due to the loss of part of one of the four middle school teams. There was a request to return the middle schools teachers from this team to full time status (five staff were reduced to .6 FTE).</li> </ol>	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET</p> <p>INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC</p>

<p>6. Consideration for the initiation of a charge for student activities and “Pay for Play.”</p> <p>7. The change in accounting for special education excess costs.</p> <p>Ms Sexton Read adjourned the District Budget Hearing at 7:43 p.m. when there were no additional questions or comments.</p>	
<p>Ms. Sexton Read called the BOE meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>PUBLIC</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting as presented.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mr. D. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2010 meeting as presented.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2010 meeting as presented.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Torrant, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2010 meeting as presented.</b></p>	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>3/17/2010</p> <p>3/24/2010</p> <p>3/31/2010</p> <p>4/7/2010</p>
<p>Since Ms. Perez had a conflict in her schedule and could not attend, Mr. Conner reported on some of the recent activities in the middle school, especially the Grandparents’ Day Breakfast.</p> <p>Mr. Conner also provided a high school report, highlighting a variety of recent awards and recognitions that high school staff and students had received</p>	<p>PRINCIPAL REPORTS</p>
<p>Mr. Montgomery acknowledged Mr. Ken Chichester in the audience and pointed out the fact that he had very recently appointed as the next high school principal at the Northwestern Regional High School. Comments of support were addressed to Mr. Chichester by others on the BOE and audience.</p> <p>Mr. Montgomery also provided brief updates on the solar and wind turbine projects and the International Student Project. He indicated that there are currently two students from China who will attend on a tuition basis in the fall and others were being sought.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT</p>
<p>No report</p>	<p>DIR. FINANCE &amp; OPER. REPORT</p>
<p>Ms. Sexton Read read the Call of the Annual District Budget Meeting and referendum question..</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to adopt the Call of the District Budget Meeting as presented.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION by Mr. Torrant, seconded by Mr. D. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to adopt a budget of \$17,910,412. to present to the Annual District Budget Meeting on May 3, 2010.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to adopt the referendum question as read.</b></p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>Annual District Budget Meeting</p> <p>Adoption of Budget</p> <p>Adoption of the Referendum Question</p>

<p>Ms. Sexton Read read a letter from Ms. Joanne Galenski notifying the BOE of the need for a maternity leave for the coming year. No action was necessary at this time</p> <p>Ms. Sexton Read also addressed an email that was sent to her and others from an Art Teacher regarding concern over the loss of one of the department’s staff due to attrition through retirement. Ms. Sexton Read indicated that she had received six emails in response to this email to staff and parents and that staff positions would be considered for reinstatement should other revenue become available. No action was taken by the BOE.</p> <p>Ms. Sexton Read read a letter from Mr. Doug Sebach regarding the Highlander Basketball Camp and the use of the school’s gymnasium.</p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to approve a request by the Highlander Basketball Camp to use the gymnasium for a summer basketball camp. The rental fee to be the same as last year (\$1,400.00).</b></p> <p>Lastly, Ms. Sexton Read read a letter from the New Hartford Selectmen requesting that a self study be initiated regarding the issue of expansion of grades within the Regional School District NO.7 through regionalizing the Pre-K through 8 programs that send students to the district. After some discussion by the BOE, it was the consensus that this request must come from two other BOE’s and further discussion would occur after the referendum vote.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>J. GALENSKI MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST</p> <p>HIGHLANDER BASKETBALL CAMP</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. for the purposes of negotiations, contractual issues and personnel issues. Present in Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. Torrant, Mr. D. Jerram, Mr. R. Jerram, Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Lanctot, Mrs. Yard, Superintendent Montgomery and Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 9:13 p.m.</b></p>	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> <p>RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to cancel the second regularly-scheduled Board of Education in April (April 28, 2010).</b></p> <p><b>MOTION by Mr. D. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to accept with regret the resignation of Paul Orrell effective June 30, 2010.</b></p>	<p>CANCELLATION OF 4/28/10 BOE MTG.</p> <p>P. ORRELL RESIGNATION</p>
<p><b>MOTION by Mr. Torrant, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.</b></p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

*CA Montgomery*  
Clint Montgomery,  
Superintendent of Schools