



## Columbia Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes December 1, 2014

7:30 P.M.  
 Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

Board Members Present: David Crim, Kerry Hoffman-Chairperson, Linette Dooley, Christopher Lent, Lisa Napolitano, Kathy Tolsdorf

Board Members Absent: Karin Vertefeuille-Vice Chairperson

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Student Services, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Bev Ciurylo-Finance Director, family members of Thomas Boardman, Lindsay Hartling, Jonathan Haddad and Amber Kaldy

### I. Call to Order

**Kerry Hoffman** called the December 1, 2014, regular meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

### II. Election of Board of Education Officers

*Superintendent Fearon shall call for nominations from the floor for Board of Education Chairperson.*

- **Chairperson**

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** to nominate Mrs. Kerry Hoffman as the Columbia Board of Education Chairperson.

**MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

*The newly elected Chairperson shall open the floor for nominations for the following:*

- **Vice-Chairperson**

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to nominate Mrs. Karin Vertefeuille as the Columbia Board of Education Vice-Chairperson.

**MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

- **Committee Appointments**

D. Crim **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the Columbia Board of Education Committee membership listing dated November 3, 2014 as presented below:

POLICY	BUDGET	NEGOTIATIONS
David Crim Linette Dooley Karin Vertefeuille	Kerry Hoffman Lisa Napolitano Kathy Tolsdorf	Kerry Hoffman Chris Lent Karin Vertefeuille

CURRICULUM	FACILITIES & TRANSP.	SECURITY
David Crim Lisa Napolitano Kathy Tolsdorf	Kerry Hoffman Chris Lent Lisa Napolitano	David Crim Linette Dooley Chris Lent

FISCAL POLICY BOARD
Kerry Hoffman Lisa Napolitano - <b>ALTERNATE</b>

**MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

**IV. 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.

**V. Celebration of Excellence**

- Congratulations to Porter's CAPSS 2014/2015 Superintendent Award Winners:
  - **Thomas Boardman & Lindsay Hartling, Grade 6**
  - **Jonathan Haddad & Amber Kaldy, Grade 8**

**Superintendent Fearon** reported that on November 5<sup>th</sup> at RAHM High School, the University Region Superintendent's Association which represents approximately 30 area school districts, recognized students for their academic achievements and leadership roles within their school communities. It was a very positive evening and reassuring to see that our future is in such good hands; the kind of evening that makes his job worthwhile. Columbia grade 6 students; **Thomas Boardman** and **Lindsay Hartling** and grade 8 students; **Jonathan Haddad** and **Amber Kaldy** were selected as this year's award recipients.

Board of Education members applauded these fine students and presented them with Barnes & Noble gift cards. **Mrs. Hoffman** thanked the students' family members for their parts in raising such wonderful children.

**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 November 3, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**b) Approval of November 17, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes**

C. Lent **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve consent action items a) Approval of November 3, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes and b) Approval of November 17, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.

**MOTION CARRIES 5:0-1.**

D. Crim, K. Hoffman, L. Dooley, C. Lent, L. Napolitano **VOTED FOR THE MOTION**

K. Tolsdorf **ABSTAINED**

**VII. Action Items – Discuss & Act Upon**

**a) Approval of Payment of Bills and Budget Update**

Board members discussed tuition, transportation and contractual expenses. **Mrs. Ciurylo** provided a payment-by-vendor report to **Mr. Lent** for his review. **Mrs. Hoffman** thanked **Mrs. Ciurylo**.

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$686,028.83 and budget update as presented.

**MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

**b) Second Reading Policy 5141.27 – Use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs)**

C. Lent **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to approve the second reading of Policy 5141.27 – Use of Automatic External defibrillators (AEDs) as presented.

**NO VOTE TAKEN.**

C. Lent **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to amend the approval of the second reading of Policy 5141.27 – Use of Automatic External defibrillators (AEDs) to include this evening’s edits.

**MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

**c) Second Reading Policy 6141.3291 – One-to-One Tablet Program/iPad Acceptable Use**

K. Hoffman **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to approve the second reading of Policy 6141.3291 – One-to-one Tablet Program/iPad Acceptable Use as presented.

**NO VOTE TAKEN.**

K. Hoffman **MOVED**, K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** to amend the approval of the second reading of Policy 6141.3291 – One-to-one Tablet Program/iPad Acceptable Use to include this evening’s edits.

**MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

**VIII. Correspondence/Communications**

- a) **November 3, 2014 PTO Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Hoffman** and Board members are “wowed” by the Porter PTO! Members loved the Scarecrow contest entries and spirit stick idea. Members discussed how to thank the PTO for all their creative ideas and hard work.
- b) **“Buddy Bench” a tribute to late Porter teacher – Willimantic Chronicle 11/14/14 – Mr. Fearon** thanked all those involved in the wonderful tribute to **Mrs. Kathleen Mattessich**. He thanked the Mattessich family for their \$1,000 donation to the Horace W. Porter School.

**IX. Board of Education Self-Evaluation**

**Mrs. Hoffman** explained that 2 weeks ago the Board met to review and compile member input to the Board’s Self-Evaluation. It was determined that the Board is moving in the right direction but should improve their policy work and participate more regularly in leadership activities. The Board is doing a good job dealing with conflicts openly, honestly and respectfully and working effectively as a team with the Superintendent. **Mrs. Hoffman** would like the Board of Education Self-Evaluation to be conducted annually during the month of November.

**X. Board of Education Subcommittees**

- *Future Meeting Dates:*
  - December 17, 2014 – Tri-Board Meeting with BOS, BOE, FiPAC, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall
  - January 5, 2015 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
  - January 5, 2015 – Regular BOE Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Caf with Public Budget Input
  - January 12, 2015 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
  - January 26, 2015 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
  - February 2, 2015 – Non-Certified Negotiations, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room

**XI. Superintendent’s Report**

- a) **Late Bus Transportation – Mr. Fearon** explained to Board members that Mrs. Franklin and Mrs. Vertefeuille did a lot of work on this topic over the summer. In the absence of Board of Education funding for each high school late bus (\$9,900 each), parents were surveyed for interest in using a late bus for their children and asked if they would consider funding the cost of the buses. The cost calculated to approximately \$600 per family.
- b) **Long Range Plan Update – Mr. Fearon** handed out a draft tri-fold mailer document being considered by the Steering Committee for a town-wide mailing. He will present the Steering Committee’s progress to the Board of Selectmen at tomorrow evening’s BOS meeting.
- c) **Porter Website – Mr. Fearon** thanked **Mrs. Vertefeuille, Mrs. Gwinnell** and **Mr. Doyle** for their great effort in producing the school and district websites. Mrs. Gwinnell is currently working on the Porter page and teacher template pages.

*Mrs. Hoffman thanked Mrs. Vertefeuille, Mrs. Gwinnell and Mr. Doyle for the huge amount of time they have spent designing this project and filling in the website contents.*

- d) **Teacher of the Year Ceremony – Mr. Fearon** will be attending the Teacher of the Year Ceremony tomorrow evening at the Bushnell with Columbia's TOTY, **Mr. Steven Piro!**

**XII. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)**

- **Mr. Napolitano** requested a building tour for Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee members. Mr. Fearon will make these arrangements.

**XIII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks**

- **Mrs. Hoffman** would like to wish Mr. Luiz the best of luck. Mr. Luiz is leaving for Windsor at the end of December. He has been an advocate for Columbia students and the Horace W. Porter School. She thanked him and congratulated him.
- **Mrs. Tolsdorf** would like clarification of student-centered cost savings.
- **Mr. Lent** thinks it would be nice for the Board of Education to consider thanking Porter PTO members.

**XIV. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Evaluation of Superintendent**

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent evaluation at 9:00 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, L. Dooley **SECONDED** to adjourn executive session at 9:25 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

**XV. Adjournment**

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES 6:0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Hoffman  
Columbia Board of Education Chairperson