



Columbia Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2011
7:30 P.M.
Horace W. Porter School Library Media Center

Board Members Present: Lisa Jurovaty-Vice Chairman, William Mulcahy, Lauren Perrotti-Verboven-Chairman, Nelson Petrone, John Schroder, James Thorn

Board Members Absent: Paula Belekewicz

Administration Present: Francine Coss-Superintendent, Jean Trask-Porter Principal, Jacqueline Middleton-Director of Student Services, Robert Parenti-Porter Assistant Principal

Staff Present: Marian Lowry, Janet Stice

Others Present: Amy Raffa, Kate Starkey, Laurie Rogers, Diane Schatz

I. Call to Order

Lauren Perrotti-Verboven called the February 7, 2011 regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Addition to the agenda:

N. Petrone **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to add XIII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Negotiations Discussion to the 02/07/11 meeting agenda.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Proclamation

- **Resignation of Mrs. Jessica Strausser, ECL/Reading Intervention Teacher**

Mrs. Coss said Mrs. Strausser will be missed. Her decision to wait until the end of the quarter shows her level of integrity.

IV. Approval of January 3, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes - Take Action

W. Mulcahy **MOVED** and N. Petrone **SECONDED** to approve the January 3, 2011 regular meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

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

Time allotted for public participation—30 minutes, time allotted for an individual speaker—3 minutes

Amy Raffa is in favor of the proposed revised 2010/2011 school calendar; keeping the February vacation intact, making the 2/18/11 staff development day a school day for students, and adding days to the April vacation and end of the school year in June. Kate Starkey also agrees with the proposed revised calendar due to high temperatures in late June. She thanked Mr. Parenti for resolving a high school bus issue to her satisfaction.

VI. Correspondence/Communications/Information

- King, King & Associates, CPAs Independent Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010**
- CABE's Day on the Hill – March 9, 2011 @ 8:30 a.m. Bushnell, Hartford CT**
- Shipman & Goodwin Legal Services Fees Adjustments**
- Mr. Alvan R. Hill, Town Building Official to Superintendent Coss – Investigation of the School's Gymnasium Interior Ceiling Saturday 05 February**
- Department of Education Acting Commissioner to Superintendents – CMT/CAPT Testing Window**

VII. Presentations

- A. **2010-2012 Horace W. Porter School Improvement Plan (SIP)** - Ms. Jean Trask – Horace W. Porter School Principal, Ms. Jacqueline Middleton – Director of Student Services and Mr. Robert Parenti – Assistant Principal

The administrative team reviewed:

- **Overarching School Improvement Principles** - the plan is being used to guide decisions, actions, planning and programs at H. W. Porter in order to provide support for on-going student achievement. The plan is a living document that is constantly evolving as the needs of students and staff are addressed.
- **How student achievement is being supported by the 2010-2012 School Improvement Plan** - student assessment and disciplinary data have been reviewed to determine student weaknesses and SIP goals have been updated to provide teachers with a target which they are basing the creation of their SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timely) goals. Students who may potentially be in need of intervention services have been identified. Goal 4 now includes students in grades K-8, rather than only grades 4-8. Teacher professional goals are now aligned with the SIP. The process for in-house assessment for Language Arts has been analyzed. Out-of-district visits for observation and academic/behavioral instruction analysis are being scheduled. District Team Leader, Curriculum Team Leader, Data Team, SRBI, TCC and Transportation Services meetings are scheduled to efficiently maximize instructional time.
- **How student achievement using the SIP will continue** by the administration, District Team Leaders, Curriculum Team Leaders, Data Team, SRBI, TCC and Transportation Services was also reviewed.

The Board of Education thanked the Porter administrators for all their work on the School Improvement Plan. Mrs. Jurovaty asked for clarification regarding technology needs for budget planning purposes and if guidelines are being met for the evaluation of the superintendent.

- B. **2011-2012 Columbia Board of Education Budget** - Mrs. Francine Coss, Superintendent
The preliminary 2011-2012 Columbia Board of Education operating budget represents a 0.00% increase over the 2010-2011 budget. This budget takes into account the economic climate and declining enrollment at Horace W. Porter School. District staff, teachers and administrators have taken many steps to contain district costs. Savings in expenses include 4.3 fewer staff positions and less high school tuition costs. Mrs. Coss reviewed 2011-2012 line items: staffing, benefits, services, transportation, tuition, supplies, utilities, software, textbooks, periodicals, equipment, dues/fees. The 0% increase from the 2010-2011 budget is due to a greater number of high school seniors graduating than the number of entering freshmen, EdJobs Funding supplementing \$149,000 of certified salary, healthcare level funding and the reduction of unemployment costs.

VIII. Financial Review

- A. **Payment of Bills**
B. **Actual & Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances**

IX. Reports/Discussion

- A. **Board of Education Chairperson** – *Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven thanked Mrs. Coss, Mr. Sylvester and Mr. Hendrickson for their time and effort removing snow on the roof and walkways to the school building. Mrs. Coss thanked Mr. Starkel for arranging for the bucket truck that was borrowed from Andover.*

Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven encouraged parents and the public to be involved in FIPAC/BOS/BOE budget discussions and the budget development process.

1. January Through April 2011 Meeting Dates

B. **Board of Education Subcommittees**

1. February 14, 2011 – Policy/Facilities/Curriculum Subcommittee Meetings @ 6:00 p.m. Porter LMC
2. February 28, 2011 – Public Hearing and Special Board of Education Meeting @ **5:30 p.m.** Porter LMC
3. March 14, 2011 – Policy/Facilities/Curriculum Subcommittee Meetings @ 6:00 p.m. Porter LMC
4. March 21, 2011 – Budget/Negotiations Subcommittee Meetings @ 6:00 p.m. Porter LMC
5. March 23, 2011 – FIPAC Special Meeting - BOS & BOE Invited
6. March 30, 2011 – FIPAC Special Meeting - Budget Workshop

C. **Superintendent's Report**

1. Interdistrict Grants – 2011 Update – Mrs. Coss highlighted the Arts in the Afternoon program that Windham and Columbia jointly participate in during vacations in February and April and during the summer.
2. February 1, 2011 Horace W. Porter School Enrollment
3. Non-Certified Union Delegate Change

4. High School Lottery Process – There are 26 available slots for freshmen students at Bolton High School and 30 at E.O. Smith High School for the 2011/2012 school year. In addition to 3 students who are currently attending private schools, there are 49 students in Porter’s grade 8 class. The lottery process may not be necessary. If it is, a process will be developed and student names will not be used.
5. Bolton Public Schools Publications

X. Action Items/Discussion

A. Policy 5117 School Attendance: Designated High Schools and Tuition for Non-Designated Public High Schools – 3rd Reading

N. Petrone **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to approve the open choice policy 5117 – school attendance: designated high school and tuition policy for non-designated public high schools as presented.

MOTION FAILS

N. Petrone, J. Schroder, J. Thorn VOTED FOR THE MOTION

L. Jurovaty, W. Mulcahy, L. Perrotti-Verboven VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION

B. 2011/2012 Horace W. Porter Calendar – First Reading

W. Mulcahy **MOVED** and J. Schroder **SECONDED** to table this item until the March 7, 2011 meeting.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

C. Horace W. Porter School 2010/2011 Calendar Changes

L. Perrotti-Verboven **MOVED** and J. Schroder **SECONDED** to approve the revised 2010/2011 Horace W. Porter School calendar as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

XI. Future Agenda Items

XII. Board of Education Member Comments

XIII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Negotiations Discussion

W. Mulcahy **MOVED** and N. Petrone **SECONDED** to enter into executive session for the purpose of negotiations discussion at 10:18 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and N. Petrone **SECONDED** to adjourn executive session at 10:59 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

XIV. Adjournment

J. Schroder **MOVED** and W. Mulcahy **SECONDED** to adjourn the February 7, 2011 regular meeting at 11:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jurovaty
Columbia Board of Education Vice-Chairperson