Board of Education

Christopher Lent, Chairman
Kathy Tolsdorf, Vice Chairperson
James Chakulski, Jr.
David Crim
Linette Dooley
Lisa Napolitano
Karin Vertefeuille
Laurence Fearon, Superintendent

The Columbia School District is a community of learners providing rigorous programs to ensure that each student can excel as an individual.

November 7, 2016
Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Horace W. Porter School Library Media Center

I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Christopher Lent-Chairman, Lisa Napolitano, David Crim, Karin Vertefeuille, James Chakulski, and Kathy Tolsdorf – Vice Chairman. Linette Dooley entered at 7:30 p.m.

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Barbara Wilson-Director of Student Services, Alyssa Gwinnell- Principal, Karen Caputo, Steve Piro, Sandra Rijs, Brenda Desmarais, National Junior Honor Society Members, Bruce Silva-Region 19 Superintendent, Lou DeLoreto-Principal Region 19, Douglas Melody-Region 19 Guidance Director

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Executive Session

a) *Motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss Teacher Contract Negotiations* – D. Crim MOVED, K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to enter into executive session along with the superintendent for the purpose of discussing teacher contract negotiations. MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

b) *Motion to adjourn to the open meeting*
D. Crim MOVED and K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to leave executive session at 7:18 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 6:0
The meeting did not adjourn to the Cafetorium but remained in the library media center.

IV. Comments from the Audience (Bylaws of the Board #9300)

Time allotted for public participation is twenty (20) minutes; time allotted for an individual speaker is three (3) minutes.

- *Introduction of National Junior Honor Society* – Brenda Desmarais introduced the National Junior Honor Society members. The National Junior Honor Society is attending to observe the volunteers of the BOE and experience an example of their civic responsibilities.

V. Guest Presentation - E.O. Smith High School, Mr. Bruce Silva, Superintendent & Mr. Louis DeLoreto, Principal

"We are proud of our designated high schools, Bolton, E.O. Smith and Windham Tech for their rigorous and student-centered programs."

Douglas Melody-Guidance Director, Louis DeLoreto-Principal and Bruce Silva-Superintendent attended the meeting to provide an overview of the opportunities available at E.O. Smith High School. E.O. Smith has a wealth of offerings in academics, the arts, athletics and leadership opportunities. Columbia's students are welcomed and accepted as part of the E.O. Smith community. The location offers access to coursework and opportunities at the University of Connecticut.

VI. Action Items (Consent)

A consent agenda is presented by the Chairman at the beginning of a meeting. Items may be removed from the consent agenda on the request of any one member. Items not removed may be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the assembly.

a) *Approval of October 4, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*
b) *Approval of Payment of Bills*
c) *Approval of First Quarter Expenditure Report*

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED, to approve items a-c of the consent action items. MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

L. Dooley entered at 7:30 p.m.

VII. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon

a) *Motion to ratify the Agreement between Columbia Board of Education and Columbia Teachers' Association 2017- 2020*

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to move to ratify the agreement between Columbia Board of Education and Columbia Teachers' Association 2017- 2020.
Discussion:
L. Napolitano thanked everyone for their hard work.

K. Tolsdorf wants the teachers to know they are highly valued and she commended everyone on how cooperatively the agreement was reached. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

b) *Action to rescind the motion of October 4, 2016 concerning payment to the non-lapsing account*
L. Napolitano MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to rescind the motion of October 4, 2016 concerning payment to the non-lapsing account. CARRIES 7:0.

c) *Request to FiPAC to deposit $100,000. in non-lapsing account*
D. Crim Moved, K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to request FiPAC to deposit $100,000 in the non-lapsing account. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

d) *Motion to return $4,120.30 from the 2015-2016 Operating Budget surplus to the Town of Columbia*
L. Napolitano MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to return $4,120.30 from the 2015-2016 Operating Budget surplus to the Town of Columbia. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

VIII. Presentation – Long-Range Planning Options and Next Steps – Mr. Fearon

"We purposefully plan to meet future challenges."

L. Fearon described several long range planning options. Contracts with our existing high school choices are due to end in 2022 and decisions would need to be reached by 2021 in order to extend or enter into new contracts.

If the option of regionalization is pursued it requires a 2 year lead in time due to a strict statutory process. There are 3 regionalized districts in our area – RHAM, Region 19 and Region 11. (Region 11 is currently considering dissolving.) If we were to regionalize with another district the process would need to include acceptances from all of towns who are part of the region in order to expand the region and would also require the approval by the Town of Columbia to join the region.

K. Tolsdorf questioned the option of partnering at the middle school level.

L. Fearon provided materials which include 5 range of options for consideration. L. Fearon has been contacted by several districts who are interested in partnering with Columbia on a tuition basis. Currently there are no towns in our area seeking to create a new region. The option of tuition based enrollment with other towns becomes less cost effective due to fee based additional services and transportation costs.

C. Lent agreed with the timeline and the Board's goal will be to review the options and be ready to present a proposal to the Town by May of 2017.

L. Fearon indicated the number of Columbia high school students have increased slightly over projections. He suggested considering a new demographic study. The current study provides projections through 2023 but is not especially accurate after 2019.

IX. Correspondence/Communications

a) *Willimantic Chronicle Articles*

b) *H.W. Porter Celebration/Ceremony for Teacher and Para of the Year*
The next event to honor our Teacher of the Year will be held on November 10th at the Bushnell in Hartford. A. Gwinnell will be in attendance. The Board offered congratulations to Mike Hetherington and Pam Basile.

X. Board of Education Subcommittees

- *Future Meeting Dates:*
  - December 5, Budget Committee, 6:30 p.m. LMC Conference Room
  - December 5, Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W. P. Cafeteria
  - December 19, Special Board of Education Meeting, Goals Setting, 6:30 p.m. LMC Conference Room
  - Dec. 15th Tri-board Meeting – FIPAC 7:00 –Yeomans Conference Room (please note date change)
  - January 3, 2017, Budget Committee, 6:30 p.m., LMC Conference Room
  - January 3, 2017, Regular Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m. H.W. P. Cafeteria

XI. Superintendent's Report

- *Breakfast Program Update – Preliminary numbers* – L. Fearon reported the breakfast program is averaging between 40-50 breakfasts per day since its availability which began October 17, 2016. So far 409 breakfasts have been served. The majority of students participating are students coming off the buses. An updated report will be available at the December meeting.

- *Update on Bus Contract* –A proposal dated 11/7/16 from John Hipshire of M&J Bus, Inc. was received. The 5 year proposal outlines an initial increase of 5.2% for the first year then 3.1% for subsequent years. L. Fearon plans to review the proposal with the Eastconn consultant and also compare the proposal with other districts. He noted M&J drivers are familiar with the community and there is a great lead driver in place who communicates well with us.

- *CAPSS Awards Night* – The CAPSS awards ceremony was held Nov. 2nd at RHAM High School. Local area superintendents celebrated 6th, 8th, and 12th graders who were scholar leaders. Our 4 honorees were Jack Dooley, Katie Burns, Jacob Tigeleiro, Maddy Hughes. They will be invited to the December meeting. Board members congratulated the honorees.

XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

a) Board of Education Retreat and Goal Setting (12/19/16)
b) Bus Contract Renewal
c) High School Presentation, Bolton High School, January 3, 2017
d) Long Range Planning – 6:30 – 8:00 – Dec. 13th, 2016

A. Gwinnell noted Thursday November 10th at 9:00 is HW Porters Annual Veterans Day assembly. She invited all members to attend.

XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

K. Tolsdorf attended a conference concerning legal issues run by CABE. Cyber bullying and how to carry out the superintendent's evaluation were areas of focus. She found the workshop very helpful.

D. Crim enjoyed having the National Honor Society students in attendance but regretted only one topic was covered while they were here.

J. Chakulski mentioned he attended the CABE/CAPSS conference last year and gained valuable information. He recommended the conference to anyone who can attend. The conference is scheduled for November 18th and 19th.

XIII. Adjournment

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Tolsdorf,
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairman