

Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
May 28, 2008

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Kenneson, Ms. Yard, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio; Clint Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools; Roger Newbury, Director of Finance and Operations; Student Representatives Michael Welch, Meghan McCoy, and Averill Cantwell.

Chairman Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Thomson introduced Ms. Dana Packer as the new clerk.

D. PACKER, BOE CLERK

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, to accept the minutes of May 14, 2008. Aye: Mrs. Kenneson, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Thomson, Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio. Nay: None. Abstention: Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Griffey, Ms. Yard. Motion passed.

MINUTES
5/14/08

Student Representative Michael Welch reported to the board members that senior students had a combination of anticipation and regret regarding the upcoming graduation from Northwestern School. Representative Welch also reported that the senior prom was a success. The other students noted that Michael was crowned King at the prom.

ST. REP.
REPORTS
GRADUATION
PROM

Student Representative Meghan McCoy reported that data regarding the percentage of students accepted and entering college will be collected more accurately by Averill Cantwell at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. Representative McCoy reported on the recent meeting of the Northwest Connecticut Coalition to Reduce Student Drinking Task Force.

STUDENT
GRADUATES
NW COALITION
REDUCE ST.
DRINKING

Student Representative Averill Cantwell reported that the mock car crash last Monday organized by SADD had an attentive student audience. Representative Cantwell reported that the Chinese bake sale to help with the earthquake in China last Friday was successful. Representative Cantwell reported that the junior prom was also successful.

SADD MOCK
CAR CRASH

Ms. Perez reported on the upcoming middle schools awards ceremonies and invited Board of Education members to attend if they were available.

PRINCIPALS'
REPORTS
MS AWARDS
RIVER CRUISE
MS PICNICS

Ms. Perez reported that out of 180 students 156 will be attending the River Boat Cruise. Ms. Perez reported that the seventh grade picnic will be on June 7th at Bolder Ridge and the eighth grade picnic will be on June 9th at Bolder Ridge.

Ms. Perez reported that this Friday and last week the eighth graders are continuing their Greek Festival.

GREEK
FESTIVAL

Ms. Perez reported on other successful activities and events at the middle school. Ms. Perez thanked all who worked on the budget.

Mr. Conner congratulated Student Representative Cantwell on being selected as one of 30 students out of 135 in the state of Connecticut to be awarded as Governor Scholar.	CANTWELL GOVERNOR SCHOLAR
Mr. Conner reported on the process to identify a student representative for the board of education for the coming year. He indicated that candidates are currently being interviewed and a standard rubric has been employed in order to establish an objective measure for each student. Mr. Conner stated that he will be providing a recommendation to the board of education by the next meeting. In response to a question regarding the number of student representatives, Mr. Montgomery stated that the current policy states that there should be two student representatives.	BOE STUDENT REPS.
Mr. Conner reported that two exchange students, one from Ecuador and one from Argentina, are both graduating this year and that he anticipated that there will be a new exchange student from Sweden.	EXCHANGE STUDENTS
Mr. Conner reported that the Accuplacer Test was administered at NCCC to all junior students on May 20 th to collect data to guide and inform curriculum.	ACCUPLACER TEST
Mr. Conner reported that Northwestern High School students will be provided information regarding the opportunity to participate in the Torrington High School Junior ROTC program for the coming year. Mr. Montgomery reported they have met with representatives from Torrington and the JROTC program and that one strong incentive for the program will be the availability of free flight training with the JROTC program. Mr. Conner stated that the letter to parents explained that participation in the program will be easier to program for with the schedule change for the 2009-10 school year.	TORRINGTON JUNIOR ROTC
Mr. Griffey questioned the schedule change for next school year. Mr. Montgomery explained that he felt the time frame to implement the schedule change for the 2008-2009 was too short to avoid serious scheduling difficulties for students. He indicated that the schedule change has been announced to staff. Mr. Conner stated that he addressed this plan to change the schedule for the 2009-10 school year at the most recent staff meeting. Mr. Griffin and Mrs. Kenneson stated that it was their understanding that the change would occur this coming year. Mr. Montgomery stated that he made this decision to delay the change due to the fact that an immediate change would result in greater confusion unless proper time for implementation was allowed. Mr. Thomson suggested that the board of education consider a motion to implement this schedule change for the 2009-10 school year.	SCHEDULE CHANGE
MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Sexton Read, and passed unanimously, to direct the superintendent to implement the proposed schedule change consisting of five rotating periods followed by one afternoon period of two rotating periods no later than July 1, 2009.	NEW SCHEDULE IMPLEMENTATION JULY 1, 2009

Superintendent Montgomery reported that a Teen Safe Driving Council has been established through the leadership of two of the New Hartford selectpersons. The next meeting has been set for June 16th and will focus on possible interventions to reduce unsafe driving practices of students and increase safety.

TEEN SAFE
DRIVING
COUNCIL

Superintendent Montgomery reported that CABA has completed their initial examination of the NWR7 Policy and Procedure Manual. The CABA report has just arrived and additional information regarding the report and the possible next options will be provided to the board of education.

POLICY
MANUAL
REVIEW

Superintendent Montgomery provided a hiring report to the board of education. He provided brief summaries regarding the three new staff hired: Cindy Yu will be teaching Mandarin Chinese and TESL. Keegan Day will be teaching Technology Education. Shennen Flannery will be teaching high school English.

NEW
HIRES
REPORT

Superintendent Montgomery passed out a copy of the chart that demonstrated this year's efforts at collaboration between the area superintendents through the newly organized Superintendents' Council. He stated that this chart was made available at the recent meeting in Colebrook to consider Regionalization options.

SUPT.
COUNCIL
REPORT

Superintendent Montgomery reported on a grant for the City of Neighborhoods. He also reported on an additional grant that he is seeking through Alcoa that would address Environmental Science by provided a part time Science teacher to teach one or two classes in areas associated with the Alcoa mission statement and goals.

CITY OF
NEIGHBORHOODS
& ALCOA
SCIENCE GRANT

Mr. Newbury presented the monthly budget report and transfer requests.

BUDGET
TRANSFERS

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Mrs. Yard, and passed unanimously, to approve the transfers as requested.

Director of Finance and Operations Roger Newbury provided an update on the gym floor repair and replacement. He reported on the bidding process that recently occurred and resulted in the identification of a contractor for the abatement project.

GYM FLOOR
REPAIR AND
REPLACEMENT

Mr. Montgomery reported that, as previously indicated in the fall, Mr. Bruce VanValen will return the next board of education meeting to provide an update on the guidance department and progress with the Quality Indicators that he and Mr. Montgomery had identified earlier.

GUIDANCE
REVIEW
6/11/08

Mr. Thomson responded to Representative Michael Welch's letter to Mr. Montgomery. Both Mr. Conner and Mr. Montgomery indicated that they believed that there many drawbacks to Michael Welch's proposed program and that it should not be initiated at Northwestern. Student representative, Meghan McCoy, also expressed some reservations regarding this proposal. After discussion, it was noted that the program proposal would not be brought to a vote by the board of education. While Representative Welch's proposal

M. WELCH
PROPOSAL

was rejected, the administration and board of education indicated that Michael Welch had conducted his research in a serious and intensive manner.

Mr. Thomson reported that it is anticipated that the second board of education meeting of June would be designated for graduation.

JUNE
MEETINGS

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Dorazio, passed unanimously, to designate the graduation ceremony as the second board of education meeting of June.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to into Executive Session at 8:34 p.m. to discuss possible student expulsion hearing. Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Supt. Montgomery, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury and Mr. Conner, Principal of the High School.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to accept the expulsion agreement as presented by Superintendent Montgomery.

EXPULSION
AGREEMENT
ACCEPTED

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to go into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Supt. Montgomery, Director of Finance and Operations Newbury.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 9:34 p.m.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mr. Lanctot, seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Packer, Clerk