

Columbia Board of Education
May 4, 2015
Regular Meeting Minutes
7:30 p.m.
Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

Board Members Present: David Crim, Linette Dooley, Christopher Lent, Lisa Napolitano, Kathy Tolsdorf, Karin Vertefeuille-Vice Chairperson

Board Members Absent: Kerry Hoffman-Chairperson

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Beverly Ciurylo-Finance Director, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Student Services, Michael Kenyon-Assistant Principal-Data Coordinator, Sandra Rijs-Enrichment Teacher, Toby Keldsen & family, Juliana Baker and family, Matthew Fritz and family

I. Call to Order

Karin Vertefeuille called the May 4, 2015, Regular Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Additions to this evening's agenda:

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to add items:

IV. Celebration of Excellence:

Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar Leaders: Juliana Baker and Matthew Fritz, Grade 8
and

VI. g) Health Care Bid Review.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

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.

IV. Celebration of Excellence!

- **Porter Invention Convention Top Scorers**
 - **Lauren Weaver, Grade 4 "Umbrel Ease"**
 - **Tobias Keldsen, Grade 4 "The Sensory Seat"**
 - **Vianca Rodriguez-Houle, Grade 6 "BOSS" Boot or Shoe System**

Enrichment Teacher, Sandra Rijs, reviewed the process students use to get to their invention's end product. 24 Porter students participated in this year's HWP Invention Convention. The three top scorers: Lauren Weaver, Tobias Keldsen, and Vianca Rodrigues-Houle went on to the May 2nd UCONN Convention.

*Ms. Rijs introduced grade 4 student **Toby Keldsen**. Toby designed and developed "The Sensory Seat" to aid students with sensory issues such as being distracted in class. The blanket wraps around the student's body and is made of soft flannel with additional patches of textures. It is weighted and heated and can comfort and calm the user.*

Board members were very impressed with Toby's Sensory Seat. They thanked him for demonstrating his invention.

- **Connecticut Association of Student Leaders**
 - **Juliana Baker, Grade 8**
 - **Matthew Fritz, Grade 8**

Principal Gwinnell explained the criteria for being selected as one of Porter's 2015 CT Association of Schools Student Leaders. A student must show high scholarship and leadership qualities within their school and community. **Juliana Baker and Matthew Fritz** display these qualities every day at Horace W. Porter. They, as well as other scholar leaders from around Connecticut will be recognized at an upcoming special dinner being held at the Aqua Turf.

On behalf of the Board of Education, **Mr. Fearon** congratulated and praised Juliana and Matthew for being selected as Columbia's Connecticut Association of Student Leaders!

V. 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 April 6, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes**

C. Lent **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve the April 6, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

NO VOTE TAKEN

C. Lent **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to amend the motion and approve the April 6, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes with the following correction: V. Action Items-Discuss & Act Upon c) Appointment of Anthony White, Boys **Baseball** Coach **NOT** Basketball Coach.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

VI. Action Items – Discuss & Act Upon

a) **Approval of Payment of Bills**

C. Lent **MOVED**, K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** to approve the May 4, 2015 bills listed as presented.
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

b) **Approval of 2014/15 Expenditure Report as of 04/30/2015 & Grant Status Report**

D. Crim **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve the 2014/15 Expenditure Report as of 04/30/2015 & Grant Status Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

c) **Second Reading - Policy 4111 – Certified Personnel/Recruitment and Selection – Hiring of Certified Staff**

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the second reading of Policy 4111 – Certified Personnel/Recruitment and Selection – Hiring of Certified Staff as presented.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

d) **Second Reading - Policy 4112.5/4212.5 – Personnel – Certified/Noncertified – Employment Checks**

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** to approve the second reading of Policy 4112.5/4212.5 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Employment Checks as presented.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

VI. Action Items – Discuss & Act Upon (continued)

e) Second Reading - Policy 4211 – Non-Certified Personnel/Recruitment and Selection

C. Lent **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve the second reading of Policy 4211 – Non-Certified Personnel/Recruitment and Selection as presented.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

f) Educator Evaluation Plan – Updates for the 2015/2016 School year

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the Educator Evaluation Plan Updates for the 2015/2016 School Year as presented.

Mrs. Gwinnell reviewed the changes from the 2014/2015 school year which meet the requirements of the CT Educator Evaluation Program. The changes allow for flexibility for staff to create meaningful student-centered goals. They were suggested by the Porter Teacher Evaluation Committee with other teacher input. Once the Board votes on the changes, a final copy will be submitted to the State by the May 15th deadline.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

g) Health Care Bid Review

D. Crim **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve the 2015/2016 Health Care Bid Plan presented by Connecticare.

Discussion:

- Anthem's original 2015/16 renewal rate came in at 17.65%.
- Because of the projected high rate, the Town and BOE went out to bid.
- Anthem and Connecticare submitted bids.
- Anthem came in at the mid 13% range, then adjusted to 10.74%.
- Connecticare came in at 9.020%.
 - comparability of coverage exactly the same
 - both are HSA programs
 - copays the same
 - 99% same doctors in network.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

VII. New Business

a) Discussion – Out-of-Town Tuition

Mr. Fearon will contact CABE and request their recommended out-of-town tuition policies for the Board of Education Policy subcommittee's review June 1, 2015.

b) First Reading - Policy 5141.7 – Student Sports – Concussions

c) Superintendent Evaluation Form

Mr. Fearon will correct items 2d and 2f and email the evaluation form to Board members this week. Board members should fill out and return their forms to Mrs. Hoffman by May 18th.

VIII. Presentation

a) Co-Teaching Pilot: Initial Report, Principal Alyssa Gwinnell & Director of Student Services Mary-Kate Farley

Principal Gwinnell explained that the purpose of the co-teaching pilot is to approach the implementation of co-teaching in a strategic and effective manner which is student-centered. Co-teaching is an intervention and extension strategy to aid teachers in meeting the diverse needs of students. These needs can be based on behaviors, academic or both.

It is preferred that there are 2 teachers for most models so that the planning, instruction and assessment can be shared. Various content areas can be effectively combined and co-taught depending on the strengths and certification of the teachers. One concern with co-teaching is around the compatibility, responsibility and training of teachers prior to co-teaching taking place.

*For this pilot, the teachers were chosen based on classroom needs, personal strengths and availability. Mrs. Gwinnell and Mrs. Farley met and decided the challenge of meeting the diverse needs of students in third grade was an agreed-upon focus area for both regular and special needs students; with math progress being the area of focus. Grade 3 Teacher **Karen DeFanti** and Enrichment Teacher **Sandra Rijs** worked together with guidance from Eastconn consultant Ms. Drowne for the pilot.*

There are several known co-teaching models that can be used interchangeably and during this pilot the teachers implemented 5 different models: one teach, one assist, parallel teaching, station teaching, alternative teaching and team teaching. It was discovered that the models serve different purposes and meet needs in different ways depending on the purpose of instruction.

It is the administration's goal to begin a co-teaching model during the elementary literacy block next year and then look for opportunities in the middle school as the year progresses.

Mrs. Gwinnell thanked Ms. Rijs and Ms. DeFanti for their work on this project.

IX. Correspondence/Communications

- a) Birthday Greetings From Around the Globe – Willimantic Chronicle – April 21, 2015**
- b) Big Ideas – HWP Invention Convention Participants – Chronicle Album – April 25, 2015**
- c) Courtney aiming to end Obamacare's "Cadillac tax" – The CT Mirror – April 28, 2015**
Mr. Fearon informed Board members that the district's insurance broker, Joe Spurgeon, prepared the actuary tables for Mr. Courtney and was scheduled to testify before the House regarding changes in healthcare revision.

X. Board of Education Subcommittees

- Future Meeting Dates:
 - May 11, 2015 – Long Range Plan (Program), 6:30 p. m. LMC Back Classroom Area
 - May 11, 2015 – Long-Range Plan (Communications), 6:30 p.m. Superintendent's Conference Room
 - May 12, 2015 – Annual Town Budget Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Yeomans Hall
 - May 18, 2015 – Negotiations, 6:00 p.m. LMC Back Classroom Area
 - June 1, 2015 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. HWP LMC Conference Room
 - June 1, 2015 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Cafeteria
 - June 12, 2015 – Windham H.S. Graduation, 6:00 p.m. Outside the School
 - June 17, 2015 – E.O. Smith H.S. Graduation, 6:00 p.m. Jorgenson Auditorium
 - June 19, 2015 – Bolton H.S. Graduation, 6:00 p.m. Outside the School
 - June 19, 2015 – Lyman Memorial H.S. Graduation, 6:00 p.m. in Front of School
 - June 19, 2015 – Windham Tech H.S. Graduation, 6:00 p.m. LOCATION TBD
 - June 22, 2015 – Horace W. Porter School Graduation, 4:00 p.m. E.O. Smith High School Auditorium

XI. Superintendent's Report

- a) Long-range Plan Update** – both groups will be meeting on Monday, May 11th at 6:30 p.m.
- b) Roof Project Update** – the roof project is complete. Mr. Sylvester is working with Charter Oak Mechanicals to resolve the balancing of the exhaust fans. The cost for change orders to correct fans will be paid by the Town.
- c) Security Grant** – the checklist has been completed by Mr. Sylvester. The grant has been submitted to the State, and the Town/district is awaiting reimbursement.
- d) Student News** – please see Celebration of Excellence!

XII. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

XIII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

- ***Mrs. Napolitano** asked the Board to consider video-taping Board of Ed meetings. Students could gain experience in video recording, lighting and sound.*
- ***Mrs. Tolsdorf** asked if the chemicals used by TruGreen on the school fields are safe. Superintendent Fearon assured Mrs. Tolsdorf that they are indeed safe for school grounds.*
- ***Ms. Vertefeuille** reported the E.O. Smith crew accident on Coventry Lake that sent 4 students to the hospital is under investigation. All four students were released from the hospital that same day.*

XIV. Adjournment

D. Crim **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin Vertefeuille,
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairperson