



Columbia Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 3, 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, Louise Nowak, Janet Denley

Citizens Present: Kerry Hoffman, Nicole Vacila, Jen Grimshaw, Christine Gamache

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. 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.

- Approval of September 6, 2011 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Appointment of Ms. Karen Caputo, School Social Worker
- Appointment of 2011/2012 Non-Certified Union Reps & Delegate
- Columbia Board of Education Policy 5131.911 - Bullying Prevention and Intervention

J. Thorn **MOVED** and L. Jurovaty **SECONDED** to remove Approval of September 6, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes from the list of consent action items to discuss and correct page 2, Presentation Discussion followed. Sentence should state, P. Belekewicz said one should be able to compare student improvement and growth from year to year.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

W. Mulcahy **MOVED** and N. Petrone **SECONDED** to approve the Action Items presented above with the amendment made to the September 6, 2011 regular meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven congratulated and welcomed Mrs. Caputo, Porter's new Social Worker!

IV. 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

Nicole Vacila expressed the need for a full time paraprofessional in the kindergarten classroom that does not have an attached bathroom. The children must go across the hall to use the lavatory and there is not always an adult other than the teacher who can assist them. There are times during each day when a student intern is assigned to be in that classroom but if the intern is not in the room, someone must be called to help the student. Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven explained that last year during the 2011/2012 budget development, it was decided there would be either 2 kindergarten sections; each with a full time paraprofessional, or 3 kindergarten sections with no paraprofessionals. Mrs. Vacila was asked to direct this matter to H.W.P. Principal, Ms. Trask.

V. Correspondence/Communications

- Peggy and Brad Earnest to Superintendent Coss – Support for Additional Nursing Support – 09/06/2011

- Superintendent Coss to Town Administrator Luiz – Support of Town Northeast Utilities Grant – 09/13/2011
- Superintendent Coss to Porter Facility Technicians and Secretaries – Time Off Requests 09/15/2011
- Superintendent Coss to Mr. Mustaro, CABA Senior Staff Associate for Policy Services – 09/20/2011
- Revised 2011/2012 Horace W. Porter School Calendar – The calendar has been changed to incorporate new district assessment dates.
- Revised 2011/2012 Windham Public Schools Calendar
- 2011/2012 Horace W. Porter School Staff List
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison – August 29, 2011 – This is informational. The district is currently managing a homeless case.
- Mr. Vincent Mustaro to Superintendent Coss – Columbia’s Policy Audit – 09/26/2011

VI. Financial Review

- Payment of Bills
- Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrances
- Grant Update – this is a Federal Grant Award Notification for a \$45,418 REAP Grant to be used for technology and monitored by the district technology coordinator.

VII. Reports

- Board of Education Chairperson
 - 2011 CABA/CAPSS Convention – Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven encouraged new Board of Education members to attend.
 - Legal Roles & Responsibilities of Board of Education Members – October 20, 2011
- Board of Education Subcommittees
 - Future Meeting Dates:
 - October 11, 2011:
 - Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Horace W. Porter School, Conference Room
 - Policy Subcommittee Meeting, immediately following Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting, Horace W. Porter School, Conference Room
 - ~~Facility Subcommittee Meeting, immediately following Policy Subcommittee Meeting, Horace W. Porter School, Conference Room~~ (This meeting is not needed)
 - October 17, 2011:
 - Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Horace W. Porter School, Conference Room
 - November 7, 2011:
 - Budget Subcommittee Meeting, ~~6:30~~ **7:00 p.m.** Horace W. Porter School, Conference Room
 - Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Horace W. Porter School, Library Media Center
 - November 14, 2011:
 - Facility Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Horace W. Porter School, Conference Room
 - Policy Subcommittee Meeting, immediately following Facility Subcommittee Meeting, Horace W. Porter School, Conference Room
 - Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting, immediately following Policy Subcommittee Meeting, Horace W. Porter School, Conference Room
 - November 21, 2011:
 - Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Horace W. Porter School, Conference Room
- Superintendent’s Report
 - AFSCME Non-Certified Union Memorandum of Understanding – this is a result of a Department of Labor complaint.
 - FIPAC/BOE Joint Resolution

- Columbia Graduates – a staff development session was held before the start of this school year. Certified staff watched “Waiting for Superman”. A request was made for Columbia’s graduation rate and a report was prepared for the teachers’ union.
- CIRMA Workers Compensation Pool Open Claims Report – this report includes all injuries that have been reported to CIRMA.
- Administrative Update – September 2011 – this report is generated by the Horace W. Porter Principal, Assistant Principal and District Student Services Director.
- Health Care Collaboration Update – on September 26th a joint meeting with Bolton and Columbia officials took place. Discussion included the benefits of joining forces in a health care collaborative with Bolton. An attorney has been hired to review the details of what an agreement would look like.
- School Roof Update – in 2 years the roof will be replaced. The architectural firm hired to design the roof is Silver Petrucelli & Associates of Hamden.
- NEASS Fall Conference Update
- CABE/CAPSS Public Policy Conference
- EASTCONN Ribbon Cutting – the facility in Hampton has been expanded to include the offices that were rented in the Willimantic mill location and additional meeting space.
- CAEA 2011 Fall Conference “Reach for the Arts & Beyond” – Porter’s Mrs. Kat MacDonald and Mrs. Cheryl Munoz will be presenters at the October 24th workshop.
- Hot Lunch Period Report – Ms. Trask and Mr. Parenti have collected 20-minute lunch period data. So far, the conclusion is, if students get into the cafeteria on time and stay in the cafeteria, 20 minutes is enough time to eat their lunch.
- October 2011 Horace W. Porter School Enrollment – Porter’s PK-8 enrollment last October 1st was 539, this year’s PK-8 October 1st enrollment is 524 students.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- AFSCME Negotiation Sessions: October 20 & 26, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Superintendent’s Office

IX. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

Mr. Thorn thanked Mr. Parenti and Mrs. Rowe for their informative SRBI presentation at the September 12th Curriculum Subcommittee meeting. It was well presented and the emphasis was on prevention. Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven also commented on the SRBI presentation that was completely proactive and seems to be working.

X. Adjournment

N. Petrone **MOVED** and W. Mulcahy **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jurovaty,
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairman