



BOARD OF EDUCATION
COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT

Kerry Hoffman, Chairperson
Karin Vertefeuille, Vice Chairperson
David Crim
Christopher Lent
Lisa Napolitano
Kathy Tolsdorf
Laurence Fearon, Superintendent

The Columbia School District is a community of learners providing rigorous programs to ensure that each student can excel as an individual.

**Columbia Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2014
7:30 p.m.**

Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

Board Members Present: David Crim, Kerry Hoffman-Chairperson, Christopher Lent, Lisa Napolitano, Karin Vertefeuille-Vice Chairperson, Kathy Tolsdorf

Administration Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Michael Kenyon-Assistant Principal, Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Student Services

Others Present: Sandy Rijs-Porter Enrichment Teacher, Linnette Dooley, Diane Schatz

I. Call to Order

Kerry Hoffman called the 10/6/2014 Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Changes to agenda:

An action item was added for appointment of Kimberly Rockefeller as a special education paraprofessional.

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.

IV. Presentations

a) Technology Overview and Integration – *Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Tom Doyle-Technology Coordinator, Scott Nierendorf-Director of Teaching & Learning at Eastconn*

A. Gwinnell, Principal opened the presentation by explaining the rationale behind the technology plan for Porter. She reviewed the school perspective. The plan indicates by the end of the year all teachers will be able to integrate technology into their instructional practices. There are varying levels of teachers' technology expertise in the building. Levels were assessed from 1-5 with 1 being the least experienced. Ultimately all teachers will be on level 5. Several strategies will be implemented to increase student and staff technology expertise.

T. Doyle, Technology Coordinator reviewed the Porter technology infrastructure. He noted when he began teaching chalk and a chalkboard were the norm. Technology has advanced quickly and now computers are in every classroom.

Upgraded hardware includes 60 new laptops for teachers and 10 for students. 42 security cameras have been added as well as door and HVAC controllers. Smart board height has been adjusted in the kindergarten and a new board installed in Spanish. The network has been upgraded including new wireless access points. There is a need to monitor the fiber optic network for state standardized testing. The LMC closet has been rewired.

S. Nierendorf-Director of Teaching and Learning at Eastconn said this process began last spring. Themes were identified and professional development was planned. The focus has been on student learning. Administration has been working with Eastconn to develop a comprehensive instructional technology plan.

b) CMT Results – *Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Michael Kenyon- Assistant Principal/Data Coordinator*

L. Fearon noted Columbia was one of the 10% of schools who administered the CMT and did not administer SBAC evaluations last year.

A. Gwinnell explained that state-wide results could not be determined since so few school systems administered cmts. No DRG comparisons were calculated because only a small percent of schools administered cmts. The focus of the presentation is on the percent of students at goal level. Comparisons of the same group's growth over time were reviewed. During the 2013-14 school year instructional practices were aligned with the Connecticut Core Standards. Curriculum was reordered to better align with state curriculum. Teacher recommendations included SRBI support for students in writing and SRBI support for students who are proficient and not just those at basic or below. Remedial reading class instead of Spanish and non-fiction reading through LA classes and SRBI instruction match the grade level Science concepts/units of study as support to both LA and Science.

V. 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 September 2, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the minutes of September 2, 2014 as presented. **MOTION CARRIES 5:0:1.** (D. Crim **ABSTAINED.**)

b) Approval of September 22, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to approve the minutes of September 22, 2014 as presented. **MOTION CARRIES 5:0:1.** (K. Tolsdorf **ABSTAINED.**)

VI. Action Items – Discuss & Act Upon

a) Appointment of Jessica Duers, .4 FTE Life Skills Teacher

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the appointment of Jessica Duers, .4 FTE Life Skills Teacher. **MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

b) Appointment of Cory Tobler, 1.0 FTE Physical Education/Health Teacher

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the appointment of Corey Tobler, 1.0 FTE Physical Education/Health Teacher.
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- c) Appointment of Kimberly Rockefeller, 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional

C. Lent **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to approve the appointment of Kimberly Rockefeller, 1.0 FTE paraprofessional.

L. Fearon noted Kimberly Rockefeller has been a long term sub in the building at the grade level para support is needed in. She knows the curriculum and is a great fit for the position.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- d) Appointment of 2014/15 Co-Curricular Positions and Extra-Curricular Positions as Presented

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** to approve the appointment of the 2014/15 Co-Curricular Positions and Extra Curricular Positions as presented.

K. Vertefeuille questioned multiple stipend positions being cover by one person.

L. Fearon explained multiple positions are covered by 2 staff members sharing responsibilities.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- e) Approval of Technology Coordinator Job Description

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** approval of the Technology Coordinator job description.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- f) Approval of Non-Certified Job Descriptions

C. Lent **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** the approval of non-certified job descriptions.
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- g) Approval of Payment of Bills

D. Crim **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve payment of bills.
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- h) Approval of 2013/2014 Year End Transfers

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve the 2013/2014 year end transfers.
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- i) 2014/15 Budget With and Without Grants

- j) Approval of ED099 – Addendum for Meal pattern Requirements/Attestation of Compliance with Meal Pattern Requirements

C. Lent **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to approve the ED099 - Addendum for Meal pattern Requirements/Attestation of Compliance with Meal Pattern Requirements.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- k) Approval of Amendment to the Kathleen D. Mattessich Memorial Scholarship

K. Vertefeulle **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the Amendment to the Kathleen D. Mattessich Memorial Scholarship.

L. Fearon explained a bench will be placed in Mrs. Mattessich's honor. The scholarship will be in literacy and the program will remain in effect in the future due to generous donations.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

K. Hoffman thanked the Mattessich family for their generosity. They have been invited to attend the opening of the installation of the bench in her honor.

- l) Board of Education Self-Evaluation – K. Hoffman suggested BOE members review the evaluation before the budget season begins. She suggests preparing the packet for collection at the first meeting in November.

- m) Region 11 Superintendent to Mr. Fearon – Tuition Offer September 2014

BOE members agreed to recommend Mr. Fearon offer thanks to Region 11 for their offer. The BOE is considering our long range plans and the distance and number of students may not provide a good fit.

- n) 2014/15 Snow Removal

D. Crim **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve the 2014/15 snow removal contract from Wrana Excavations, LLC.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

VII. Correspondence/Communications

- a) NESDEC Enrollment Projection Service – September 16, 2014
b) 2014/2015 Horace W. Porter School Staff List – October 7, 2014
c) Horace W. Porter Veterans Day Assembly – November 6th at 9:00 a.m., Porter Gym

VIII. Board of Education Subcommittees

- Future Meeting Dates:
 - November 3, 2014 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
 - November 3, 2014 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Cafeteria
 - Steering Committee Update – Upcoming meetings are planned for October 8th, 27th and November 12th.
 - 2015/16 Budget Schedule Draft of Meetings

IX. Superintendent's Report

- a) Roof Project Closing – L. Fearon reported mechanicals continue to be an issue. Contractors were in the building over the past weekend balancing fans.

K. Hoffman asked if the gutters were accepted. L. Fearon said they were accepted and met specifications.

- b) Website Re-design
c) Strategic Plan – Next Step
d) 2014 CABE/CAPSS Convention Registration Form

K. Hoffman encouraged board members to attend.

L. Fearon thanked Holly Maiorano for her support and expertise as the Interim Student Services Director. He noted she was a valuable resource and her assistance was greatly appreciated.

The Porter School track has recently been refurbished as a group effort including Columbia and the Town of Bolton. Bolton generously offered a stone dust spreader and the Town Road Crew

resurfaced the track. Porter's gym teachers worked around the contractors schedules. This was a nice cooperative venture between the Town, School and the Town of Bolton.

X. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

- Aligning with Connecticut Core Standards – November 3, 2014
This topic will require its own meeting due to the breadth of the topic.

XI. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

C. Lent said all of the feedback he has heard concerning school lunches has been positive.

XII. Adjournment – K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin Vertefeuille,
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairperson