



COLUMBIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
COLUMBIA, CT

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

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

December 5, 2016
Regular Meeting Minutes
7:30 p.m.
Horace W. Porter School Cafetorium

Board Members Present: Christopher Lent-Chairman, Lisa Napolitano, James Chakulski, Kathy Tolsdorf – Vice Chairman, Linette Dooley

Board Members Absent: Karin Vertefeuille, David Crim

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Barbara Wilson-Director of Student Services, Alyssa Gwinnell- Principal, Karen Caputo, Steve Piro, Jack Dooley, Katherine Burns, David Burns, Maddy Hughes, Julie Hughes, Jacob Tigeleiro, Jennifer Tigeleiro

I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Superintendent Fearon.

II. **Election of Officers for One Year Terms**

*Superintendent Fearon shall open the floor for nominations for the Office of Board of Education Chairperson. The newly elected Chairperson shall open the floor to nominations for:
Vice Chairperson/Secretary
Committee Appointments*

L. Napolitano MOVED, K. Tolsdorf. SECONDED to appoint Christopher Lent as Chairman.

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to close nominations for the board chairperson.
CARRIES 5:0.

The motion to appoint Christopher Lent as Board Chairman CARRIES 5:0.

C. Lent opened floor to nominations, for the Vice Chairperson/Secretary.

L. Napolitano MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to appoint K. Tolsdorf as Vice Chairperson/Secretary.

L. Napolitano MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to close nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson/Secretary.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

The motion to appoint Kathy Tolsdorf as Vice Chairperson/Secretary CARRIES 5:0.

Committee Appointments – Members agreed to review committee appointments during the Long Range Planning meeting.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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.

No audience member comments.

V. Civic Pride and Scholastic Excellence

Our students are empowered to lead and demonstrate civic responsibility.

- **Introduction and Congratulations – 2016-2017 CAPSS Awards Honorees**

L. Fearon attended the November dinner held at RHAM High School to honor the CAPSS Awards winners. Students were nominated by their teachers for the CAPSS award. Mr. Fearon said he especially enjoys attending activities when students are being recognized. The honorees received a CAPSS certificate and gift card from H.W. Porter.

L. Fearon proudly introduced Maddy Hughes, Jack Dooley, Jake Tigeleiro, and Katherine Burns as the 2016-17 CAPSS Award Winners. The honorees were recognized and congratulated by members of the board.

- **HWP Community Projects**

L. Fearon said there are numerous fund raising activities occurring in the building throughout the year. A partial listing of 11 projects was reviewed. Porter reaches out to the community at large and in many instances fundraising includes student involvement and initiation of the events. L. Fearon congratulated staff and students on their civic responsibility and civic connectedness.

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.

- Approval of November 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- Approval of Payment of Bills*
- Approval of 2017-2018 Board of Education Meeting Schedule*
- Approval of 2016-2017 Winter Co-curricular Appointments – 3 appointments – Boys/Girls Basketball and Cheerleading*

Discussion – C. Lent requested item a) Approval of November 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes be removed from the consent agenda.

L. Napolitano MOVED, J. Chakulsi SECONDED to approve the consent agenda items b-d CARRIES 5:0.

- Approval of November 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*

J. Chakulski MOVED, L. Dooley SECONDED to approve the minutes of November 7, 2016.

C. Lent requested that the minutes be amended to indicate that under III. Executive Session – strike “H.W. Porter Cafeteria”.

J. Chakulski MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to approve the amended minutes of November 7, 2016.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

VII. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon

a) Breakfast Program

L. Fearon reported the pilot began on 10/17/16. Revenues and expenditures were reviewed. The program is utilized mainly by students coming off bus. Costs for labor covered by severe needs grant.

Lol recommends continuation for the remainder of this year. Feedback for the program has been positive.

L. Dooley MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED, to extend the breakfast program through the end of the 2016/17 school year.

MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

b) Bus Contract 2017-2022

L. Fearon recommends requesting M&J to prepare a contract extension for the board attorney to review.

J. Chakulski MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED, to pursue a 5 year (2017-2022) extension of the bus contract with M&J.

Members agreed M&J has addressed concerns quickly.

MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

VIII. Correspondence/Communications

- Calendar of Columbia FY 2017-2018 Budget Process
- Letter from Putnam Public Schools & Eastconn

IX. Board of Education Subcommittees

- *Future Meeting Dates:*
 - December 13, Future Needs Committee, 6:30 p.m., LMC Conference Room
 - December 15, Tri-Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
 - December 19, Special Board of Education Meeting, Goals Setting, 6:30 p.m., LMC Conference Room
 - January 3, 2017, Budget Committee, 6:30 p.m., LMC Conference Room
Members agreed to begin the meeting at 6:00 on Jan. 3rd to allow time to review the assessment and accountability system the state is putting in place. January 3, 2017, Regular Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m., H.W. P. Cafeteria
 - February 6, 2017, Budget Committee, 6:30 p.m., LMC Conference Room
 - February 6, 2017, Regular Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m., H.W.P. Cafeteria

X. Superintendent’s Report

- *Report on Joint Professional Development Program* –L. Fearon reported the joint professional development with middle school staff from Ashford and Willington and E.O. Smith High School has been very beneficial and successful.
- *Update on ECS Funding* – L. Fearon reported on the impact of the loss of ECS funding. Initially transportation funding was eliminated. This reduction was reflected in last years' budget. Currently there's been a proposed reduction in the magnet school grant. We are anticipating an impact of a \$500 increase per magnet student.
- *National Honor Society Inductees* – Our district web site has been updated and includes Columbia students attending E.O. Smith High School who were recently inducted into the National Honor Society. We are very happy to show our students success and will be adding Columbia students attending Bolton High School as soon as their induction occurs.

XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

- Adoption of Goals*
- Budget 2017-2018*
- Superintendent Review*- Members will review forms which are available on the CAFE site.

XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

Members congratulated Chris Lent and Kathy Tolsdorf on their appointments and thanked them for all their hard work.

K. Tolsdorf is concerned with the impact to the district of magnet school cost increases. She is interested in reaching out to legislators about the impact.

XIII. Adjournment

L. Napolitano MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tolsdorf,
Vice Chairman/Secretary