



Columbia Board of Education
June 1, 2015
Regular Meeting Minutes
7:30 p.m.
Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

Board Members Present: David Crim, Linette Dooley entered the meeting at 7:58 p.m., Kerry Hoffman-Chairperson, Christopher Lent, Lisa Napolitano, Kathy Tolsdorf, Karin Vertefeuille-Vice Chairperson

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Student Services, Michael Kenyon-Assistant Principal-Data Coordinator, Sarah Schatz, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Schatz

I. Call to Order

Kerry Hoffman called the June 1, 2015, Regular Meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

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

- **E.O. Smith High School 2015 Connecticut Governor's Scholar**
 - **Sarah Schatz**

Mrs. Hoffman warmly welcomed Sarah and her parents to this evening's meeting. **Mr. Fearon** explained that only 30 high school juniors statewide are chosen for this prestigious award. It is based on class ranking, student essay, PSAT or SAT scores and CAPT scores. Sarah will receive recognition as well as information on participation in courses and research projects at selected Connecticut colleges and universities. **Mrs. Hoffman** presented Sarah with a Certificate of Excellence.

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 May 4, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b) Approval of May 12, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes**
- c) Acceptance of Resignation of Mrs. Kathia Karamanites, .5 Elementary World Language Teacher**

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the consent action items a, b, c as presented.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0:1.

D. Crim, C. Lent, L. Napolitano, K. Tolsdorf, K. Vertefeuille **VOTED FOR THE MOTION**
K. Hoffman **ABSTAINED**

Linette Dooley entered the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

VI. Action Items – Discuss & Act Upon

- a) Approval of Payment of Bills**

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to approve the June 1, 2015 bills listed as presented.
MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

b) Approval of 2015/15 Expenditure Report as of 05/29/2015 & Grant Status Report

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve the 2014/15 Expenditure Report as of 05/29/2015 & Grant Status Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

c) Second Reading – Policy 5141.7 – Student Sports - Concussions

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to approve the second reading of Policy 5141.7 – Student Sports – Concussions as presented.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

VII. New Business

a) Non-Lapsing Account/Education Fund Proposal

Mr. Fearon explained general statute 10-248a (unexpended education funds account) states, “that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year thereafter, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, municipal charter, home rule ordinance or other ordinance, towns having a board of finance may deposit into a non-lapsing account any unexpended funds from the board of education’s budget from the prior fiscal year. The amount placed into such account may not exceed one percent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for such prior fiscal year. The board of finance in a community is not compelled by statute to establish such a non-lapsing account. However, boards of finance may be desirous of doing so as a means to provide the local board of education with an incentive to reduce costs.

The statute is silent on the reasons/uses for which the fund could be established. Some communities have established the fund for capital expenditures or maintenance projects, health insurance costs, or for extraordinary special education expenses.”

Mr. Fearon said the Board of Education has an ethical responsibility to return unspent tuition monies. The Board of Education may want to consider putting up to 1% of this year’s budget amount into a non-lapsing account for a designated use such as unanticipated 2015/16 special education costs. Doing this would not have an impact on MBR.

Board members discussed the wording of the policy, possible designated uses for the funds such as special education costs or capital projects, clearly defining the uses for this money, adding/capping to the account.

Mrs. Hoffman asked that this topic be placed on the June 10th Fiscal Policy Meeting Agenda.

b) Team Leaders Draft Proposal

Mr. Fearon explained the Board likes the concept of team leaders and would like to preserve the position. With the decline in enrollment and reduction in the number of sections per grade at the elementary level there is a more efficient way of operating by combining grade level teams. This proposal reconfigures the teams into primary K-1 (5 members), elementary 2-4 (6 members), middle school 5-6 (6 members), and middle school 7-8 (6 members). Reducing the number of team leaders from 12 to 7. The SRBI, Special Education and Related Art teams would not be affected by this proposal.

VIII. Presentation – Review of Special Education Programs Including PK Update

- Mrs. Mary-Kate Farley, Director of Student Services

Mrs. Farley informed the Board that increased referrals and rising outplacement charges are impacting the cost of special education. Early intervention and continuous improvements in SRBI (Scientific Research-Based Instruction) can help decrease referrals.

- Early Intervention
 - Pre School screening and specialized PK programming
 - SRBI
- Enhanced specialized in-district programming
 - Specialized resource room
 - Collaboration with related service providers
 - JRB (Juvenile Review Board)
 - Para professional support
- Utilization of outside service providers
 - Outside referrals
 - Outside consultants
 - Collaboration with private and/or state agencies

Co-teaching at Porter can address today's classrooms that have students with diverse ranges of abilities and needs. Co-teaching brings together two or more certified/licensed professionals who can use their expertise to design rigorous learning experiences tailored to meet the unique needs of all students. General educators may have specific expertise in the areas of curriculum and instruction, classroom management, knowledge of typical students and instructional pacing. Special educators may have additional expertise in the areas of differentiating instruction, monitoring progress, understanding learning processes and teaching for mastery.

Preschool Update

Research shows that high-quality preschool programs provide important foundational skills necessary for a lifetime of academic success.

- Provide HWP PK students with a competitive 21st century education.
- Align program features with Smart Start Grant requirements.
- Comply with National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) requirements for accreditation.
- Better alignment of our curriculum to the CT Early Learning and Development Standards.
- Separate PK3 and PK4 programs.
- Longer school day.
- Longer school year.
- Increased instructional time equals better prepared students.

IX. Correspondence/Communications

- a) *Town of Columbia Annual Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2014*
- b) *State of CT Department of Education to Mr. Fearon – 2015/16 Educator Evaluation and Support Plan Approved 05/28/2015*

X. Board of Education Subcommittees

- Future Meeting Dates:
 - June 3, 2015 – Negotiations, 6:00 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Back Classroom Area
 - June 8, 2015 – Long Range Plan (Communications) 6:30 p.m. Superintendent's Conference Room
 - June 8, 2015 – Long Range Plan (Program) 6:30 p.m. LMC Back Classroom Area
 - June 12, 2015 – Windham H.S. Graduation, 6:00 p.m. Outside the School
 - June 15, 2015 – Special Board of Ed Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Library Media Conference Room
 - 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
 - July 13, 2015 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Cafeteria

XI. Superintendent's Report

a) Long-Range Plan Update

Both steering committees will be meeting on Monday, June 8th. They will be making recommendations to the Board of Education on July 13th.

b) High-School Student News

Mr. Fearon sent an email out to Columbia high school students asking for student achievement information. Parents responded. There was no shortage of accomplishments! Please see below:

ACADEMICS	ATHLETICS	COMMUNITY SERVICE
<p>Bryan Duffy (Bolton):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CT Association of Public Schools Superintendents Student Recognition Award - CT Association of Schools Outstanding Arts Award - Distinguished Achievement in the 2015 Drama Performance in the 2015 Eastern Region Music Festival: Concert Band - National Honor Society member since his sophomore year 	<p>Jackson Meshanic - most improved player and Best Rebounder on E.O. Smith Boys Varsity Basketball Team. He was the leading rebounder and earned his Varsity letter as a starter in every game this year (except for Senior night, Jackson is a 10th grader). He was the second leading scorer behind Brandon Desautels.</p>	<p><u>Lions Club Scholarship Winners</u> <i>(Based on a commitment to public service):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bryan Duffy – Bolton senior - Michael Kandolin – Windham senior - Logan Breault – Windham senior - Robin Monk – Bolton senior
<p>Kayla Zinser – High honors for the first 3 semesters of her freshman year and on course for the last also.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kayla has been selected to be a Writing Center Peer Editor. 	<p>Dylan Coughlin – E.O. Smith/Tolland Bucks Hockey Team player. The team won the State Championship. He was named a Scholar Athlete.</p>	<p><u>Fred Gifford Memorial Scholarship (Fire Dept.)</u> <i>(Based on grades, activities, outside school activities, community service and family values):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lindsay Phaneuf – Windham senior - Robin Monk – Bolton senior - Sean Puckett – Windham senior - Jenna Ethridge – Bolton senior
<p>Sarah Schatz – E.O. Smith High School 2015 Connecticut Governor’s Scholar</p>	<p>Bryan Duffy – received a Varsity Letter in Boys Bolton Cross Country</p>	
<p>Shaina Cooper – E.O. Smith High School President’s Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drama Association Award - Choral Excellence Award - The Lily Pad Art Award 	<p>Kayla Zinser – was on the freshman volleyball and basketball teams and is currently on the freshman softball team.</p>	
<p>Alejandro Muñoz is representing EO Smith High School as the sophomore ambassador to the CT Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) leadership conference taking place at the University of Bridgeport May 29 – May 31. HOBY is a national organization dedicated to promoting and developing service and leadership in high school students.</p>	<p>Robert Hartling made EO history this year as the first ever Class L State Champion for Wrestling.</p>	
<p>Doris Jenkins received the following awards from E.O. Smith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President’s Education Award for outstanding Academic Achievement - Columbia PTO Scholarship for being a Columbia resident with the highest grade point average - Leo Club Award for 100+ hours of community service over 4 years - Member of the National Honor Society and World Language Honor Society 	<p>Taylor Bisailon @ E.O. Smith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 years varsity girls soccer - 2 years captain varsity soccer - All conference girls varsity soccer - MVP varsity indoor track - 2 years All Conference Varsity Outdoor Track 	

High-School Student News (continued)

ACADEMICS	ATHLETICS	COMMUNITY SERVICE
<i>Kelsi Marks</i> – Lyman Memorial High School Senior Project, Future Farmers of America.	<i>Brandon Desautels and Ben Wrana</i> both won awards for basketball on the Varsity team as juniors from Columbia.	
	<i>Andrew Schroder</i> also won awards on the Junior Varsity team.	
	<i>Theodore Hoffman</i> – E.O. Smith/Tolland Bucks Hockey Team player. The team won the State Championship.	
	<i>Kelsi Marks</i> – Lyman Memorial High School received Cheerleading EEC Sportsmanship Award.	

XII. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

XIII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

XIV. Adjournment

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin Vertefeuille,
 Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairperson