

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2018 – 6 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Ken Chichester, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Student Representative Ms. April Ruopp

ABSENT: Ms. Mary Duran (B), Student Representative Ms. Madeleine Giaconia

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2018, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORTS:

Ms. Ruopp presented updates on upcoming theater performance, student senate activities, student council turkey basket drive, blood drive, sport activities, and National Honor Society. Question pertaining to turkey baskets was addressed, and Board members thanked Ms. Ruopp for her report.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS:

Principals Chichester and Amara shared a video with highlights of the Veterans Day Celebration hosted on Monday, November 12, 2018. This ceremonial celebration grows every year, is an exemplary opportunity for students to show their appreciation for veterans within our community, and is extremely well received by community members.

Additionally, Mr. Chichester and Mr. Amara provided an interactive presentation which included Board member participation with an activity demonstrating social and emotional learning. The “anchor tool” in teaching emotional intelligence was demonstrated, and questions and discussion followed pertaining to the way that emotions impact lives and can hinder attention, memory, learning, decision making, relationship quality, wellbeing, and overall effectiveness. Staff and students are learning, through emotional intelligence workshops and teaching lessons, the important skills necessary to recognize, understand, label, express, and regulate emotions effectively.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Palmer provided updates pertaining to professional development opportunities for teachers and support staff with Mr. Amara contributing Middle School activities and Mr. Chichester providing additional information. Math teacher, George Mitesser, shared information on specific opportunities that were provided for teachers during the professional development days. Dr. Palmer also updated Board members on the important Mathematics Curriculum Committee work being done with Brian Murphy to align programs with the CCSS, and provided a Kindness in Motion program update report on progress introducing elementary school principals, Canton, and Berkshire League high school students to the Program.

Lastly, Dr. Palmer advised the Board of the necessity of adding a special education teacher to the Middle School staff. She and Mr. Amara provided an outline of past and current Middle School strategies utilized in providing services to accommodate all student needs, and at this time school administration is at a critical point in their ability to juggle teachers and accommodate all district special education student needs within the building. Dr. Palmer requested Board support at this time to create and approve the addition of a special education teaching position in the Middle School. Extensive questions and discussion followed pertaining to prior strategies, student needs, and expense. Mr. Gaskins advised that the expense can be offset with the savings that will be generated from the current energy program being implemented.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **CREATE AND APPROVE** a special education teaching position in the Middle School. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT:

Mr. Gaskins reviewed current budget year expenditures, process for preparing 2019-2020 spending plan, and status of energy conservation plan with kickoff meeting being held next week for logistics of the project. Lastly, snow preparedness plan was outlined with new snow removal contractor on board.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sexton Read provided Board members with an update regarding the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting that met to review the Assessment Offset/Favorable Budget Variance. Board members were advised that research into town and other school budgets indicates that similar strategies are used with budgets being managed throughout the year to create a surplus rather than having a surplus planned within the budget. Following this thorough and thoughtful process, Ms. Sexton Read is comfortable maintaining that strategy with the additional recommendation of providing further budget transparency through budget planning and adjustments made to increase/decrease line items where funds are needed/used when a surplus is evident. Questions and discussion followed.

Additionally, Ms. Sexton Read provided updates pertaining to Community Conversation held on October 17, 2018, and provided some additional thoughts on community engagement and possible workshops to help develop strategies on engaging community members and perhaps member town Boards of Education. Questions and discussion followed. Also, Ms. Sexton Read provided an updated on Run Like a Deer fundraiser thanking members who participated in this successful annual event.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion followed regarding Board Goals and whether or not any updating is needed at this time. Dr. Palmer advised that the goals work well for her at this time. Ms. Sexton requested additional time to review and discuss prior to adopting them officially.

First reading of Policy #5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect with Board member questions responded to by Dr. Palmer.

CORRESPONDENCE

Copies of NEWSLETTER were provided by Dee Dusati and distributed to Board members by Dr. Palmer.

Dr. Palmer shared Notification of Resignation Letter submitted by Joseph Masi, and a discussion followed on the best way of handling the vacancy until the position can be filled. Dr. Palmer shared that Mr. Masi

will be very much missed within the entire school community, and wishes him well in his new position as Principal of Har-Bur Middle School in his home town.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ACCEPT**, with appreciation and regret, Joseph Masi's Notification of Resignation from his position as Housemaster. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to cancel the next regularly scheduled Board of Education on November 28, 2018. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ADJOURN** at 7:45 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk

Next Board of Education Meeting: December 12, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – Newbury Library Media Center