

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
MAY 8, 2019 – 6 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Deborah Bell (N) (6:28 p.m.), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Ken Chichester, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Student Representatives: Ms. April Ruopp, and Ms. Madelein Glaconia

ABSENT: Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Mr. Ben Nadeau (N)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: Dr. Palmer happily introduced Mr. Andrew Bakulski, newly hired Housemaster beginning July 1, 2019, and Board of Education members introduced themselves and provided a warm welcome. Andy introduced his family, and spoke of how excited and honored he is to be joining the administrative team at Regional School District No. 7. Additionally, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Chichester, and Mr. Amara, all shared how delighted they are that Andy has accepted the position, and confident that he will be a successful member of the administrative team.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** Budget Hearing and Board of Education Minutes of April 22, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS:

STUDENT REPORTS:

Ms. Ruopp updated the Board on AP testing, college decision day, Mr. Northwestern, Senior Prom, girl's tennis, boy's tennis, track, baseball, and Highlander Food Truck Festival. Ms. Glaconia updated the Board on Theater events and ticket sales, Halo Awards 2019, Junior Prom, Italian field trip, SAT scores, greenhouse plant sale, donation of fruit and vegetables to the Winsted Soup Kitchen, and peer editing sessions including introducing the program in the Middle School.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS:

Mr. Amara provided updates pertaining to Smarter Balance Testing, NGSS Assessment, School and Community Connectedness presentation by Dr. Matt Bellace, Teacher Appreciation Week organized by Middle School PTO and the High School Climate Committee, Spring Choral Concert, the sold out drama production of "Sally Cotter and the Censored Stone", and Grade 7 and 8 new group called "Authors' Café" where students will read original essays, perform original music and present original poems in a café atmosphere. Questions and discussion followed, and Mr. Chichester provided additional details on Dr. Bellace's presentation.

Mr. Chichester provided Board updates pertaining to the Summer Math Program including a pilot summer program directed towards strengthening student Algebra skills called "Algebra Readiness Camp". Additionally, Mr. Chichester advised and provided information pertaining to the Credit Enhancement Program, and how that has targeted and assisted with student graduation rates, Choices Program which addresses distracted driving, and NGSS and AP testing. Both Mr. Chichester and Mr. Amara expressed appreciation and praise for Chris Fray and his work enabling computers, chrome books, and State testing

compliance regulations in order to accommodate all students testing online. Questions and discussion followed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Palmer began her Board Report thanking and sharing her appreciation of Ms. Sexton Read for her leadership and Board members for their support throughout the budget process. She shared election results, and thanked Mr. Gaskins for his Results Presentation, and Ms. Sexton Read for the sandwich sign placed at the entrance of the school driveway. Additionally, Dr. Palmer provided Board updates pertaining to the 2019 scheduled Europe trip, the American Mural Project, School Safety and Officer Wood's work on a Reunification Plan, Special Education year-end budget, Attorney Mark Sommaruga's annual Legal Briefing with the Administrative Team, and the 70 plus Kindness in Motion projects this year including the introduction of the Program at member town elementary schools. Dr. Palmer is looking forward to the Kindness In Motion celebration on June 4, 2019, sharing these amazing Projects and experiences, and briefly highlighted three Projects with remarkable goals and accomplishments: Project Glow Guiding Lights Orphans, Mobile Delivery Service, and Elementary Special Olympics.

Additionally, Dr. Palmer advised of expected enrollment in Ag-Ed Program of 121 students for the 2019-2020 school year, hiring an additional teacher for the Program, and approval by the CSDE and auditors to carry over increased grant money received during the 2018-2019 school year to fund new teacher expenditure for the 2019-2020 school year. Questions and discussion followed.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT:

Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates on the following topics: reduction of 10 percent in Dental Insurance premiums from Anthem Dental rates following competitive pricing quotes from Delta Dental, and his recommendation of staying with Anthem Dental at this time, and following his meetings with CIRMA and TriPoint Brokerage, additional savings have also been secured in the areas of Liability and Property insurance, and Workmen's Compensation. All Star Transportation sold their interest to Student Transportation of America (STA), and no action is necessary by Board at this time. Current management staying in their roles, and a smooth transition is expected. Mr. Gaskins recommended the Vocational Agricultural funding carry-over Motion as follows. Questions and brief discussion followed.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the carry-over of additional State Grant money received in the 2018-2019 school year for Agricultural Education in the amount of \$92,818 with the majority of the money used to fund a teaching position for the 2019-2020 school year. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None.

MOTION PASSED.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES:

Ms. Sexton Read advised CABE Workshop dates, Monday, May 13, and Wednesday, May 29, and how pleased she is that member town board and committee members expressed interest in joining the group workshop.

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorization to make End-Of-Year Adjustments within the 2018-2019 Budget Limits.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **AUTHORIZE** Dr. Palmer and Director Gaskins to make end-of-year adjustments as necessary within the 2018-2019 budget limits. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Authorization to borrow \$250,000 in anticipation of receipts.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AUTHORIZE** Director Gaskins to borrow \$250,000 in anticipation of receipts. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Authorization for Superintendent to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **AUTHORIZE** Dr. Palmer to fill vacancies already approved by the Board of Education. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Following a brief discussion, a Motion was made cancelling second Board of Education in May.

MOTION Ms. Bell, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **CANCEL** the May 22, 2019, regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Highlander Basketball Camp Letter presented by Ms. Sexton Read.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** the Highlander Basketball Camp for the 2019-2020 school year. AYE: Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Sexton Read. **MOTION PASSED.**

Dr. Palmer shared Letter of Retirement received on May 2, 2019, from Middle School Guidance teacher, Mr. Bruce Miller, expressing sincere appreciation for his many years of dedicated service and invaluable contributions. Bruce is a beloved member, by students, coworkers and administration, within the school community and will be very much missed. With warmest thoughts, Dr. Palmer and Board members expressed grateful appreciation and best wishes.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ACCEPT** Letter of Retirement from Mr. Bruce Miller, with grateful appreciation and very best wishes. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Sexton Read acknowledged receipt of email received from Ms. Peg Budney, and advised that Regional School District No. 7, Board of Education, continues to follow guidelines set forth by the CIAC.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ADJOURN** at 7:13 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk