



Columbia Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2010
7:30 P.M.
Horace W. Porter School Cafetorium

Board Members Present: Paula Belekewicz, Lisa Jurovaty-Vice Chairman, William Mulcahy, Lauren Perrotti-Verboven entered the meeting at 7:38 p.m., Nelson Petrone-Chairman, John Schroder, James Thorn

Administration Present: Francine Coss-Superintendent

Staff Present: Janet Stice, Marian Lowry

Others Present: R.J. Weston, Nicole Vacila

I. Call to Order

Nelson Petrone called the November 1, 2010 regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Addition to the agenda:

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and P. Belekewicz **SECONDED** to amend the agenda to add XII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Negotiation Discussion.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Proclamation

A. Windham High School Student Alexander Fernandez – 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student - Mr. Petrone congratulated Alexander Fernandez for receiving this honor.

B. Resignation of Mrs. Susan Scarchuk, Instructional Assistant – Mr. Petrone wished Mrs. Scarchuk good luck and thanked her for her service to the children of Columbia.

IV. Approval of October 18, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes - Take Action

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to approve the October 18, 2010 regular meeting minutes with the following addition: IV. Comments from the Audience: Mrs. Vacila supports further walking distances for Columbia students.

MOTION CARRIES: 4-0-2

L. Jurovaty, N. Petrone, J. Schroder, J. Thorn VOTED FOR THE MOTION

P. Belekewicz, W. Mulcahy ABSTAINED

(L. Perrotti-Verboven entered the meeting at 7:38 p.m.)

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

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

R.J. Weston explained that his daughter and three other Porter students raised \$4,000 for an area animal shelter. The students missed 4 hours of school on the day they presented the funds to the shelter. The Weston family was under the impression that Board policy states a student can be absent for 4 hours during a school day and still be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities that day. Mr. Weston feels that the policy was not explained correctly to his daughter and she should have been allowed to ride the bus with her team and play in that day's soccer game. He and his wife were not notified and he would like better communication in these instances.

VI. Correspondence/Communications/Information

A. Lebanon Public Schools 2010/2011 Revised Calendar

B. Commissioner of Ed on CMT Release of Student Responses to Direct Assessment of Writing – 10/1/10

C. CSDE Chief Financial Officer – 2010/11 Minimum Budget Requirement – 10/12/10

D. Columbia Town Administrator Mr. Luiz to Superintendent Coss – Thanks for Fuel Assistance Donation

E. Chairperson Mr. Nelson Petrone to Ann Dunnack, Columbia Recreation Council – 10/25/10

VII. Financial Review

A. Payment of Bills

- B. Actual & Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances** – Mrs. Coss asked the Board to support changing the finance office software. The manpower time to generate reports is costly and the reports are not always accurate.

VIII. Reports/Discussion

- A. Board of Education Chairperson** – Mr. Petrone attended Norwich Free Academy’s excellent Open House last Thursday. NFA is very interested in receiving Columbia students at their school. Mr. Petrone encouraged citizens to show their support for the Teachers’ contract by attending the November 9th Board of Selectmen meeting.
- B. Board of Education Subcommittees**
- 1. November 8, 2010 Mission Statement Planning and Policy/Goals Subcommittee Meeting** – the Board will review bus routes, walking distances, Freedom of Information requests, attendance, transportation, and the high school lottery. Mrs. Belekewicz requested clarification for removing students from buses when parents arrive unexpectedly at dismissal time and would like to drive their children home. The Superintendent explained the district cannot change the bus company’s policy pertaining to this matter but parents can make their request known to a Porter administrator who will get the student off the bus.
 - 2. October 12, 2010 Policy/Goals Subcommittee Update/High School Choice** – Ms. Perrotti-Verboven overviewed the October 25th mission planning session where the framework was discussed. The Board will be reaching out to teachers and Columbia citizens to solicit feedback to the Mission statement. The Board hopes to have a draft prepared by January. The Board also discussed Open Choice for Columbia high school students. December’s Coffee with Coss topic will be high school choice.
- C. Superintendent’s Report**
- 1. Coffee With Coss – November 15th @ 6-7:00 p.m., Topic: The Writing Prompt** - Assistant Principal/Data Coordinator Robert Parenti will present this information.
 - 2. H. W. P. Facility Use Form Change** – the form fees have changed and are based on the average Facility Technician pay rates.
 - 3. 2010/2011 District Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal Grants** – Mrs. Coss reviewed the consolidated revenue funds and what they are/will be used for.
 - 4. Colchester Public Schools Parent Visitation**
 - 5. Proximity Card Readers** – Two readers are being installed in the school; one outside the gym area and the second outside the Superintendent’s entrance. This new system will allow access to the school building for the Rec Department and school employees during the weekend. The Board discussed safety, training and procedures for securing the building.

IX. Action Items/Discussion

- A. Policy 5117-School Attendance: Designated High Schools & Tuition Policy for Non-Designated Public High Schools-First Reading**

X. Future Agenda Items

XI. Board of Education Member Comments

Mrs. Belekewicz asked Mrs. Coss to acknowledge the Columbia high school student attending Mercy High School who has received a National Award and was recognized in the Columbia Crossroads.

XII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Negotiation Discussion

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to enter into executive session for the purpose of negotiation discussion at 8:54 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 7-0

P. Belekewicz **MOVED** and L. Jurovaty **SECONDED** to adjourn executive session at 10:20 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 7-0

XIII. Adjournment

J. Schroder **MOVED** and W. Mulcahy **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jurovaty
Columbia Board of Education Vice-Chairperson