



Columbia Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2011

7:30 P.M.

Horace W. Porter School Library Media Center

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

Administration Present: Francine Coss-Superintendent

Staff Present: Marian Lowry, Sandra Rijs

Citizens Present: Amy Raffa

I. Call to Order

Lauren Perrotti-Verboven called the April 4, 2011 regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

III.- Add Approval of March 28, 2011 Special Meeting Minutes – Take Action

IX.C. - Policy 5117 School Attendance: Designated High Schools – Take Action

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Board of Education Minutes - Take Action

A. Approval of March 7, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

W. Mulcahy **Moved** and J. Thorn **Seconded** to approve the March 7, 2011 regular meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0-1

L. Jurovaty, W. Mulcahy, L. Perrotti-Verboven, N. Petrone, J. Schroder, J. Thorn VOTED FOR THE MOTION

P. Belekewicz ABSTAINED

B. Approval of March 28, 2011 Special Meeting Minutes

W. Mulcahy **Moved** and J. Thorn **Seconded** to approve the March 28, 2011 special meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 7-0

IV. 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 asked for clarification of the scheduled fall conference days, the change from quarters to trimesters, early dismissal on Wednesdays and if snow days are built into the 2011/2012 calendar.

The Superintendent explained:

- *Per the Certified Contract, there will be an early dismissal on October 26, 2011 with parent conferences starting after 1:10 p.m. and a full day of school on October 27, 2011 with conferences starting after 3:10 p.m.*
- *Grades K-8 will all be on a trimester schedule.*
- *There will be 8 professional development early dismissal days on Wednesdays aligning with one of the district's designated high schools. It is hoped that staff and student attendance will increase with days scheduled in the middle of the week.*
- *Snow days are not built into the 180-day student calendar.*

V. Correspondence/Communications/Information

A. Revised 2010/2011 Horace W. Porter School Calendar

B. Revised 2010/2011 Windham Tech Calendar

C. Lebanon Public Schools 2011/2012 Calendar

D. Cost of Town Employee for Roof Snow Removal Letter to Superintendent from Finance

Director/Treasurer – Mrs. Coss reported that this payment has been made to the Town. She thanked Peter Hendrickson, Michael Sylvester and Bud Meyers for their work in removing snow from the school roof.

E. CT State Department of Education Certification Verification Survey Compliance Report – 03/01/2011

V. Correspondence/Communications/Information - continued

F. Columbia Leo Club Charter Night Program – 03/07/2011

Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven thanked Ms. Sandra Rijs, Enrichment Specialist Teacher, and the Belekewicz family for their parts in the start up of the Porter Leos Club. Ms. Rijs informed Board members the new inductees have already helped at the Columbia Lions Club Pancake Breakfast and are planning a cleanup day at the Channel 3 Country Camp in May and a carnival during the summer.

G. Title III, Part A: English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement & Academic Achievement Monitoring (03/11/11)

H. NewAlliance Bank Will Soon Become First Niagra Bank – 03/11/2011

I. English Language Learners/Language Assessment Scale (ELL/LAS) Links Data Collection (03/14/11)

J. The Nutmeg Board of Education Eliminates April Vacation Because of Snow Days - The CABE Journal March 2011

K. Eastconn Connections Newsletter – March 2011

L. Council 4 AFSCME Grievance Notification

M. Freedom of Information Complaint Notification – March 21, 2011

VI. Financial Review

A. Payment of Bills

B. Actual & Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances – 37.49% remains in the 2010/2011 budget. Mrs. Coss reported that science and social studies purchase orders have been processed and approximately \$77,000 will be spent on updated math curriculum products later this week.

VII. Reports

A. Board of Education Chairperson

1. 2011 Meeting Topics (March Through September)
2. 2011 Columbia Board of Education Subcommittee Chairmen:
 - Policy – Mrs. Lauren Perrotti-Verboven
 - Budget – Mrs. Lisa Jurovaty
 - Negotiations – Mrs. Lauren Perrotti-Verboven
 - Curriculum – Mr. James Thorn
 - Facilities & Transportation – Mrs. Paula Belekewicz
 - Fiscal Policy Board Representative – Mr. William Mulcahy

B. Board of Education Subcommittees

1. April 11, 2011 – Personnel/ Curriculum /Policy/ Subcommittee Meetings @ 6:00 p.m. Porter LMC Conf. Room
2. April 13, 2011 – Fiscal Policy Meeting @ 8:30 a.m. Porter LMC Conference Room
3. April 13, 2011 – Public Budget Hearing @ 7:30 p.m. – A notice will go out to parents later this week reminding them of the Budget Hearing and informing them that babysitting will be provided.
4. April 20, 2011 – FIPAC Special Meeting - Budget Workshop

C. Superintendent's Report

1. Columbia Administrators' Bargaining Unit – This is a petition to become a bargaining unit.
2. Horace W. Porter's Father Daughter Dance Sponsored by the PTO – This request has been approved. The PTO will not be charging for food, just admittance to the dance. Mrs. Jurovaty thinks this is an awesome idea by the PTO.
3. Online Parent Portal
4. Grade 2 Out-of-State Field Trip Approval to Sturbridge Village – This field trip has been approved.
5. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Premium Rates – July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 – Rates will decrease effective July 1, 2011.
6. Columbia Board of Education 2011/2012 Budget Document

Ms. Perrotti-Verboven thanked Columbia citizens for their support to the 2011/2012 Columbia Board of Education budget process and for attending FIPAC meetings. She thanked Mrs. Coss for her integrity and careful management of the district budget and confirmed that the Board of Education is behind the superintendent 110%. FIPAC's "smoke and mirror" comment regarding the BOE budget was not appropriate and the meeting minutes did not reflect the detail in which the superintendent was questioned. Mrs. Coss thanked Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven for her kind words.

7. 2011 Freedom of Information Conference – 04/07/2011
8. National Assessment of Education (NAEP) at Horace W. Porter School – Mrs. Coss and Board members expressed thanks to Mr. Parenti for his cooperative, helpful and worthwhile assessment experience during the NAEP visit and testing.

C. Superintendent's Report - continued

9. IDEA Program/Fiscal Compliance Review for Columbia Public Schools – The Superintendent thanked Ms. Middleton and the PPT Team for their work in this matter.

Mrs. Coss informed the Board that she met with Finance Department employees, the Town Administrator and a BMSI representative on Friday, 04/01/11. The most cost effective software option appears to be the continuation of BMSI use. BMSI offers electronic purchase orders and forecasting. Software training will be scheduled to get the full use of the software.

VIII. Discussion

- A. Policy 3542 Food Service-School Lunch Service – First Reading**
B. Policy 3542.43 Food Service-Charging Policy – First Reading

IX. Action Items

A. 2011/2012 Horace W. Porter School Calendar – Second Reading

W. Mulcahy **MOVED** and N. Petrone **SECONDED** to approve the 2011/2012 (Version 1) Horace W. Porter School calendar as presented

MOTION CARRIES: 7-0

B. Appointment of Mr. Robert Gamache – Boys Interscholastic Baseball Coach

N. Petrone **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to appoint Mr. Robert Gamache as the 2010/2011 Boys Interscholastic Baseball Coach with the salary of \$1,917.

MOTION CARRIES: 7-0

C. Policy 5117 School Attendance: Designated High Schools

W. Mulcahy **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to approve Policy 5117 School Attendance: Designated High Schools as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-2-0

W. Mulcahy, L. Perrotti-Verboven, N. Petrone, J. Schroder, J. Thorn VOTED FOR THE MOTION

P. Belekewicz, L. Jurovaty VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION

X. Future Agenda Items

XI. Board of Education Member Comments

XII. Adjournment

N. Petrone **MOVED** and L. Jurovaty **SECONDED** to adjourn the April 4, 2011 regular meeting at 9:45 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 7-0

Go Huskies!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jurovaty
Columbia Board of Education Vice-Chairperson