

BOARD OF EDUCATION

COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT



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

Christopher Lent, Chairman
Kathy Tolsdorf, Vice Chairperson
James Chakulski, Jr.
David Crim
Linette Dooley
Lisa Napolitano
Karin Vertefeuille
Laurence Fearon, Superintendent

June 7, 2016 (Tuesday)
Regular Meeting (Approved 07/11/16)
7:30 p.m.
Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Lent-Chairman, David Crim, Linette Dooley, Kathy Tolsdorf-Vice Chairperson, James Chakulski, Jr., Karin Vertefeuille and Lisa Napolitano

OTHERS PRESENT: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Sandy Rijs, Beverly Ciurylo-Finance, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Collin Grimshaw and family, Abbie O'Brien and family, and Caroline Thorn and family.

I. Call to Order

C. Lent called the June 7, 2016, Regular meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

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.
None.

IV. Celebration of Excellence

At Porter School students apply what they learn in meaningful, real-life experiences.

Lol Fearon introduced Sandy Rijs, the Enrichment teacher at Horace Porter School. Sandy gave an overview of what the Invention Convention is and introduced the students before they each gave their presentation listed below. Board members and Mr. Fearon were interactive with each student asking questions and trying out the inventions when applicable. Pictures were taken. Mrs. Thorn thanked Mrs. Rijs for doing the Invention Convention each year and for her patience with the students.

- **Porter Invention Convention Top Scorers:**
 - Collin Grimshaw, Grade 4 – Flex-A-Rack
 - Abbie O'Brien, Grade 5 – Finger Pretzel
 - Caroline Thorn, Grade 7 – Super Speedy Seed Sower

V. 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.

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED a motion to remove the May 2nd meeting minutes from the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIES. 7:0.

- a) *Approval of May 2, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*

- b) Approval of May 9, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes*
- c) Approval of Payment of Bills & Expenditure Report*
- d) Approval of Unpaid Extended Leave of Absence for Ms. Kari VanOstrand for the 2016/17 School Year*
- e) Approval of Destruction of Records Authorization*
- f) Approval of Stipend Positions for the 2016/17 School Year as indicated on the Enclosed List*
- g) Approval of 2016/17 Healthy Food Certification*
- h) Contract Renewal for Ms. Mary Conway, H.W.P. Food Service Manager, at a Salary of \$39,535.20 for the 2016/2017 School Year*

D. Crim MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED a motion to approve items (b) through (h) as presented.
MOTION CARRIES: 7:0

D. Crim MOVED, L. Dooley SECONDED a motion to approve item (a), the May 2, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes, with the correction of the spelling of the word “grans” to “grants” in Item III, as amended.
MOTION CARRIES: 7:0

VI. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon

- a) Second Reading of Policy 5117 – School Attendance: Designated High Schools*

L. Napolitano MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED motion to action item (a). There was some discussion regarding making motion clearer to match policy.

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, L. Dooley SECONDED a motion to amend the second reading of policy 5117 to omit (a) and (b) designations as headers on the policy page.
MOTION CARRIES 7:0

- b) Acceptance of James R. Lester Perseverance Award*

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED motion to accept award as presented.

L. Fearon gave an overview of the award. K. Vertefeuille thanked the Lester family for setting this up. There was some discussion among the board on how nice the award is and the criteria requirements. Chris Lent also thanked the Lester family.
MOTION CARRIES 7:0

- c) Appointment of Barbara Wilson as Director of Student Services*

L. Napolitano MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED a motion to appoint Barbara Wilson as Director of Student Services.

L. Fearon gave overview of the application procedure and process and why Barbara Wilson was selected as a candidate. L. Dooley, who served on the selection committee, also made comments on the interview with Ms. Wilson.
MOTION CARRIES 7:0

Barbara Wilson stated that everyone has been so welcoming. Mrs. Wilson signed her employment agreement.

- d) Approval of Superintendent Evaluation*

C. Lent stated everyone should have received a separate package containing the contract.

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED a motion to approve the Superintendent Evaluation as presented.

C. Lent gave thanks to L. Dooley for all her hard work on the evaluation. L. Dooley stated that C. Lent did the majority of the crafting of the document. K. Tolsdorf mentioned that the BOE should adjust the evaluation format in the future. The BOE had discussion on future evaluation formats, possibly using google docs and SharePoint.

MOTION CARRIES: 7:0

e) Approval of Superintendent Contract

L. Napolitano MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED a motion to approve the Superintendent Contract.

There was some discussion between Board Members regarding identifying contracts with last edited date.

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED a motion to approve item (e) as amended, adding the date of June 7, 2016.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

f) Appointment of Ad-Hoc Negotiation Committee

D. Crim MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED a motion to accept the appointment of Ad-Hoc Negotiation Committee.

Discussion BOE regarding the Ad-Hoc Committee and timeline with L. Fearon. State of CT says we have to begin the process by August 18th but the Board should meet with their attorney before the first meeting. K. Vertefeuille volunteered to be on the committee. Chris Lent and Linette Dooley also volunteered. Documentation is being collected for the CEA representative. L. Fearon will write a letter to invite a member from FIPAC to attend as an observer. C. Lent stated that the motion should be amended with the addition of the members of the Negotiation Committee, Chris Lent, Karin Vertefeuille and Linette Dooley.

MOTION CARRIES AS AMENDED 7:0.

VII. Instructional Program Discussion

a) Electives Update

BOE discussion on why numbers for chorus and band are dwindling between the Board, L. Fearon and Alyssa Gwinnell, Principal. Discussion continued regarding students having a study hall choice. K. Vertefeuille stated since Art Extension is so popular that maybe it should be split into two actual sections, concentrating on different types of art. There was some discussion regarding Art Extension with Alyssa Gwinnell. L. Napolitano had question on the new Yoga elective possibly being an after school program instead of an elective. Alyssa Gwinnell explained the rationale and how new electives are created. K. Vertefeuille talked about the Invention Convention as an elective again. Discussion continued regarding voice lessons, music teaching, and chorus. There was also some discussion regarding having study hall as an ongoing elective. L. Fearon and Alyssa will report in the Fall on the actual numbers in elective classes. L. Fearon and Alyssa will be discussing and working on the issues regarding band and music numbers.

VIII. Correspondence/Communications

a) Mr. Fearon to Mrs. Ingrid Houle – Thank You 05/09/2016

Mrs. Houle had donated some classroom materials in honor of her father. C Lent also thanked Mrs. Houle and family.

IX. Board of Education Subcommittees

- Future Meeting Dates:
 - June 9, 2016 – Horace W. Porter School Grade 8 Graduation, 4:00 p.m. E.O. Smith High School Auditorium
 - June 9, 2016 – Windham High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m. Windham High School Gym
 - June 10, 2016 – Bolton High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m. Bolton High School
 - June 14, 2016 – Special Town Meeting-Supplemental Appropriation, 7:00 p.m. Yeoman’s Hall
 - June 15, 2016 – Fiscal Policy Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m. H.W. Porter LMC Conference Room
 - June 16, 2016 – E.O. Smith High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m. UCONN Jorgenson Center
 - June 17, 2016 – Windham Technical High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m. UCONN Jorgenson Center
 - July 5, 2016 – Regular Board of Education Meeting is Cancelled
 - July 11, 2016 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
 - July 11, 2016 – Special Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P LMC Conference Room
 - July 13, 2016 – Fiscal Policy Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m. H.W. Porter LMC Conference Room

X. Superintendent’s Report

- a) *Report on Bleacher Capital Item*

L. Fearon had requested a waiver from Board of Selectman for the bid process. It was approved by the BOS unanimously.
- b) *MBR Update*

The new approved State Budget now has an option that the town could reduce the MBR equal to the amount of the ECS reduction.
- c) *Update on Health Benefits Cost 2016/17*

There was some discussion regarding costs.
- d) *Non-Lapsing Fund FiPAC*

Board of Selection had approved, but issues were raised at the Fiscal Policy meeting in May. L. Fearon is hoping to have information at our next fiscal policy meeting on June 15th.
- e) *District Mission and Vision – Revisited*

L. Fearon suggested to put this on the July 11th agenda to discuss.
- L. *Child Nutrition Program Administrative Review Overview Report*

A copy of review is in the packet given to BOE. Very positive feedback. No outstanding issues.
- M. *Superintendent’s Goals 2016/2017*

L. Fearon went over the goals. C. Lent added that Mr. Fearon did a good job in clarifying the goals.

L. Fearon also passed out Superintendent Dave Harding’s community letter concerning the closing of Willington School. There was also an article from the Chronicle concerning the matter which was distributed.

XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

K. Vertefeuille would like the Board to start talking about more concrete proactive long term planning; example regionalization, looking at what is happening at EO right now, and how that affects us, and gathering information in advance. C. Lent mentioned that it is one of Mr. Fearon’s goals under area three. There was some discussion regarding future school planning, and the future with EO Smith. The BOE also discussed keeping residents informed.

XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

C. Lent spoke regarding non-lapsing fund account. C. Lent stated that he and K. Tolsdorf were at the Fiscal Policy meeting and was disappointed in the way that meeting went and explained why. There was discussion on the non-lapsing fund account and frustration in the process.

XIII. Adjournment

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED a motion to adjourn the June 7, 2016 regular meeting at 10:20 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Tolsdorf,
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairman