



## Columbia Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes January 5, 2015

7:30 P.M.

Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

Board Members Present: David Crim, Kerry Hoffman-Chairperson, Linette Dooley, Christopher Lent, Lisa Napolitano, Kathy Tolsdorf, Karin Vertefeuille-Vice Chairperson

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Student Services, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Michael Kenyon-Assistant Principal/Data Coordinator, David Burns

### I. Call to Order

**Kerry Hoffman** called the January 5, 2015, regular meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Public Input to the 2015/2016 Columbia Board of Education Budget (no input)

### 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.

### V. Presentation – *Columbia School District Long-Range Plan – Superintendent Lol Fearon*

**Superintendent Fearon** reviewed the Steering Committee's charge of overseeing the development of the Columbia School District's long range plan. The group consisted of school, parent and community members. Representatives from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) and CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE) met with the committee to share expertise in program development, organizational structure and community engagement.

In their sessions, the Steering Committee discussed:

- What is the moral imperative for change?
- Why should we transform our district?
- What is the impetus for change?
- What is required of leadership?

The Steering Committee Framework consisted of:

1. Vision and Mission – why do we exist?
2. Core Values – how do we interact with each other?
3. Guiding Principles – by what principles do we make decisions?
4. Life-Long Learning Standards – what is the description of our graduates?
5. Goals
6. Action Plan for the Future

Mr. Fearon explained the next steps:

- Form Action Planning Committees
- Develop Action Plans to implement the goals of the Long-Range Plan
- Communication Plan
- Program Structure and organization

**VI. Action Items (Consent)**

*To be read by Board of Education Chairperson prior to taking action:*

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 December 1, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b) Approval of December 10, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes**
- c) Approval of Payment of Bills**

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to approve consent action items a) Approval of December 1, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes, b) Approval of December 10, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes and c) Approval of Payment of Bills as presented.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0.**

**VII. Action Items – Discuss & Act Upon**

- a) Resignation Acceptance of Mrs. Rebecca Radin, Special Education Teacher Effective June 30, 2015**

D. Crim **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to accept with regret the resignation of Mrs. Rebecca Radin, Special Education Teacher effective June 30, 2015.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0.**

*Mrs. Hoffman had the opportunity to serve as a long-term substitute teacher at Porter and worked closely with Mrs. Radin. She learned so much from her.*

- b) Resignation Acceptance of Mrs. Donna Cawley, .6 Speech Pathologist Effective June 30, 2015**

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to accept with regret the resignation of Mrs. Donna Cawley, .6 Speech Pathologist effective June 30, 2015.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0.**

- c) Resignation Acceptance of Mrs. Laura Zaglio, Grade 2 Teacher Effective June 30, 2015**

C. Lent **MOVED**, L. Dooley **SECONDED** to accept with regret the resignation of Mrs. Laura Zaglio, Grade 2 Teacher effective June 30, 2015.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0.**

*Mrs. Hoffman had such fun learning about Columbia history when her children were in Mrs. Zaglio's second grade class. She is sad to see her retire.*

- d) Appointment of Mrs. Katherine MacDonald, Co-Curricular Set Design Advisor**

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to appoint Mrs. Katherine MacDonald as Co-Curricular Set Design Advisor for the 2014/2015 school year with the salary of \$2,041.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0.**

### **VIII. Correspondence/Communications**

- a) Mr. Dino Mattessich to Porter Friends – December 7, 2014

*Mrs. Kathleen Mattessich will be missed. On behalf of the Columbia Board of Education, Mrs. Hoffman thanked the Mattessich family.*

### **IX. Board of Education Subcommittees**

• Future Meeting Dates:

- January 12, 2015 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- January 20, 2015 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- January 26, 2015 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- February 2, 2015 – Non-Certified Negotiations, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- February 2, 2015 – Regular BOE Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Caf with Public Budget Input
- February 9, 2015 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- February 18, 2015 (Wed.) - Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:3 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- February 23, 2015 – Public Hearing/Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m. H.W.P. Caf

### **X. Superintendent's Report**

- a) Tri-Board Meeting Update – Mr. Fearon said that this was a very good meeting and Board of Selectmen, FiPAC and Board of Education relationships are very positive.
- b) Website Update – Principal Gwinnell has met with teachers and all grade level teams for a quick run through of the new website. She has reviewed logging in, accessing and editing pages, and adding subpages. Forms are being created on-line. Director of Student Services, Mrs. Farley, is working on the special education piece and the company is fixing a few things. Mrs. Vertefeulle is working on the district side of the website building out the high school areas with links to each high school, faculty and calendars. New sections are being added with student success stories.
- c) Social Studies Frameworks – Mr. Fearon reported the Social Studies Frameworks are based on national social studies standards released in 2013. They follow a single guide format that is a list of compelling questions, a list of themes and content, a detailed summary of content expectations and a list of the history, economics, civics and geography themes to be addressed. The Connecticut Frameworks were presented at the National Social Studies Conference in November 2014. The State Board of Education asked for feedback and extended the window to February 4, 2015 with full approval anticipated for that same date. At Porter, revision to the Social Studies curriculum began in 2009 with the first draft of the frameworks. There is local decision-making encouraged on sequence of content and our staff is waiting to see how support/training is rolled out.
- d) SMARTSTART Grant – If awarded, the SMARTSTART grant is a \$5,000 per Pre-K student grant awarded to CT districts for 5 years. Mrs. Farley reviewed the submitted grant information and the expansion possibilities of Porter's Pre-K program if awarded the grant:
- Expansion of program to include 48 students
  - No charge for tuition and transportation
  - The construction of an additional Pre-K bathroom
  - Purchasing smart tables
  - Installing playground fencing

A grant requirement is NAEYC accreditation. Notification will come in April.

### **XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)**

- Technology Update - February 2, 2015
- Long-Range Plan - February 2, 2015
- Website Review - February 2, 2015

### **XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks**

**XIII. Adjournment**

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Vertefeuille  
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairperson