



Columbia Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes April 7, 2014

7:30 P.M.

Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

- Board Members Present: David Crim, Kerry Hoffman-Chairperson, Christopher Lent, Lisa Napolitano, Kathy Tolsdorf, Karin Vertefeuille-Vice Chairperson
- Board Members Absent: Lauren Perrotti-Verboven
- Administration Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal
- Others Present: Carmen Vance-First Selectman, Bev Ciurylo-Finance Director, Sandy Rijs-Enrichment Teacher, Jessica DelMastro-PK Teacher, Steve Piro-P.E. Teacher

I. Call to Order

Kerry Hoffman called the April 7, 2014, regular meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. She apologized for the delay to the start of the meeting.

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.

- **First Selectman Carmen Vance** wanted to clarify to Board members that she does not support regionalization in the traditional sense of the word although the State may eventually push regionalization for small districts like Columbia. She does agree with sharing services with other small districts but this is not something that has been studied for Columbia.

IV. 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 Payment of Bills
- b) Approval of March 3, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c) Approval of March 10, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes
- d) Approval March 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- e) Approval of April 1, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes
- f) Acceptance of 2014-15 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement

L. Napolitano **MOVED** and D. Crim **SECONDED** to approve IV. Action Items a through f as presented above.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

V. Budget Discussion and Acceptance of the 2014/2015 Columbia Board of Education Budget

Superintendent Fearon explained the 5 areas that have been reduced making the 2014/2015 budget a 3% increase over the current year:

AREA 1 REDUCTION:

10-10-100-1100-330	Interns	17,000
10-10-100-2600-422	Snowplowing	1,000
10-10-100-1105-430	Repair/Maintenance - District Technology	8,000
10-10-100-2600-430	Grounds/Building	5,000
10-10-100-1104-641	Texts - L/A	2,743
10-10-100-1106-641	Texts - Health	4,447
10-10-100-1110-641	Texts - Science	7,925
10-10-100-1111-641	Texts - Math	3,300
10-10-100-1115-641	Texts - Music	1,950
10-10-100-1110-730	Equipment Science	1,750
10-10-100-1111-730	Equipment Math	4,825
10-10-100-1119-730	Equipment PE	3,040
	TOTAL	\$60,980

AREA 2 REDUCTION:

10-20-100-1108-560	Tuition - E.O. Smith	36,309
10-20-300-1100-560	Tuition Voag	-22,035
	TOTAL	\$14,274

AREA 3 REDUCTION:

Staff Reductions in Force		
2.0 FTE Teachers Salaries and benefits (Net savings with unemployment)		97,392
2.0 FTE Non-Certified Staff (Net savings with unemployment)		91,032
	TOTAL	\$188,424

AREA 4 REDUCTION:

10-10-100-2213-320	Instructional Services /Conferences	4,275
	TOTAL	\$4,275

AREA 5 REDUCTION:

10-30-600-1241-560	High School Services	50,000
	TOTAL	\$50,000

GRAND TOTAL = \$317,953

D. Crim **MOVED** and K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to accept the 2014/2015 Columbia Board of Education budget with a reduction of \$317,953 which makes for a 3% increase over the 2013/14 budget, for a total of \$11,585,955.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

- **K. Vertefeuille** stated with only a 3% budget increase, the Board cannot go any lower without impacting what is being offered to our students.
- **K. Hoffman** said although she respects FiPAC and their decision to reduce the BOE's budget, she is disappointed to do so because of the newly applied programs and the positive results the Board is starting to see.

VI. Authorization for Superintendent to Send Letters of Nonrenewal

Mr. Fearon explained it is annual practice to send letters of nonrenewal to non-tenured teachers.

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED** and C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the authorization for the Superintendent to send letters of nonrenewal to Mr. Michael Kane and Mr. Cory Tobler.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

VII. Discussion and Appointment of TEAM Mentor – Steven Piro

C. Lent **MOVED** and K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** to approve the appointment of Mr. Steven Piro as TEAM Mentor.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

VIII. Presentation

a) Horace W. Porter School 2014/15 Schedule – Mrs. Alyssa Gwinnell, H.W.P. Principal

Mrs. Gwinnell explained how the 2014/15 schedule will impact next year's calendar:

- Middle school trimesters will change to quarters
- Technology will become a mandated course to prepare our students for State computer-based testing
 - All students in grades 5-8 will take this course for one quarter
 - Grades 3 and 4 will have a separate technology class
 - Kindergarten through grade 2 will have technology in their library class
- State mandates require students through the eighth grade must have at least 20 minutes of recess each day
 - K-4 will have 30 minutes each day
 - Grades 6-8 will have 20 minutes each day
 - Recess minutes will come out of SRBI time for 7th and 8th grade
 - through 6th grade there will be no reduction in SRBI time (already had a recess period)
 - grades 7/8 SRBI time will change from 40 minutes of SRBI 2 out of 3 days to 20 minutes 2 out of 3 days
 - grades 7/8 Spanish will change from 40 minutes every day to 2 out of 3 days for 40 minutes and 1 out of 3 days for 20 minutes
- Math, English, Science and Social Studies class minutes will remain the same

IX. Discussion and Approval of 2014/2015 Horace W. Porter School Calendar

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED** and L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve the 2014/2015 Horace W. Porter School calendar as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Mr. Fearon explained because of the summer roof replacement project, school will start after Labor Day; September 2, 2014. If there is a delay in the completion of the project, staff professional development could be conducted offsite. As in the past, district unions have had input to the calendar.

X. Correspondence/Communications

- Superintendent Fearon To Ann Kollegger – Thank You on Behalf of the Board of Education
- Revised 2013/2014 Horace W. Porter School Calendar – the last day of school will be Friday, June 13th.
- Town of Columbia Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2014

XI. Board of Education Subcommittees

- Future Meeting Dates:
 - April 23, 2014 (Wednesday) – Public Budget Hearing, 7:00 p.m. Porter School Caf
 - May 05, 2014 (Monday) – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Horace W. Porter Caf
 - May 13, 2014 (Tuesday) – Annual Town Budget Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Porter School Caf

XII. Superintendent's Report

- a) **Update on District Enrollment Projections** – Mr. Fearon reported Dr. Prowda's Enrollment Projection Report to 2023 will help direct the Board's Long Range Plan. Declining district enrollment will have an impact on the number of class sections, middle school model and middle school teams.
- b) **Long Range Plan** – The enrollment projection report will be used to look at per pupil costs and predict what future year budgets will look like. The Board will formulate an action plan and strategy for marketing our school.
- c) **SDE Approval of 2013-14 Flexibility Request for Teacher Educator Evaluation & Support**
- d) **Update on Stipend Committee and MOA** – Mr. Fearon explained that contractual deadlines have been met. He has contacted the district attorney who will draw up a Memorandum of Agreement. The Superintendent will bring the MOA to the full Board of Education for approval.
- e) **Roof Project** - There were ten bids received and opened on March 31, 2014. Bids ranged from \$1.7 million to \$2.2 million. Reference checks are being conducted with schools and municipalities. The Building Committee will be meeting, Tuesday, April 8th to review awarding of bid. The Building Committee will make the award recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Also included will be a Clerk of the Works to oversee program. All main mechanicals are contained in bid. The airflow work (Science rooms and controls) are budgeted in Capital Expenses and included in architectural plans. Installation work under separate contract but coordinated with roofing contract. The project is scheduled to start June 16, 2014 and be completed within 60 days (August 22, 2014). Mike Sylvester will attend preconstruction meeting with Jonathan Luiz, architects, contractor and the Clerk of the Works to finalize the schedule and determine the impact on summer school session and other maintenance and cleaning tasks.

XIII. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

XIV. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

- **K. Hoffman** would like to thank everyone who worked on the Stipend Review Committee.
- **C. Lent** asked for an update on the security project – **Mr. Fearon** explained the punch list items are being addressed and final payment will be made once items are completed.
- **L. Napolitano** would like to thank **Mike Sylvester** and **Mr. Fearon** for their work on the roof project.

XV. Adjournment

L. Napolitano **MOVED** and K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Vertefeuille
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairperson