

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

July 11, 2016

Special Meeting (Approved 08/01/2016)

7:30 p.m.

Horace W. Porter School LMC Conference Room

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: David Crim

OTHERS PRESENT: Lol Fearon-Superintendent.

I. Call to Order

C. Lent called the July 11, 2016, Special 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. 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.

- a) *Approval of June 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- b) *Approval of Payment of Bills*
- c) *Appointment of Patricia Whitman as Grade 7 Team Leader*
- d) *Appointment of Janet Stice as Drama Coach & Stage Director*
- e) *Appointment of Ms. Brigid Keenan, Grade 7 LA/Reading Teacher*

K. Tolsdorf, MOVED, K. Vertefeuille SECONDED a motion to approve Action Items a-e, as presented.
MOTION CARRIES. 6:0

V. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon

- a) *Policy/Regulation 6140 – Curriculum – First Reading*
L. Fearon informed the BOE that Policy/Regulation 6140 - Curriculum reflects edits made from the last Policy Meeting and Teaching and Learning Committee

K. Tolsdorf asked for clarification on a few items. There was discussion between the BOE and L. Fearon. It was decided to bring the Policy to a second reading as is.

- b) *Expenditure Report 2015/16 Update*
L. Fearon explained the Bev Ciurylo prepared the expenditure report for last year and that 98 percent of everything is reflected in the report. Bev has done some additional changes on salary lines and transportation. Final reconciliation will be made at the August meeting.

VI. Columbia District LRP Discussion – Vision and Mission Review Process

L. Fearon discussed with the BOE the next steps needed to move forward on the Vision and Mission statements. L. Fearon recommended that for the next meeting the BOE looks at the mission and vision statements and see if there are some changes or any tweaks needed, as it was done two years ago and should be reaffirmed.

K. Vertefeuille thinks our vision and mission statements are fine. The long term planning that was done was more high level and generic. Before we go out to public more information should be collected on where we are now, what could happen and what that means and gather facts to share with a data point of view.

C. Lent stated that it needs to be more than a cost benefit. We need to look at all data on what could be the options for Columbia in the long-term.

L. Napolitano thinks the board should look at how other small schools educate their kids well.

There was much discussion on electives. L. Fearon will gather information regarding what is offered outside and how we program, the options available and their cost. L. Fearon will have that at the next meeting.

VII Correspondence/Communications

a) Commissioner of Education to Mr. Fearon – National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2017

L. Fearon informed the board that we have been chosen, again, to participate for the 2016-17 school year.

b) Town Adopted Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Annual Budget Document

c) Tenure Letters

L. Fearon informed the board that Jessica DelMastro and Michael Kenyon have made tenure. The principal has to recommend tenure to the Superintendent.

C. Lent congratulated Jessica DelMastro and Mr. Kenyon.

VII. Board of Education Subcommittees

- *Future Meeting Dates:*
 - July 13, 2016 – Fiscal Policy Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m. H.W. Porter LMC Conference Room
 - July 18, 2016 – Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting, 5:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
 - August 1, 2016 – Teaching & Learning Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P LMC Conference Room
 - August 1, 2016 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P LMC Conference Room
 - August 10, 2016 – Fiscal Policy Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
 - September 1, 2016 – Negotiations Session, Time TBD, H.W.P. Library Media Center
 - September 6, 2016 – Building Walk-Through, 6:30 p.m. (Meet at the H.W.P. Main Entrance)
 - September 6, 2016 – New Hire/Newly Tenured Reception, 7:00 p.m. H.W.P LMC Conference Room
 - September 6, 2016 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P Cafeteria
 - September 15, 2016 – Negotiations Session, Time TBD, H.W.P. Library Media Center
 - September 22, 2016 – Negotiations Session, Time TBD, H.W.P. Library Media Center
 - September 29, 2016 –

VIII. Superintendent's Report

- *Staffing Changes 2016/17* –
L. Fearon updated the BOE on staff changes and that we are still waiting on filling the part time computer teacher position. Some discussion on enrollment.
- *Non-Lapsing Account – Next Steps* –
L. Fearon will attend a FIPAC meeting as they had questions regarding the non-lapsing account and he will also inform them about the negotiations. Mr. Fearon will make a formal request for a FIPAC member to attend negotiations. The meeting is Wednesday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m.
- *College Acceptances* –
L. Fearon presented a cumulative report on college acceptances. Bolton and E.O. Smith will have a representative come and present to the BOE preparation for going into high school and on state testing as part of goals for next year with those schools keeping us informed
- *CSDE Desk Audit – Special Education* –
L. Fearon informed the BOE that we passed the CSDE Desk Audit with no indications that we have anything to correct. The files and processes are in good shape.

IX. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

- *Long Range Planning – Ad Hoc Committees*

X. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

K. Vertefeuille wanted to know if there has been consideration on the stipends combining 7th and 8th grade like other grades. L. Fearon stated that is the plan for school year 17-18. There was some discussion regarding team leaders for different grades.

XI. Adjournment

L. Napolitano MOVED, K. Vertefeuille SECONDED motion to adjourn the July 11, 2016 special meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Tolsdorf,
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairman