



## Columbia Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes September 3, 2013

7:00 P.M.

Horace W. Porter School Conference Room

Board Members Present: Kerry Hoffman, Sondra Montesi, Lisa Napolitano, Lauren Perrotti-Verboven-Chairperson, John Schroder, James Thorn-Vice Chairperson (entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.), Kathy Tolsdorf

Administration Present: Mark Winzler-Interim Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Jackie Middleton-Director of Student Services, Charles Shooshan-Assistant Principal/Data Coordinator

Others Present: Jeanette Morales, Maria Gratton, Christopher Lent, Paula Shepard

### I. Call to Order

Lauren Perrotti-Verboven called the September 3, 2013, regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

L. Perrotti-Verboven **MOVED** and J. Schroder **SECONDED** to move executive session from item III. to after the CMT Mastery Presentation.

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0** (J. Thorn entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Time allotted for public participation is thirty (30) minutes; time allotted for an individual speaker is three (3) minutes.

**Paula Shepard** welcomed Board members and administrators back for the new school year. She would like to know the rationale behind the decision to have middle school science the first half of the year and social studies the next half of the year. She is disappointed that the door replacement project did not get done over the summer and asked what the cost of the project would be.

The Board will be discussing the security/door project in executive session this evening. The Superintendent will put out a summary of the executive session discussion.

### IV. Presentation - CT Mastery Test

*Horace W. Porter School Principal Alyssa Gwinnell and Assistant Principal Charles Shooshan*

- Students improved their DRG standings anywhere from 2% to 87%. Despite the DRG standings, for better or worse, individually the majority of the students showed improvements in all areas. Those who continue to show need or who declined below proficient have been given additional support in SRBI and will be monitored for individual instruction.
- District assessments are given at the end of each trimester. District assessments aid us to monitor the progress of students as a whole school; K-8, especially those students who are not in tiered services and thus are not receiving individualized, regular monitoring.
- This school year will be the last for CMT in Reading, Writing and Math. Science will continue to have the CMT in grades 5 and 8.
- Next year the test, SBAC – Smarter Balance, will be given. This test is different in many ways:
  - Computer adaptive
  - No time limit
  - More rigorous in question design and content
- Our new district assessment, STAR Renaissance, mimics the design of the new test.
- Additionally, teachers have been given resources with model test questions to integrate into their curricular assessments to begin exposure of the types of questions students will be expected to answer.

- Mrs. Gwinnell and Mr. Shooshan reviewed DRG Comparisons by grade in Mathematics, Reading, Writing and Science.

**Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven** congratulated Porter administrators and staff for the improvement in scores and asked what has helped in the district's large improvement? **Mrs. Gwinnell** explained the improvement is attributed to the whole-school focus on reading and a better understanding of the Invision Math curriculum.

## V. Executive Session

- a) Discussion of Non-Affiliated Employee Agreements
- b) Discussion of Matters Concerning Security Strategy or the Development of Security Personnel, or Devices Affecting Public Security

L. Perrotti-Verboven **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to enter into executive session. Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler was invited to join the Board in executive session.

**MOTION CARRIES: 7-0**

K. Hoffman **MOVED** and K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** to adjourn executive session at 9:10 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES: 7-0**

## VI. 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 2012/2013 End of the Year Transfers
- c) Approval of July 16, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
- d) Approval of August 6, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
- e) Approval of 2013/2014 Horace W. Porter School Calendar (Revision #2)
- f) Approval of Bolton Board of Education High School Contract Addendum
- g) Acceptance of ED-099 Authorized Signatures Change Form
- h) Acceptance of Resignations:
  - Rebecca Muldoon, Grades 7/8 Science Teacher
  - Tammy Nye, School Secretary
  - Kim Persons, Grade 6 LA/Reading Teacher
  - Joseph Prince, School Psychologist
  - Anne Robinson, Paraprofessional
- i) Appointments:
  - Brenda Desmarais, School Secretary
  - Michael Kane, Kindergarten Teacher
  - Brooke Kleinman, Grades 7/8 Science Teacher
  - Jessica Neumuth, Grade 1 Teacher
  - Lynn Rookey, School Psychologist
  - 2013/14 Co-Curricular Positions
- j) Appointment of All Columbia Board of Education Members to Serve on Superintendent of Schools Search Committee
- k) Approval of Non-Affiliated Employee Agreements

L. Perrotti-Verboven **MOVED** and J. Schroder **SECONDED** to approve items a-k as written and presented.

**MOTION CARRIES: 7-0**

## VII. Correspondence/Communications

- a) 2013/2014 Horace W. Porter School Staff List
- b) Interim Superintendent Winzler to Porter Faculty Staff and Administrators – “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year”

### VIII. Reports/Discussions

- **Board of Education Chairperson**
- **Board of Education Subcommittees**
  - Future Meeting Dates:
    - October 7, 2013:
      - Subcommittee Meetings To Be Determined
      - Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Horace W. Porter Cafeteria
- **Superintendent’s Report**

### IX. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

- **Mr. Thorn** would like a common core agenda update.
- **Mrs. Tolsdorf** would like an update on elementary foreign language curriculum.
- **Mrs. Tolsdorf** would like to discuss the topic of Project Oceanology.

### X. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

**Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven** said you could feel the level of energy in the room on August 22; the first day back for teachers. The Chronicle contacted her several times regarding 1) CMT scores, which she is very pleased about. Porter produces good citizens and gets our students ready for high school; 2) Security which was discussed in executive session this evening; 3) the Board of Education self-evaluation assessment of what Columbia needs in a new superintendent; 4) Appointing the Columbia Board of Education as the Superintendent Search Committee; and 5) Keeping an eye out for who is running for the Board of Education. **Board members** request that Thursday papers be sent to all members and if possible to list the topics of each upcoming Board of Education meeting. **Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven** likes the look and design of the new website.

### XI. Adjournment

L. Perrotti-Verboven **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to adjourn the September 3, 2013, regular meeting at 9:35 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES: 7-0**

Respectfully submitted,

James Thorn  
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairperson