



Columbia Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2010
7:30 P.M.
Horace W. Porter School Cafetorium

Board Members Present: Lisa Jurovaty-Vice Chairman, Lauren Perrotti-Verboven, Nelson Petrone-Chairman, John Schroder, James Thorn

Board Members Absent: Paula Belekewicz, William Mulcahy

Administration Present: Francine Coss-Superintendent

Staff Present: Janet Stice, Marian Lowry

Others Present: Amy Raffa, Diane Schatz, Karin Coughlin, Nicole Vacila, Kerry Hoffman

I. Call to Order

Nelson Petrone called the October 18, 2010 regular meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Take Action

October 4, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to approve the October 4, 2010 regular meeting minutes with the following addition: Diane Schatz would like the Board to pursue E.O. Smith as a contracted high school option along with Bolton and Windham. In addition, she would like open choice where parents provide transportation to non-contracted schools.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

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

Time allotted for public participation—30 minutes, time allotted for an individual speaker—3 minutes

Nicole Vacila asked if the Board has considered the request by the Rec Council for a joint Rec Council/Board of Education subcommittee. **Mr. Petrone** explained the Board of Education is not interested in forming another subcommittee but the BOE fully supports and endorses the Rec Council's use of the school building and activities. The Board invited the Rec Council to report quarterly at regularly scheduled BOE meetings. **Kerry Hoffman** asked when the Board will begin high school negotiations and what impact these negotiations will have on the current grade 8 class which must make a decision by early February. **Mr. Petrone** reported negotiations will start immediately and the intention is to implement the new choices for the 2011/2012 school year.

V. Correspondence/Communications/Information

A. Horace W. Porter School October 1, 2010 Enrollment

B. Ms. Kathy Lulick to Mr. Nelson Petrone – Safety Walking Distance for High School – Ms. Lulick asked the status of her concern. The Board is looking to modify Policy 3541.35-Safety-Walking Distance. This year, Windham and Windham Tech are dismissing students ½ hour earlier than Lyman and Bolton. The high school buses are not arriving at the Porter hub all at the same time. There is a half hour gap in the high school buses afternoon arrival time. Porter and the high schools share the same buses. To make the afternoon bus runs more efficient, high school students are being dropped off 2/10 to 4/10 mile from their homes. This pilot test is being considered so afternoon buses have enough time to return to HWP for Porter's 3:10 p.m. dismissal.

VI. Financial Review

A. Payment of Bills

B. Actual & Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances – 87% remains in the 2010/2011 BOE budget. The 10/18/10 report does not reflect district grant income.

VII. Reports/Discussion

A. Board of Education Chairperson

B. Board of Education Subcommittees

- 1. October 12, 2010 Policy/Goals Subcommittee Update – High School Choice** – Ms. Perrotti-Verboven overviewed the 10/12/10 subcommittee meeting. The Board worked on updating the district mission and vision statements and then discussed the topic of high school choice. The Columbia Board of Education will start negotiations with the Lebanon Board of Education, as well as Regional School District 19-E.O. Smith High School. The Board will create a policy which will allow Columbia high school students to attend either designated (contracted) or non-designated high schools. Non-designated high schools will have a tuition cap and transportation will not be provided.
- 2. September – December 2010 Meeting/Date Schedule Draft** – Next Monday, 10/25/10, the Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the district mission statement and at 7:00 p.m. the Curriculum Subcommittee will meet for a Social Studies curriculum update.

C. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Science and Math Disposal of Aged and Out-of-Use Textbooks** – Mrs. Coss reviewed the science and math textbook titles, copyright dates, and number of books that are being disposed.
- 2. 2010-2011 Language Arts and Math Assessment Calendar** – The Superintendent reviewed the K-8 assessment calendars which verify district data is driving the curriculum.
- 3. Grant Program to Support the Services of Local Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Councils** – Mrs. Coss reported the Town and school district are working together to use these funds wisely: DARE-\$527.30, Esteem Day-\$1,429.07, Windham High School Project Graduation-\$335.56.
- 4. Administrative Update – October 8, 2010** – Mrs. Coss highlighted the School Improvement Plan and grade four team meeting information.
- 5. H. W. Porter Hot Lunch Income Statement** – The Board asked for a breakdown of lunch and ala carte items for the October Hot Lunch Income Report. They would like the Hot Lunch Director to update them on a quarterly basis.

VIII. Action Items/Discussion

A. Consent Agenda Approval

J. Thorn **MOVED** and L. Jurovaty **SECONDED** to approve the proposed consent agenda format for Board of Education meetings effective January 1, 2011.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

B. 2011 Board of Education Regular Meeting Date Calendar Approval

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to approve the proposed 2011 Board of Education regular meeting date calendar as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

C. 2011 Board of Education Subcommittee Meeting Date Calendar Approval

J. Schroder **MOVED** and L. Jurovaty **SECONDED** to approve the proposed 2011 Board of Education subcommittee meeting date calendar as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

D. CT State Department of Education Authorized Signature Change Form Approval

J. Thorn **MOVED** and L. Perrotti-Verboven **SECONDED** to approve the CT State Department of Education Authorized Signature Change Form as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

IX. Proclamation

- A. Appointment of Ms. Kristen Donewald, RN - .5 School Nurse** – The Board of Education welcomed Ms. Donewald.

X. Future Agenda Items

XI. Board of Education Member Comments

Mr. Schroder suggested a "Take Your Parent to School Day" at Porter.

XII. Adjournment

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jurovaty
Columbia Board of Education Vice-Chairperson