

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

May 2, 2016
Regular Meeting
Approved June 7, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Lent-Chairman, David Crim, Linette Dooley, Kathy Tolsdorf-Vice Chairperson, and James Chakulski, Jr.

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Karin Vertefeuille and Lisa Napolitano

OTHERS PRESENT: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Michael Kenyon-Assistant Principal, and Amy Drowne and Emily Muro-Trexler from Eastconn, Corryn Tarbel, Bryan Tarbel, Sandy Rijs, Beverly Ciurylo-Finance, and Christine Sposito.

I. Call to Order

C. Lent called the May 2, 2016, Regular Meeting to order at 7:34 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.

Corryn Tarbel, a second grade student from Porter, had sent a letter regarding our play scape. This letter is referred to in VII(c). She thanked us for Mr. Fearon's letter in response. Corryn also asked if she can help to fix the playground. Lol Fearon informed the Board that our main playground had to be closed for a period of time due to repairs needed. The ramp needed repair and has been fixed. The issue with the slide is more serious. It cannot be repaired. In the capital funds the town has money to replace the playground at Recreation Park and we have some seed money for replacement of our playground which was planned for two or three years down the road. Recreation believes that they can get Recreation Park and our play scape done at the same time. Both projects are eligible for grants which the vendor will secure. This would offset the total cost by approximately \$40,000.00. Marc Voza, the Recreation Director has been terrific about working with us on this project.

IV. Presentation – Update on Co-Teaching Model and Professional Development

Presenters: Amy Drowne & Emily Muro-Trexler, Eastconn

Amy Drowne and Emily Muro-Trexler gave a slide presentation on Co-Teaching at Horace Porter School.

Amy Drowne asked the BOE if they have any questions. C. Lent asked what a typical day in a co-teaching room would be like. Mike Kenyon gave an example of a second grade co-teaching class he visited today. Amy Drowne went over the various models to the co-teaching approach. K. Tolsdorf had a question on the SRBI sections and Emily explained the three tiered approach. K. Tolsdorf asked if there is any student data from last year and this year. Emily stated we have some pre-post data. There are future meetings planned to go over data collected. C. Lent asked about teacher planning. Amy discussed what the teachers are doing during their planning time. There was discussion regarding planning time between the BOE, Mr. Kenyon, and the presenters. K. Tolsdorf had a question on second block and what happens during that block. Emily explained what happens and there was continued discussion with the BOE. Linette asked about students getting more confidence with co-teaching and it was discussed. Co-teaching planning time was further discussed. Sandy Rijs, a co-teacher at Porter stated they meet as a team twice a week for co-teaching and it was very well needed to plan exclusively for that. There was more discussion on planning time between the BOE, Mr. Kenyon and Ms. Rijs.

V. Action Items (Consent)

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) *April 11, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes Approval*
- b) *Payment of Bills Approval & Expenditure Report*

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, J. Chakulski **SECONDED** a motion to amend the consent agenda so item (a) remains and item (b) is removed from the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIES: 5:0.

D. Crim **MOVED**, K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** motion to approve consent agenda as amended and presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 5:0.

BOE looked over and discussed Payment of Bills Approval & Expenditure Report. There were some questions regarding the Payment of Bills with the BOE and L. Fearon. The Expenditure Report was reviewed and discussed with input from Beverly Ciurylo.

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, J. Chakulski **SECONDED** motion to approve Payment of Bills and Expenditure Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 5:0.

VI. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon

- a) *First Reading of Policy 5117 – School Attendance: Designated High Schools*

L. Fearon explained the policy changes to reflect the 2 designated High Schools. There was some discussion. The policy will be on agenda for second reading and approval next month.

VII. Correspondence/Communications

- a) *Attorney Laura Anastasio, on behalf of Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education – Notice of Mediation & Arbitration 04/13/2016*

There was some discussion on this communication.

b) *Mr. Fearon to First Selectman Carmen Vance – Board of Education Supplemental Appropriation 04/14/2016*

On June 14th there will be a town meeting to vote on the appropriation at 6:45 p.m. before the Board of Selectman meeting.

c) *Letter to Board of Education Members from Corryn Tarbell, Grade 2 04/23/2016*

Corryn Tarbell spoke at the beginning of the meeting during Comments from the Audience.

VIII. Board of Education Subcommittees

• Future Meeting Dates:

- May 11, 2016 – Fiscal Policy Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m. H.W. Porter LMC Conference Room
- May 24, 2016 – Annual Town Budget Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Yeomans Hall
- June 7, 2016 (Tuesday) – Teaching & Learning Sub. Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- June 7, 2016 (Tuesday) – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P Café
- June 8, 2016 – Fiscal Policy Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m. H.W. Porter LMC Conference Room
- June 9, 2016 – Horace W. Porter School Grade 8 Graduation, 4:00 p.m. E.O. Smith High School Auditorium
- June 9, 2016 – Windham High School Graduation – Time & Location to be confirmed
- June 10, 2016 – Bolton High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m. Bolton High School
- June 14, 2016 – Special Town Meeting-Supplemental Appropriation
- June 16, 2016 – E.O. Smith High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m. UCONN Jorgenson Center
- June 17, 2016 – Windham Technical High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m. UCONN Jorgenson Center

IX. Superintendent's Report

L. Fearon informed the Board that the SBAC testing is complete including all makeups. Discussion with BOE and Mike Kenyon on how the SBAC testing went. Mike K. explained the process the school went through.

L. Fearon has been invited, after kindergarten orientation tomorrow, to attend Board of Selectman meeting regarding the Memorandum of Agreement on the non-lapsing account. C. Lent will also attend.

X. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

There was discussion on meeting more frequently in the summer. Subcommittee agenda items were discussed. K. Tolsdorf would like to see a sample of student schedules for electives offerings. L. Fearon stated that could be arranged.

XI. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

K. Tolsdorf was concerned at the town hearing that the town might feel that our budget as presented was adequate and that the BOE should convey our concern that the K-8 budget is decreasing when costs are going up.

K. Tolsdorf enjoyed tonight's presentation on co-teaching and has some concerns on appropriate teacher planning time and if there are any added costs that go along with co-teaching.

J. Chakulski wanted to pass along a job well done to Mrs. Stice for the Peter Pan production.

C. Lent discussed the current interview committee for a new Director of Student Services. K. Tolsdorf will be the primary BOE representative and L. Dooley will be backup. Interviews start May 16th.

XII. Executive Session for the Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation and Contract Negotiations

D. Crim **MOVED**, J. Chakulski **SECONDED** a motion to go to executive session at 8:50 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

L. Dooley **MOVED**, K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn executive session at 10:47 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

XIII. Adjournment

D. Crim **MOVED**, K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** a motion to go adjourn the May 2, 2016 regular meeting at 10:47 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Tolsdorf,
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairman