

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2019 – 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), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), 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. Ben Nadeau (N)

RECEPTION FOR TOP TEN STUDENTS 2018-2019 (11 students honored this year):

RECEPTION held in honor of the Top Ten Students, Class of 2019. Mr. Chichester introduced and individually commended the following 11 students for their outstanding achievements in academic, athletic, volunteer and club activities, and many contributions and accomplishments as members of Regional School District No. 7 and within their communities: Caroline Crone (N), Adam Ferrarotti (NH), Theodore Gregor, (NH), Christopher Grenfell (B), Jackson Kaszas (B), Jill Keegan (B), Colby Langer (B), Eleanor Olsen (N), Gabrielle Riberdy (C), April Ruopp (N), Tatiana Sihpol (NH).

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Ms. Bell, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **APPROVE** Annual District Budget Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Ms. Duran, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2019, as presented. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Mr. Gauthier. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** CABE Workshop Minutes of May 13, 2019. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION by Ms. Duran, seconded by Ms. Bell, to **APPROVE** CABE Workshop Minutes of May 29, 2019. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Ms. Fragale. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS:

STUDENT REPORTS:

Ms. Ruopp provided Board of Education updates pertaining to: Kindness in Motion “Bowls of Peace”, National Honor Society walk, Senior Yearbooks, Pizza Lunch today with many thanks to Mr. Chichster, and Project Graduation. Additionally, Ms. Ruopp thanked Board of Education members for the opportunity of being the Student Representative, advising she was grateful for the terrific learning experience.

Ms. Giaconia provided updates on: Junior Class end-of-year activities, sports update, theater, Halo Awards, Star 7, and the Students Helping Students successful program.

YEAR END REVIEW REPORT/2018-19 DISTRICT GOALS OVERVIEW: J. PALMER, K. CHICHESTER, F. AMARA, J. GASKINS:

Dr. Palmer, Principals Chichester and Amara, and Director Gaskins provided a joint Board of Education presentation and overview of the 2018-2019 school year and collaborative efforts towards District Goals with the following highlights:

- 1) Theory of Action for Improved Student Achievement through teacher evaluation process. NWR7 engages in a comprehensive ongoing teacher evaluation process focused on student achievement and is measured and demonstrated in every classroom throughout the year.
- 2) Theory of Action for Professional Development and Collaboration.
- 3) Theory of Action regarding Communication – shared ownership of the district’s mission and vision to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of the students for increased learning creating opportunities for Developing students to their fullest potential.
- 4) Efficiency measures in facility and operations management with Board of Education Budget Support.

Questions and discussion followed by Board members, and were addressed by Administrative team members accordingly.

Dr. Palmer advised on information pertaining to the Regionalization Bill that failed legislation, and additionally provided an update regarding the Agricultural Education Program 2019-2020 student admittance/acceptance from the Town of Torrington. Due to budget concerns, Torrington has implemented a 5-student cap for freshmen students beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. The AgEd Program had accepted 17 students from Torrington for the 2019-2020 school year, and questions and discussion followed addressing the challenges and changes due to this reduction decision. It will be left to Torrington to determine the 5 freshmen students that will be attending the Agricultural Education Program for the 2019-2020 school year.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES:

Ms. Sexton Read provided an update regarding the successful CAFE Workshops attended by Board members from Regional and member towns and the concept of shifting the focus on how the Board seeks community engagement. Rather than attempting to engage community members with an expectation of attendance at Board of Education regular meetings, Board members should make every effort to attend various school and community events which would help with recognition and allow engagement in conversations and concerns important to community members. Discussion followed with the suggestion that a CAFE Workshop including all member town Boards be an annual event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board of Education members will attend graduation ceremony on June 17, 2019, and the following motion was made for meeting cancellation.

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale , to **CANCEL** the June 26, 2019, regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Sexton Read advised of May 8, 2019, Letter received from Colebrook Town Clerk, Debra L. McKeon, notifying the District that at the Annual Town Budget Meeting of the Town of Colebrook held on May 6, 2019, Lisa Ann B. Fragale was re-elected as member of the Northwestern Regional School District No. 7,

Board of Education for the term commencing on July 1, 2019. Ms. Sexton Read additionally advised that she, Ms. Bell, and Mr. Gauthier will also re-elect when their current terms are completed. Dr. Palmer expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation of their re-election decisions.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 8:02 p.m., for the purposes of (1) custodial negotiations, and; (2) discussion and possible action on employment/contracts for Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Entered into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** were: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Gaskins.

Mr. Gaskins exited EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:20 p.m. Board members and Dr. Palmer exited EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:30 p.m.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **AWARD** Dr. Palmer a five (5) percent increase to her annual salary for the 2019-2020 school year based on her exceptional performance during this challenging year. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Duran, to **ADJOURN** at 8:48 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Bell. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk