

BOARD OF EDUCATION

COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT

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



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

March 7, 2016
Regular Meeting Minutes
7:30 p.m.
Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Special Services, Mike Kenyon-Assistant Principal, Karen Caputo-Social Worker, Christine Sposito, Lysie White, Grace Tuohy, Susan Tuohy, Natasha Nau-Town Administrator, Brenda Desmarais-Co-Advisor of NJHS, Beverly Ciurylo-Director of Finance.

I. Call to Order

C. Lent called the March 7, 2016, regular meeting to order at 7:33 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. Proclamation

- March is Board of Education Appreciation Month – Thank You Columbia Board of Education Members!

L. Fearon thanked the BOE for their service. Each board member received a Certificate of Appreciation. The BOE also received homemade cookies from Mrs. Johnson the Superintendent's Secretary.

V. Celebration of Excellence

At Porter School our students are empowered to lead and to demonstrate civic responsibility.

- **Congratulations to Grace Tuohy – Secretary of State & CT Citizenship Recognition**

B. Desmarais, Co-Advisor for the NJHS, explained the award process and the reasons why Grace Tuohy, who is President of NJHS, a member of NJHAS, part of Porter's Enrichment Program and Leo Club member, is being recognized for her hard work as a volunteer within the community. L. Fearon and C. Lent presented Grace with her Certificate of Appreciation from the Secretary of State's Office.

VI. Presentation – Update on Co-Teaching Model and Professional Development

Presenters: Amy Drowne & Emily Muro-Trexler, Eastconn

This presentation has been postponed until the next BOE meeting on April 4, 2016.

VII. Review of 2016/2017 Columbia Board of Education Budget & Approval

Presenter: Lol Fearon, Superintendent

L. Fearon presented the latest budget and changes.

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** a motion to Approve the 2016-17 Columbia Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$12,715,797.00. K. Tolsdorf commented that the BOE has kept the budget as low as possible. K. Vertefeuille stated that the increases that were made were out of their control. J. Chakulski agreed with K. Vertefeuille. L. Napolitano stated that we have students moving here because we do such a good job and you have to educate special education students.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

VIII. 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 February 1, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- b) *Approval of February 22, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes*
- c) *Approval of Payment of Bills*
- d) *Approval of 2015/16 Expenditure Report as of 02/29/2016*

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** a motion to remove from the consent agenda items (c) and (d).

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** motion to approve action items (a) and (b) as presented.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

D. Crim **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** a motion to approved Payment of Bills as presented. There was discussion between the BOE and L. Fearon regarding some invoices.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

L. Fearon gave an updated 2015/16 Expenditure Report, Item (d) above. L. Fearon would like to get authorization from the BOE to work with Beverly Ciurylo, Director of Finance, to transfer line items. There was discussion regarding this request, and the freezing of discretionary items until the end of the year. L. Fearon stated that in the presentation to FIPAC and Board of Selectman what was asked for in 15-16 budget, what was spent in 15/16 and what the BOE is asking for in 16-17 should be presented. L. Fearon will report to the board any line item transfers.

D. Crim **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 2015/16 Expenditure Report as presented.

MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, L. Dooley **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 2015/16 Expenditure Report as presented and to include approval for Superintendent, Lol Fearon, to make line item adjustments.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

IX. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon

a) *Non-Lapsing Account Fund Balance – MOA*

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, J. Chakulski **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Non-Lapsing Account Fund Balance – MOA as presented.

C. Lent presented the Non-Lapsing Account which was reviewed by Shipman & Goodman.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

X. Correspondence/Communications

a) *2015-2016 Educator Certification Compliance Report*

b) *King, King & Associates – Town of Columbia Audited Financial Statements (June 30, 2015)*

c) *E.O. Smith wants UCONN to buy site – 02/05/16 Willimantic Chronicle*

d) *SBAC Participation Rate*

e) *Reduction in SBAC Testing – Press Release*

f) *Early Columbia ed budget 8 percent larger – February 25, 2016 Willimantic Chronicle*

L. Fearon presented overview of all items a-f.

XI. Board of Education Subcommittees

• Future Meeting Dates:

- March 16, 2016 (Wednesday) – BOS & BOE present Budgets to FiPAC, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
 - L. Fearon will get copy to FIPAC and Board of Selectman.
- March 23, 2016 (Wednesday) – Special FiPAC Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- March 30, 2016 (Wednesday) – Special FiPAC Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- April 4, 2016 – Teaching & Learning Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- April 4, 2016 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Café
- April 27, (Wednesday) – Public Budget Hearing 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- May 2, 2016 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
 - Change time to 6:00 p.m. to finish curriculum.
- May 2, 2016 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Café
- May 24, 2016 – Annual Town Budget Meeting, 7:00 p.m. H.W.P. Café

XII. Superintendent’s Report

XIII. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

- 3516.12 – Asbestos Control – Policy Subcommittee – May 2, 2016
- 3524.1 – Pesticide Application – Policy Subcommittee – May 2, 2016
- 3524.2 – Green Cleaning Program – Policy Subcommittee – May 2, 2016

XIV. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

- K. Vertefeuille asked the Superintendent to research the pros and cons of combining with Region 19. There was some discussion.
- C. Lent praised Lol and staff on the handling of the 90 minute delay on February 25th.

XV. Adjournment

J. Chakulski **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Tolsdorf,
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairperson