



Columbia Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 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

Staff Present: Marian Lowry, Janet Stice

Others Present: Chronicle Reporter

I. Call to Order

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

Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven informed Board members that Mrs. Belekewicz would not be attending this meeting due to the conflicting Columbia Lion's Leo Club start-up meeting. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Belekewicz and her daughter, Molly who will be the Leo Club's first president, for their support to this new and exciting opportunity for Columbia youth.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Proclamation

March is Board of Education Appreciation Month – Thank You Columbia Board of Education Members!

Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven said it is a pleasure to serve on the Columbia Board of Education and expressed appreciation to Board members for their time and commitment to the students and families of Columbia.

IV. Approval of Board of Education Minutes - Take Action

A. Approval of February 7, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

N. Petrone **MOVED** and W. Mulcahy **SECONDED** to approve the February 7, 2011 regular meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

B. Approval of February 28, 2011 Special Meeting & Public Budget Hearing Minutes

N. Petrone **MOVED** and W. Mulcahy **SECONDED** to approve the February 28, 2011 special meeting and public budget hearing 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

On behalf of the Porter staff, Mrs. Janet Stice-CTA Co-President, thanked Board members for everything they do for Columbia students, staff and community.

VI. Correspondence/Communications/Information

A. CT State Department of Education SEDAC October 1, 2010 Report - Mrs. Coss thanked Student Services Director Ms. Jacqueline Middleton for working very hard to make sure all district pre-special education services are provided to students. Porter teachers are doing a great deal and programs are in place to keep the district's 7.9% of students with disabilities below DRG C's 10.5 percentage and statewide 11.6 percentage.

- B. CT Public Schools Weather – Related School Cancellation Survey Results**
- C. Windham Public Schools Revised 2010/2011 Calendar**

VII. Presentation - None

VIII. Financial Review

- A. Payment of Bills** – Board members discussed out-placed student costs and project 30 expenses/reimbursements.
- B. Actual & Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances** – At this time, 46.5% of the 2010/2011 Board of Education budget remains. Grant revenue will be added to the budget for the April 4th meeting.
- C. Columbia School Grant Status Actual & Budgeted Expenses as of February 11, 2011** – Spending will occur during the 2nd year of these grants.

IX. Reports/Discussion

A. Board of Education Chairperson

During the March 2nd non-certified contract negotiation meeting, the current contract was reviewed, ground rules were agreed upon and both sides reviewed their requests using the Interest Based Bargaining method. Next meeting will be March 23rd.

1. Revised January Through April 2011 Meeting Dates
2. 2011 Columbia Board of Education Committee Membership – Subcommittee Chairmen will be determined at the 4/4/11 meeting.

B. Board of Education Subcommittees

1. March 14, 2011 – Budget/Policy Subcommittee Meetings @ 6:00 p.m. Porter LMC
2. March 16, 2011 – FIPAC Regular Meeting; BOS & BOE Present Budgets @ 7:30 p.m. Adella Urban Town Offices
3. March 21, 2011 – Budget/Negotiations Subcommittee Meetings @ 6:00 p.m. Porter LMC
4. March 23, 2011 – FIPAC Budget Workshop @ 7:30 p.m. Adella Urban Town Offices - BOS & BOE Invited
5. March 30, 2011 – FIPAC Budget Workshop @ 7:30 p.m. Adella Urban Town Offices

C. Superintendent's Report

1. March 1, 2011 Horace W. Porter School Enrollment
2. Columbia Public Schools Enrollment Projection Updated to 2020 - Peter M. Prowda, Ph.D. – This report predicts a 30.2 % decline in enrollment over the next ten years; 539 in 2010 to about 375 in 2020. These numbers will be used for future budgeting purposes.
3. Columbia Board of Education Winter 2011 Update

X. Action Items/Discussion – Consent Agenda

Approval of consent agenda items X.B, X.C. X.D. with the exception of X.A. Superintendent Contract Renewal Approval

N. Petrone **MOVED** and J. Schroder **SECONDED** to move item X.A. Superintendent Contract Renewal Approval after XIII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Negotiation Discussion of Superintendent Contract Renewal

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Consent Agenda

N. Petrone **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to approve:

X.B. 2011/2012 Horace W. Porter School Calendar version 1 as presented.

X.C. 2011/2012 Columbia Board of Education Budget Approval as presented with a suggested total of \$11,607,465.

X.D. Policy 5147.7 - Student Sports – Concussion and Head Injuries as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

XI. Future Agenda Items

XII. Board of Education Member Comments

Mr. Petrone asked if the AED could be available for weekend visitors who are using the gymnasium area. Mrs. Coss will bring this topic up to the Health Committee.

XIII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Negotiation Discussion of Superintendent Contract Renewal

J.Thorn **MOVED** and J. Schroder **SECONDED** to enter into executive session for the purpose of negotiations discussion of the Superintendent's contract renewal at 7:55 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and N. Petrone **SECONDED** to adjourn executive session at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Superintendent Contract Renewal Approval

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and J. Schroder **SECONDED** to approve the contract renewal as presented of Superintendent Francine Coss.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

XIV. Adjournment

J. Schroder **MOVED** and W. Mulcahy **SECONDED** to adjourn the March 7, 2011 regular meeting at 8:26 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jurovaty
Columbia Board of Education Vice-Chairperson