

**Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
May 13, 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

CORRECTED AND APPROVED
June 10, 2009

Shelby Mainville	Student Representative
Averill Cantwell	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:

John Griffey	New Hartford
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<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>
Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.	CALL TO ORDER
<p>Mr. Thomson introduced Mr. Don Tarrant as the new Norfolk representative to the R7 BOE since Mr. Thomson's term will end in June.</p> <p>A number of student visitors were identified as members of a Civics class or possible candidates for the eleventh grade student representative position on the BOE for the coming year.</p> <p>Ms Shelley Lloyd addressed the BOE by congratulating them on the 0% increase and the successful passage of the referendum last week.</p> <p>Mr. Conner introduced the representatives from the Mountainside Program (Terry Doherty, President, and Steve Langley, Outreach Coordinator). They explained the services that they provided to students at NWR7 High School and expressed support for the program and indicated that R7 was the first high school to invite the Mountainside program into the school. The response from students has been enthusiastic. Mr. Conner indicated that the program has been in the school for a number of years and the involvement and comfort of students has increased each year. There was a request from some of the BOE members that the administration consider involving the Mountainside Program in the middle school.</p>	<p>PUBLIC PORTION</p> <p>Mountainside program presentation</p>
MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, to accept the minutes of April 8, 2009 as presented. Aye: Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard, Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Lanctot. Nay: None. Abstention: Mrs. Dorazio, Mr. Thomson. Motion passed.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<p>Shelby provided a report that included information on the National Honor Society activities, including key fundraising events that were very successful, Spring sports activities, and the Junior Prom which was held recently.</p> <p>Averill reported on the end of the year senior students' events and activities, the recent AP testing, and transition plans for college (including her own to Harvard in the fall).</p>	<p>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS</p>
<p>Ms. Perez also discussed the end of the year events and activities of the middle school, including the Make a Difference Club that addressed activities supporting local soldiers going off to duty overseas. Ms. Perez provided a schedule of academic awards and promotion ceremonies for the seventh and eighth graders. She also stated that there were currently 135 students participating on the Boat Trip planned for May 30th. Lastly, she reported on the final events planned for the successful transition of six graders to seventh grade.</p> <p>Mr. Conner congratulated Ms. Shelley Lloyd on her son's successful graduation from his master's program and invitation to join the highly successful Synergy Brass. Mr. Conner described the schedule of events and activities for the high school for the spring. He stated that the Senior Prom was scheduled for Friday at the Aqua Turf. He reminded the BOE that there would be a ceremony celebrating the top ten students (seniors) at the next BOE meeting on June 10th.</p> <p>It was agreed without any objection to move the Hiring Report up to this part of the agenda. Mr. Montgomery reported that four teachers of the six needed had been hired by the district. He reported that they were excellent candidates who were very enthusiastic about working at NWR7. He stated that the following positions have been filled: Middle School Guidance Counselor, Middle School Science Teacher, High School Math Teacher, and Chinese Teacher. Mr. Montgomery provided information regarding the new Chinese teacher while Ms. Perez provided information regarding the new guidance counselor and science teacher, and Mr. Conner provided information about the new math teacher.</p>	<p>PRINCIPAL REPORTS</p>
<p>The superintendent's reported on the following issues:</p> <p>Graduation: Mr. Montgomery stated that a series of meetings have been held with the class advisors and the Warner Theater and other schools using the Warner. Arrangements have been made with the agency providing the risers to reduce the cost based on the coordinated graduation dates among several of the school districts. Mr. Montgomery stated that the estimates remain the same and that all costs associated strictly with the use of the Warner Theater would be paid through donations rather than through school budget funds.</p> <p>The Solar Energy Project: Mr. Montgomery indicated that the credit crisis had been delaying the availability of funds from MP2's bank. However, he stated that he received a letter last week with a guarantee of funding available and consent to proceed. Consequently, groSolar has sent a team of engineers and roofers to investigate the roof and necessary upgrades along with a new plan for the solar panel array. This team also met with the Barkhamsted building official regarding the details for setting up a building permit.</p> <p>Special Education Review Committee: Mr. Montgomery stated that he has requested that Ms. Morabito establish a special education committee to review special education services at NWR7 in terms of staffing, roles and responsibilities, costs, and use of paraprofessionals. This committee has been established and has met twice. Mr. Montgomery will update the BOE on a periodic basis.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</p>

<p>Swine Flu: Mr. Montgomery reported that he has received updates from state and federal agencies, and he has discontinued all restrictions on regular student travel for school activities.</p> <p>Grants: Mr. Montgomery updated the BOE regarding the competitive grants that are currently being sought or have been received. He indicated that Ms. JoAnn Delaini and he are currently working on a grant related to the World Languages program, specifically Chinese.</p>	
<p>Mr. Newbury stated that during the solar company’s review of the main roof they noticed that there were needed repairs on Ag Ed roof. The company investigated the situation and determined that if may be possible to repair the entire roof through a class action suit that had been successfully litigated several years ago based on malfunctioning GAF roofing materials. The paperwork along with samples of the shingles were sent into GAF for review and notice should be sent within two weeks.</p>	<p>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT</p>
<p>Mr. Thomson reported on his visits and discussions with the Civic class students. He stated that the students showed enthusiasm and interest in the issues facing the district. It was decided that this activity would continue since it is an important avenue for garnering student interest in becoming candidates for student representatives to the BOE.</p> <p>Mr. Jerram asked about the reduction in World Languages and the impact on the middle schools students who had taken French in seventh grade. Mr. Montgomery stated that the current search for a teacher had been at the .6 FTE level but the advertisements had been changed to reflect “up to full time” in the hopes of attracting additional candidates at a lower entry salary. If this occurs then the district would be able to hire a teacher for more than .6 FTE time and possibly provide services to the eighth graders who took French this year as seventh graders.</p>	<p>OLD BUSINESS: Updates</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Thomson, and passed unanimously, on behalf of the Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education and pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, I hereby certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will not meet said standards during the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored. This motion was signed by Ms. Sexton Read as Chair.</p> <p>MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio, seconded by Mr. Thomson, and passed unanimously, to appoint Robert E. King & Co., P.C., Certified Public Accountants, as school auditors for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.</p> <p>MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Thomson, and passed unanimously, to authorize end-of-year adjustments within the 2008-2009 budget limits.</p> <p>MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Thomson, and passed unanimously, to authorize the Superintendent or Director of Finance to borrow up to \$250,000. in anticipation of receipts.</p> <p>MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, and passed unanimously, to authorize the Superintendent to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education.</p> <p>Ms. Sexton Read introduced the topic of teacher recognition which was briefly discussed in the past without resolution. It was agreed that any activities would best be coordinated with</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>Healthy School Lunch Certification</p> <p>Robert King, Appointed Auditor</p> <p>End of Year Adjustments</p> <p>Borrowing in Anticipation of receipts</p> <p>Fill Vacancies</p> <p>Teacher Recognition</p>

<p>another school-wide event, such as Open House. Ms. Sexton Read recommended that a subcommittee of the BOE be identified to provide recommendations to the full BOE at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Jerram and Ms. Dorazio agreed to serve on this committee.</p>	
<p>Mr. Montgomery reported that he received a letter from Education Connection that stated that the district’s Technology Plan was in compliance with state requirements. He indicated that this plan is re-written every three years and had been recently updated by the district’s technology committee. He briefly reviewed the goals and activities associated with the plan. He explained that the plan includes expectations and benchmarks for students regarding important activities and knowledge associated with technology. Questions were raised about the number of Smart Boards in the school as well as their purpose. Mr. Newbury stated that the plan included a budget that reflected the level of technology funds in the current budget. Mr. Montgomery stated that it was necessary for the BOE to approve a district technology plan by June 15, 2009. It was the consensus of the BOE members to table the plan for the next meeting. It was decided that electronic copies of the plan would be distributed to BOE members so that they could review it for the next meeting.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDANCE</p>
<p>Questions and concerns were raised about the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the combining of French classes (as a result of budget cuts) may result in both wasted time and a lower level of instruction. 2. That the availability of advanced technology (especially Smart Boards) was less than other middle, high, and even some elementary schools. Mr. Montgomery stated that the current Technology Plan includes goals for increasing the number of Smart Boards as well as training in their use. 3. That two study halls in the middle school were inappropriate. Mr. Montgomery stated that adjustments made with the new schedule by Ms. Perez will likely sharply reduce the number of students having two study halls in their schedules for the coming year. 	<p>OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON ADGENDA ITEMS</p>
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of a student disciplinary issue. Present in Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mrs. Dorazio, Mrs. Yard, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Kenneson, Superintendent Montgomery, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.</p> <p>MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> <p>REGULAR SESSION</p>
<p>MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to cancel the second Board Meeting in May.</p>	<p>CANCEL 5/27/09 BOE MEETING</p>
<p>MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Lanctot, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

CA Montgomery
 Clint Montgomery,
 Superintendent of Schools