

Regional School District No. 7
Board of Education Minutes
August 27, 2008

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mrs. Kenneson, Ms. Yard; Clint Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools, Roger Newbury, Director of Finance and Operations; Principal Wayne Conner, Principal Althea Perez and Shelby Mainville, Student Representative.

Chairman Thomson called meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mrs. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Yard, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of July 9, 2008.

MINUTES
7/9/08

Ms. Perez provided a report on the opening of the middle school. She also provided a hiring report stating that there were two new Middle School teachers this year, Elyse Kycia and Kimberly Perschmann Brown. She provided information about their backgrounds and their assignments. Ms. Perez also reported that the middle school enrollment was higher than expected: 198 in 7th grade and 177 in 8th grade. Lastly, Ms. Perez reported on the recent CMT results with goals for the coming year.

MIDDLE
PRINCIPAL
REPORT

Mr. Conner reported that the first day went exceptionally well in the High School. There are two new Math teachers in the High School, George Mitesser and Sarah Guenther. In July, a letter was sent to all parents of 16 or 17 year olds concerning Teen Safe Driving and the new legislation that impacts student drivers. CAPT scores are exceptionally good, the highest NWR7 has ever achieved. He reported that these scores were the highest in the Berkshire League, and within the Top 10 Schools in Connecticut. The location of the 2009 Graduation was discussed. The survey results from the parents were very strongly positive in favor of using the Warner Theater. There was discussion of the process for determining where graduation should held this year. Mr. Montgomery reported that he and Mr. Conner are meeting with the class officers to discuss graduation. He indicated that he believed that it will be important to solicit and respond to their input. The BOE members agreed but indicated that the Board will make the final decision based on student, staff and parent input.

HIGH SCH.
PRINC.
REPORT

Mr. Montgomery presented his Superintendent's Report. He indicated that, as requested, information that can be conveyed by report was supplied through the Superintendent's Guide. The BOE members indicated that they would like to continue this practice but would like prior information about agenda items where it can be expected that board action will be necessary. In his report, Mr. Montgomery briefly discussed the Ecostream solar energy project, the gym floor update, the Alcoa grant for a part time teacher, the educational foundation, the transportation program for Hartland students, the new Intensive Learning Program with the Winsted students, and the state Adequate Yearly Progress reports for the middle and high schools.

SUPT.
REPORT

Mr. Newbury reported on facility changes and repairs that had been completed over the summer. The washing machine has been replaced and there will soon be more security cameras installed. It was suggested that the main entrance sign be given better lighting and landscaping.

DIR. FINANCE
& OPERATIONS
REPORT

Board of Education Self Evaluation - Mr. Thomson requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting so that the materials could be distributed to the BOE members in preparation for the discussion at the September meeting.

BOARD
SELF-
EVALUATION

Mr. Jarrem reported that he had received parent concerns regarding the length and duration of transportation for certain New Hartford students. Mr. Newbury said that each of the concerns is being individually investigated and that it would be important for parents to give the bus companies a short period of time to iron out the individual bus routes.

TRANSPOR-
TATION

There was also a question regarding the mandatory Summer Reading list for AP English students. A concern had been raised about the appropriateness of one of the books. Mr. Conner and Mr. Montgomery stated that this situation had been addressed by allowing the student to read and report on an alternative book. They felt that the situation was well handled by the teacher.

SUMMER
READING

The only correspondence received were the two letters of resignation – One from Chris Gurtowsky, High School Math teacher and Leah Smith, Middle School English.

CORRES-
PONDENCE

MOTION by Mrs. Dorazio , seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, and passed unanimously, to accept the letters of resignation submitted by Ms. Smith and Mr. Gurtowsky.

RESIGNA-
TIONS

There were no members of the public present to speak.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Ms. Sexton Read and passed unanimously, to move into executive session at 7:45 pm. for the purpose of negotiations. Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Sexton Read, Mrs. Dorazio, Mrs. Kenneson, Ms. Yard; Mr. Montgomery, Superintendent; Roger Newbury, Director of Finance and Operations.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Ms. Sexton Read, and passed unanimously, to come out of executive session at 8:34 pm.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mrs. Kenneson, passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Ober, Clerk