

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Kim Crone (N), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Gary Franklin, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Student Representatives Mr. Xavier Langendoerfer and Ms. Alexa Carroll

ABSENT: Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION

None.

Ms. Sexton Read officially introduced and welcomed Ms. Kim Crone, Board of Education member, Town of Norfolk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Sexton Read, to **APPROVE** Special Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2020, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Gauthier. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of September 9, 2020, with the correction of the word “with” changed to “will” on Page 2 under Board of Education Goals Discussion sentence, Ms. Sexton Read “will” revise and edit. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Duran, Ms. Crone. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORTS

Mr. Franklin introduced Alexa Carroll as the new student representative. Alexa was warmly welcomed by all Board of Education members, and Ms. Sexton Read outlined expectations pertaining to project recommendations and Board of Education meeting participation in order to broaden the experience and advised that feedback from Alexa in her role as BOE student representative is always welcomed and appreciated.

Mr. Langendoerfer updated Board members on SAT and PSAT schedules, and sporting/athletic events. Ms. Carroll provided updates pertaining to student safety, masks and social distancing, band, music, theater activities, and how well she feels the school is doing during a very difficult time.

PRINCIPALS’ REPORTS

Mr. Amara enthusiastically advised that under Mike Stapleton’s direction, the Civil Rights Story Group won a national award for their work on teaching tolerance. Also, updates were provided pertaining to Middle School Athletics, virtual Open House plan and schedule, Professional Development Day, and continuing partnership with the Yale Center of Emotional Intelligence.

Mr. Franklin enthusiastically provided an overview of extracurricular student activities, virtual class elections, Spirit Weeks, Surprise Squad, and drive through Trick or Treat event scheduled for the month of October. Additionally, Mr. Franklin provided a description of this year's virtual High School Open House, and information on this year's Agricultural Education recruitment which will mainly be done through a recruitment video.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Palmer, along with Mr. Franklin and Mr. Amara, provided Board members with the Hybrid Model Learning Presentation and adjustments to be made going forward. Their presentation included hybrid model priorities, benefits, unique variables, and adjustments to be made based on new CSDE expectations. Questions and discussion followed pertaining to facility cleaning and disinfecting. Ms. Sexton Read advised she is grateful for the dedication and diligence shown across the board for the work being done to keep students and staff safe for school operations during the pandemic.

Additionally, Dr. Palmer provided an explanation pertaining to the new CSDE requirements for Educator Evaluation and the one-time teacher evaluation flexibilities afforded by the CSDE due to COVID-19 for the inclusion of social and emotional learning goals. The Professional Development Committee voted in favor of utilizing this flexibility, and the CSDE asks for BOE approval.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **APPROVE AND SUPPORT** the use of the CSDE one-time flexibility for the Teacher Evaluation process. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Gaskins provided Board updates pertaining to other sources of funding including: Cafeteria Grant application for a new walk-in cooler, not awarded, CARES Act application \$24,123 for MS Instructional Interventionist, awarded, Coronavirus Relief Fund, \$301,180 for ductwork cleaning, tents/seating, water fountains, and signage throughout building, approved, thanks to the dedication, persistence, and diligence put forth by Dr. Palmer. Also, Mr. Gaskins advised gratefully of a donation from the True Value Foundation of face masks, hand soap, and sanitizer. "Fit Together", a Hartford Healthcare, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Program donation of a bike rack is much appreciated and has been installed at the back gym entrance. Mr. Gaskins also provided Board updates pertaining to bus contracts and transportation issues, and Food Service Seamless Summer Option (SSO) through December 31, 2020. Questions and brief discussion followed, and again, Ms. Sexton Read thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sexton Read presented edited and revised goals for Board member review. Following review and suggestions, the following Goals were presented for Board approval.

- (1) The Board will support a renewed focus on the development of curriculum, instructional activities, extracurricular opportunities, field experiences, and professional development that promote a deeper understanding of culture and the valuing of racial diversity, inclusion, and equity.

- (2) Social Emotional Learning: In recognizing that social emotional learning for students and staff remains a central focus for the District, the Board commits to incorporating these skills into its processes.
- (3) Collaboration: The Board will work alongside local officials to ensure that the District responds effectively to the pandemic, holding student and staff health as the highest priority while maximizing educational and extracurricular experiences for all.

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Crone, to **APPROVE** new Board of Education Goals as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Sexton Read addressed the First Read of Acceptable Use Policy 6141 that has been reviewed by Attorney Sommaruga and IT Director, Chris Fray. Dr. Palmer provided clarification, and questions and brief discussion followed.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Mr. Gauthier, to **CANCEL** the second regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on October 28, 2020. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Ms. Sexton Read advised of parental request for virtual Board of Education meetings, and will provide feedback on technology utilized to meet that request.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **ADJOURN** at 7:20 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Crone. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk