

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2020 – 6 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None.

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

Ms. Sexton Read requested the addition of Agenda Item of Correspondence received from Barkhamsted Town Selectman, Mr. Donald Stein.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE** an addition to Agenda of Correspondence from Town of Barkhamsted First Selectman, Mr. Donald Stein. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PORTION

Opportunity for Public to Speak on Agenda Items: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE** Annual Organizational Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2019, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2019, as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Class updates provided by Student Representatives, Ms. Giaconia and Mr. Langendoerfer as follows: Xavier updated the Board on upcoming midterms, winter sports, alumni panel discussing college experiences; and, Madeleine provided updates pertaining to VOAG FFA Public Speaking competition, theater upcoming performance, Scholastic Arts Awards and student displays, student council activities, and upcoming Mr. Northwestern event.

PRINCIPALS AND SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Palmer, Principal Chichester and Principal Amara provided a joint presentation titled: "What is Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Why it is Important". They began with a brief history of past events, and continued outlining the importance of social and emotional learning starting with The Mission and

importance of learning the skills and mindset to cope with difficulties and regulate emotions appropriately, the five core competencies of SEL, RULER skills, positive mental health, special education outplacement data, and the impact on students, staff, families, and communities. Questions and discussion followed.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates pertaining to: Health Benefits renewal process, Secretarial Negotiations scheduled for mediation on January 30, 2020, and 2018-2019 Audit Report. Brief discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES:

Ms. Sexton Read encouraged and advised Board members of various school activities and events they may elect to attend as opportunities for community interaction and engagement per CAFE workshop recommendation and goal of increasing community involvement and participation with school events and business.

Also, Ms. Sexton Read updated Board members on the “Budget Kick-Off Meeting” with town First Selectmen and Board of Finance Chairmen. As in the past, concerns with the fiscal pressures on small towns, enrollment numbers, and conservative budgeting were discussed in addition to an appreciation of the educational program at Regional 7 and facility maintenance efforts and accomplishments.

Second Reading – Policy #6162.51 – Protection of Student Privacy – Surveys, Certain Physical Examinations, and Parental Access to Information. Brief discussion with the following MOTION.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ADOPT** Policy #6162.51 as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Community Conversation - scheduled for January 28, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., Little Theater, with possible topics as follows: Portrait of the Graduate, New Schedule, and Civil Rights Stories. Questions and brief discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

School Calendar DRAFT 2020-2021 reviewed by Dr. Palmer. Minor changes were reviewed and briefly discussed.

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** the DRAFT 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received by Ms. Sexton Read from Barkhamsted First Selectman, Mr. Donald Stein, shared with Board members formally requesting that the Board reconsider its prior vote and approve the Town of Barkhamsted proposal to extend the sewer line from Winsted into Barkhamsted via connection to the NWR7 sewer manhole and that this item be added to the Board of Education’s February 12, 2020 Agenda.

Following brief discussion, Board members acknowledged the correspondence, determined that member votes would remain the same, and no further discussion was necessary. Ms. Sexton Read clarified context within the Attachment of the Correspondence pertaining to a statement regarding the number of times per week it was necessary for the Resident State Trooper to assist with a Regional 7 situation would not regularly occur several times per week but always when needed with an incident that requires his time.

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **CANCEL** second regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting January 22, 2020. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** for the purposes of: (1) Teacher Contract, and (2) Superintendent Contract at 7:10 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Entered into Executive Session: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Mr. Nadeau. Superintendent Palmer and Director Gaskins for (1) Teacher Contract.

Exited Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. with the following **ACTION** on Executive Session items.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **APPROVE** Teacher Contract Agreement. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE** Superintendent Contract Agreement with a three (3) percent increase for the 2020-2021 school year. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to **ADJOURN** at 7:25 p.m. **AYE:** Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Mr. Nadeau. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk