

# **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

**Tuesday, October 4, 2016**

**Board of Education**

**Special Meeting Minutes**

**DRAFT**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Horace W. Porter School LMC Cafeteria**

**Board Members Present:** Christopher Lent-Chairman, Lisa Napolitano, David Crim, Linette Dooley, Karin Vertefeuille, and James Chakulski

**Board Members Absent:** Kathy Tolsdorf – Vice Chairman

**Others Present:** Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Barbara Wilson-Director of Student Services, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Michael Kenyon-Assistant Principal, Karen Caputo, Steve Piro, Kristin Heckt-Bolton Superintendent, Scott Rich-Bolton Board of Education Representative, Hunter Meshanic, Carter Meshanic, Grace Touhy

**I. Call to Order**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called 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.

Kristen Heckt – Superintendent of Bolton Public Schools and Scott Rich – Bolton BOE member came to the meeting tonight to let Columbia know Bolton High School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. It is the only high school named in Connecticut this year and only one of 3 Connecticut schools named.

K. Heckt would like to extend and offer to come to the table and talk about Bolton being a potential middle school option in the future.

L. Fearon apologized to BOE and the public for the need to reschedule the meeting from Oct. 3, 2016 to tonight. This occurred due to a failure to deliver the agenda to Town Hall in enough time to allow adequate posting for a legal notice.

**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 September 6, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- b) *Appointment of Deborah Dupuis, Student Services Secretary*

D. Crim MOVED and K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to approve the consent agenda items (a) and (b). MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

**V. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon**

a) *Approval of Payment of Bills - members expressed questions concerning summer programming, art supplies and iPad.*

L. Napolitano MOVED, K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to approve payment of bills. MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

b) *Expenditure Report 2015/2016 –*

K. Vertefeuille MOVED and D. Crim SECONDED to approve the Expenditure Report of 2015/2016. MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

c) *FiPAC Non-Lapsing Account Resolution (no action required)*

BOE members discussed the creation of the account and the implications to the district.

L. Fearon noted FiPAC's approval would be needed to receive funds from the non-lapsing account. FiPAC unanimously approved the non-lapsing account at their last meeting. Creation of this fund would continue the process of taking any capital expenditures before the Town. This is a recurring account which will accrue funds over time. The non-lapsing account would be for any unanticipated costs the board could be facing.

d) *Request to FiPAC to deposit \$80,000. in non-lapsing account*

L. Fearon said at the last FiPAC meeting they were looking at about a \$92,000 surplus– FiPAC motioned they would be open to approving up to \$80,000 from the surplus into the non-lapsing account.

L. Napolitano MOVED, L. Dooley SECONDED to request Superintendent, Lol Fearon to write a letter to FiPAC requesting FiPAC to transfer \$80,000 of excess funds into the non-lapsing account.  
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

e) *Establish an Ad hoc Committee of the Whole Board to examine long range planning options*

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to establish an Ad hoc Committee of the whole Board to examine long range planning options and to set meeting dates.

Discussion:

Meeting date possibilities were discussed 10/24/16 was agreed upon. Further meetings will be scheduled as needed. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, D. Crimm SECONDED to amend the motion to establish an Ad hoc Committee of the whole Board to examine long range planning options and to set a meeting date of October 24, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.  
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

f) *Set meeting dates for Ad hoc Committee of Whole Board – Action taken under (e).*

g) *Approval of Snow Removal Contract 2016/2017*

D. Crimm MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to approve the snow removal contract submitted by Wrana Excavation.

Discussion – K. Vertefeuille would like to see this go out to bid in the future.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

L. Fearon noted the cost remained the same as the proposal last year.

**VI. Presentation – SBAC Results – Mr. Michael Kenyon**

M. Kenyon, Assistant Principal presented Smarter Balanced results from April and May of 2016. There were slight changes from the 2014-2015 results. Looking at overall student growth over time is our focus.

A. Gwinnell mentioned this testing focuses more on curriculum than CMTs did.

M. Kenyon said results are not specific to areas of the testing. All of our students scored above the state average in ELA. Each student counts for 3 percentage points which can impact results significantly in a small district. The data was received over the summer and sent to teachers to review areas of focus.

SBAC and STARR Data are compared. STARR is our universal screening tool and testing occurs 3 times per year. It is aligned with the Connecticut Core Standards.

Curriculum will continue to be developed and teachers will be using similar language to the assessments in daily language and performance tasks.

**A. Correspondence/Communications - None**

**B. Board of Education Subcommittees**

- *Future Meeting Dates:*
  - October 12, 2016 – Fiscal Policy Board Meeting 8:30 a.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
  - October 21, 2016 – Teacher Negotiation Mediation Meeting, 3:00 p.m. H.W. P. Conference Room
  - October 24, 2016 – Special Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
  - November 7, 2016 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
  - November 7, Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W. P. Cafeteria

**C. Superintendent's Report**

- *Breakfast Program Update* – We received notification today that our application was approved by the state which guarantees our reimbursement rate.
- *Mobile STEM update* – EASTCONN mobile lab will come here on October 13th. We have much of the equipment here in our science classes so teachers can continue what's presented. Eastconn will be doing an environmental study which we plan to continue.
- *Forty-year Reunion Tour* – We received communication from a 1976 H.W. Porter graduate who found she met up with many Porter graduates over the years and they suggested getting together to see the school. 18-20 people came to participate on a Saturday for a tour of the school and a small reception was held in the cafeteria. They were surprised with the additions and were most familiar with "A" Wing.
- *Co-Teaching – Summary Report* – Teachers implemented 3 models. Teachers were trained in model which best fit their teacher style. Feedback and data obtained from teachers report it's been successful. Administrators are continuing walk throughs. Teachers report a more collaborative nature of the work they do now with their colleagues.

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

- a) *Board of Education Retreat and Goal Setting* – Last year this was held in November/December – L. Dooley felt it was helpful and a useful exercise. She suggested possibly one session instead of two. Board member consensus was for one slightly more advanced session. December would be the preferable month.

- b) *Bus Contract Renewal* – Our bus contract is up this year. L. Fearon has been working with an Eastconn contact consultant. Our choices are to go to bid or extend the current contract. This can be discussed at the next BOE meeting.

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

K. Vertefeuille –offered official congratulation to Pam Basile, Paraprofessional of the Year and Mike Hetherington as the Columbia Teacher of the Year.

C. Lent welcomed Deborah Dupuis as the new Special Education Secretary.

**F. Adjournment**

L. Dooley MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education at 9:34 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Tolsdorf,  
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairman