

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT



*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

**February 1, 2016**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria**

Approved March 7, 2016

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christopher Lent-Chairman, Lisa Napolitano, David Crim, Linette Dooley, Kathy Tolsdorf-Vice Chairperson, Karin Vertefeuille, James Chakulski, Jr.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Special Services, Karen Caputo, Lorraine McLeish, Natasha Nau-Town Administrator, Paula Stahl, National Junior Honor Society Members, and Brenda Desmarais-Co-Advisor of NJHS.

**I. Call to Order**

C. Lent called the February 1, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. 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.

**None.**

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** a motion to Move Action Item VIII. (d) to be item V. ON the agenda.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0.**

**IV. Celebration of Excellence**

*At Porter School our students are empowered to lead and to demonstrate civic responsibility.*

***Horace W. Porter School National Junior Honor Society Members will be in attendance this evening.***

C. Lent welcomed the NJHS students. Each NJHS member stood and introduced themselves to the BOE. Brenda Desmarais introduced herself as co-advisor for the NJHS and that she works with co-advisor Jan Denley, a sixth grade teacher at HWP. C. Lent gave an overview of being a community leader and the responsibilities as a BOE member.

**V. ACTION ITEM – Center School District Resolution (attached)**

L. Fearon introduced Paula Stahl, Town Planner. Paula Stahl described the history of the Center School District. Ms. Stahl also showed parcel maps and described each. She explained the need to have the BOE approve the consolidation of the Center School District parcels with town parcels.

L. Fearon stated that the BOE's law firm looked at the resolution and there is no exposure to the District. This is just a formality to turn the parcel back to the town.

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to approve the Center School District Resolution as presented.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0**

**VI. Positive Behavior Program**

*At Porter School students learn differently in different ways and at different rates.*

***Presenters: Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Student Services, Lorraine McLeish-Special Education Teacher, Karen Caputo-School Social Worker***

C. Lent introduced Mary-Kate Farley, Director of Special Services. Mary-Kate gave an overview of the Positive Behavior Program. Mary-Kate introduced Karen Caputo and Lorraine McLeish. Karen Caputo, Lorraine McLeish and Mary-Kate Farley all took turns in the power point presentation.

Questions from the Board concerned programs that develop empathy among all students, the role of the Second Step Program, the partnership with AHM Services and the work of Cheri Rivard-Lentz and the staffing of programs PK-8.

The BOE had also asked about what a 504 Plan is and service costs for High School 504's. Mary-Kate Farley spoke to these questions with the help of Mr. Kenyon.

Note: NJHS members thanked the BOE and left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

**VII. 2016/2017 Columbia Board of Education Budget Presentation & Discussion**

***Presenter: Lol Fearon, Superintendent***

C. Lent stated that this presentation was just a run through, draft, of the budget, and not for public input. On February 22, 2016 the Board will present the budget to the public and solicit input.

L. Fearon gave a presentation on the budget draft. BOE members commented on the presentation and gave input on items that may need to be clarified and presented. L. Fearon thanked BOE members for their helpful comments.

**VIII. 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 January 4, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- b) Approval of Payment of Bills*
- c) Approval of H. W. Porter Capital Improvement Five-Year Plan*

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to approve action items a-c as presented above.  
**MOTION CARRIES: 7-0.**

**IX. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon**

- a) Appointment of Girls Softball, Boys Track and Girls Track Coaches*

L. Fearon gave candidate backgrounds.

D. Crim **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to approve action item (a) as presented.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0**

- b) H.W. Porter Board of Education Goals 2015/2016*

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to approve action item (b) as presented.

There was some discussion

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0**

c) *2016/2017 Horace W. Porter School Calendar*

L. Fearon presented calendar.

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to approve action item (c) as presented.

There was some discussion

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0**

#### **X. Discussion Items**

a) *Teaching and Learning Committee - Curriculum Review and Development Process*

L. Fearon gave a brief introduction to presentation by Alyssa Gwinnell. Alyssa Gwinnell gave presentation on curriculum review and development process. After the presentation there was some discussion with the BOE regarding matching our curriculum to our high school choices, and regarding electives.

D. Crim asked if the board could be provided with minutes or notes from curriculum meetings. L. Fearon responded that they can be shared with the BOE.

#### **XI. Correspondence/Communications - None**

a) *King, King & Associates- Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures – December 24, 2015*

b) *Article on E.O. Smith upgrade - informational*

#### **XII. Board of Education Subcommittees**

• Future Meeting Dates:

- February 8, 2016 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room  
C. Lent stated we will cancel this meeting unless significant changes occur.
- February 22, 2016 – Public Hearing & BOE Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m. H.W.P. Café
- March 7, 2016 – Regular BOE Meeting with Approval 2016/17 Budget, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Café
- March 16, 2016 (Wednesday) – BOS & BOE present Budgets to FiPAC, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- March 23, 2016 (Wednesday) – Special FiPAC Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- March 30, 2016 (Wednesday) – Special FiPAC Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

#### **XIII. Superintendent's Report**

L. Fearon stated that the CT Department of Education is currently conducting a desk audit and review of our files for compliance.

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

- March 7, 2016 – Update on Co-Teaching Model and Professional Development-Amy Drowne, Eastconn
- March 7, 2016 - Policy Review 6:30 p.m. LMC Conference Room

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

L. Napolitano announced that the Chronicle now publishes our BOE meetings.

#### **XVI. Adjournment**

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES 7:0**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Tolsdorf, Columbia Board of Education-Vice Chairperson

**COLUMBIA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Composite Deed Map  
Parcel 1A and Parcel 2  
February 1, 2016**

WHEREAS, Ann C. Williams and Henry E. Williams conveyed a certain piece or parcel of land (shown as "Parcel 2" on the map labeled "Deed Composite" submitted to this meeting (the "Deed Composite Map")) to The Center School District of the Town of Columbia by a Warranty Deed dated June 2, 1900 and recorded in Volume 9, Page 404 of the Columbia Land Records, and

WHEREAS, Samuel B. West, duly appointed agent for the Town of Columbia, conveyed a certain piece or parcel of land (shown as "Parcel 1A" on the Deed Composite Map) to The Center School District of the Town of Columbia by a Warranty Deed dated June 23, 1900 and recorded in Volume 9, Page 407 of the Columbia Land Records; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of Section 7 of Chapter 146 of the Public Acts of 1909, title to all property held by The Center School District of the Town of Columbia vested in the Town of Columbia to be held for school purposes; and

WHEREAS, Parcels 1A and 2 are not currently being used for school purposes and there is no reasonable expectation that they will be used for school purposes in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, Parcels 1A and 2 are contiguous parcels and adjoin other property of the Town of Columbia, as shown on the Deed Composite Map as printed and attached; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Columbia is prepared to find it to be in the best interests of the Town that the various parcels surrounding the Saxton B. Little Free Library and Yeomans Hall, including Parcels 1A and 2, be consolidated into a single parcel under the ownership of the Town.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

THAT: The Board of Education of the Town of Columbia does hereby acknowledge and affirm that it is not currently using and does not intend to use either Parcel 1A or Parcel 2 for school purposes; and

THAT: The Board of Education of the Town of Columbia does hereby relinquish to the Town of Columbia any remaining rights it may have in and to Parcel 1A and Parcel 2.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Date: February 1, 2016