



**Columbia Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**June 6, 2011**

**7:30 P.M.**

**Horace W. Porter School Library Media Center**

Board Members Present: Lisa Jurovaty-Vice Chairman, William Mulcahy, Lauren Perrotti-Verboven-Chairman, Nelson Petrone, John Schroder, James Thorn

Board Members Absent: Paula Belekewicz

Administration Present: Francine Coss-Superintendent

Staff Present: Marian Lowry, Sandra Rijs, Janet Stice

Citizens Present: Numerous parents and Porter students

**I. Call to Order**

Lauren Perrotti-Verboven called the June 6, 2011 regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

N. Petrone **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to add the following items to the 06/06/2011 Board of Education agenda:

- Add XII. Board of Education Member Comments
- Add XIII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Negotiations Discussion

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Celebration of Excellence**

**A. The Willimantic Chronicle Special Contributors**

- Ben Houle & Tess Shaw, Grade 6 Porter Students
- Shane Labbe & Megan Petrone, Grade 2 Porter Students
- Kayla Baker & Adrian Salustri, Grade 6 Porter Students

**B. Connecticut Association of Schools Annual Elementary Arts Festival Winners**

- Caitlyn Acerbo-Meehl & Luke Lageman, Grade 4 Porter Students

**C. Grade 5 New England Math League Top Scorers**

- Sarah Lawton
- Matthew Gorman
- Nicholas Morgan
- Katherine Henderson
- Leif Ekstrom
- Jason Franklin
- William Rood
- Stephen Ruchalski
- Samantha Schatz

*Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven congratulated the student authors, artists and math league top scorers!*

**D. 2010/2011 Columbia School District Staff Milestones**

**CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES**

Donna Cawley (20 years) - Hire date: 8/29/1991  
Barbara Coviello (30 years) - Hire date: 9/01/1981  
Tammy Ekstrom (10 years) - Hire date: 9/01/2001  
Michael Hetherington (10 years) - Hire date: 9/01/2001  
Laura Lawton (5 years) - Hire date: 8/30/2006  
Aliza Petrucci (5 years) - Hire date: 8/30/2006  
Shannon Piatek (15 years) - Hire date: 8/26/1996  
Steven Piro (5 years) - Hire date: 8/30/2006  
Sandy Rijs (5 years) - Hire date: 8/30/2006  
Kari VanOstrand (10 years) - Hire date: 9/01/2001

**NON-CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES**

Kristen Lyon (5 years) - Hire date: 9/01/2005  
Sally Medieros (10 years) - Hire date: 8/30/2000  
Sandra Millerd (10 years) - Hire date: 10/12/2000  
Brenda Morey (15 years) - Hire date: 10/25/1995  
Anne Robinson (5 years) - Hire date: 9/01/2005  
Judy Zemantic (5 years) - Hire date: 1/08/2006

**IV. Approval of May 2, 2011 Regular Board of Education Minutes - Take Action**

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and J. Schroder **SECONDED** to approve the May 2, 2011 regular meeting minutes as presented.

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

**V. Comments from the Audience (Bylaws of the Board #9300) – No comments**

*Time allotted for public participation–30 minutes, time allotted for an individual speaker–3 minutes*

**VI. Presentation – Connecticut State Invention Convention Participants**

- Sophie Carver, Grade 6
- Luke Stover, Grade 6
- Samantha Schatz, Grade 5

Ms. Rijs introduced Sophie Carver and Luke Stover and explained, due to illness; Samantha Schatz would not be presenting her invention.

Sophie Carver's invention placed at the State level. It is a better way to communicate with your pet and is called the Doggie Doorbell. The dog steps on a special pad which makes the door bell ring, informing the dog owner that the pet would like to come inside.

Luke Stover's invention is called the HOLO Hammer. It is a hammer with a drill on the bottom that makes a starting hole for the nail.

Ms. Rijs explained Samantha's invention. It is called **PIB – Pocket Inside Boot**. It is a pocket made of colorful fabric that is sewn into the inside of a boot. The pocket can be used for holding money or a cell phone.

*Board members thanked and applauded Sophie, Luke and Samantha for their creative and useful inventions. Mrs. Carver thanked Ms. Rijs for overseeing the Horace W. Porter Invention Convention and making arrangements for Porter students to enter and present their inventions at the Connecticut State Fair.*

**VII. Correspondence/Communications**

- Acting Commissioner of Education to Superintendent Coss – Columbia Association of School Administrators 05/05/2011
- Bureau of Student Assessment Chief to CMT District Coordinators – 05/06/2011  
*Mrs. Coss informed Board members that Mr. Parenti received word today that the Columbia School District will not be a part of this pilot program.*
- CABE President and Executive Director to Columbia Board of Education Chairperson – 05/10/2011
- Windham High School Principal to Superintendent Coss – Annual Scholarship Awards Night is June 6, 2011
- Acting Commissioner of Education to Superintendents – Position Statement on Culturally Responsive Education – 05/19/2011
- Superintendent Coss to Horace W. Porter School Parents – 2009/10 Strategic School Profile, Columbia Public Schools Enrollment Projection Updated to 2020 and Approved 2011/2012 Columbia Board of Education Budget Documents – 05/12/2011
- Superintendent Coss to First Selectman Vance and FiPAC Chairman Sharpe - Strategic School Profile – 05/12/2011
- Superintendent Coss to First Selectman Vance and FiPAC Chairman Sharpe - Columbia Public Schools Enrollment Projection Updated to 2020 – 05/12/2011
- Acting Commissioner of Education to Superintendents – ED513 Health Service Plan – 05/20/2011
- Acting Director of Education to Superintendents – Office of Special Education Programs Guidance to States Regarding the Response to Intervention Process and Evaluation for Eligibility Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Superintendent Coss to Selectman Richard Szegda – AHM Youth Services Information – 06/01/2011  
*Mrs. Coss thanked Mr. Szegda for being such a great advocate for Columbia children. She informed Board members that the current services provided by AHM are sufficient.*

**VIII. Financial Review**

- Payment of Bills**
- Actual & Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances**
- Columbia School Grant Status of 5/31/2011**

*Mrs. Coss said the administrators and finance director have worked very hard to apply grant funds appropriately and timely. All anticipated bills are being accounted for, 2011/2012 capital projects that have been cut from the budget are being considered for end-of-the-year spending and approximately \$360,000 in tuition funds will be returned to the Town. Mrs. Coss will prepare a full list of end-of-the-year purchases for the July 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.*

## **IX. Reports**

### **A. Board of Education Chairperson**

- June 14, 2011 – Lyman High School Graduation – 6:00 p.m. LHS front lawn/field weather permitting
- June 15, 2011 – Horace W. Porter School Grade 8 Graduation – 4:00 p.m. at Windham High School Auditorium  
*Mrs. Coss informed the Board that Representative Ackert has offered to speak at the grade 8 graduation. She will be sure that Senator Prague and First Selectman Vance are also invited.*
- June 17, 2011 – Windham Tech Graduation – 6:00 p.m. Eastern CT State University
- June 20, 2011 – Windham High School Graduation – 6:00 p.m. WHS football field, weather permitting
- June 24, 2011 – Bolton High School Graduation – 6:00 p.m. Bolton High School

### **B. Board of Education Subcommittees**

- Negotiation Subcommittee: Future Dates for AFSCME Negotiations
  - Tuesday, June 14, 2011, 5:30 P.M.
  - Thursday, June 16, 2011, 5:30 P.M.
  - Saturday, June 18, 2011, 9:00 A.M.
- Future Meeting Dates:
  - June 13, 2011 – Budget/Curriculum/Personnel Subcommittee Meetings @ 6:00 p.m. Porter LMC
  - ~~June 20, 2011 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. Porter LMC (cancelled)~~

### **C. Superintendent's Report**

1. 2009/2010 Columbia School District Strategic School Profile
2. Horace W. Porter School Hot Lunch Reports
  - Overview Report of Administrative and Coordinated Review Evaluation and School Meals Initiative
  - State of CT Focused Food Service Inspection Report
  - Site Reimbursement Claim Form
  - Horace W. Porter Hot Lunch Program YTD Comparison of Paid, Free and Reduced Lunches
3. June 1, 2011 Columbia School District Enrollment
4. Data Board Displays

## **X. Action Items – Consent Agenda**

J. Schroder **MOVED** and N. Petrone **SECONDED** to approve Action Items – Consent Agenda:

### **A. Policy 5126 Awards for Achievement – Awards & Scholarships**

### **B. 2011/2012 Healthy Food Certification Statement Approval**

### **C. Destruction of Records Approval**

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

## **XI. Future Agenda Items**

### **XII. Board of Education Member Comments**

**Mr. Schroder** commented on the awesome improvements to the Porter website, the short term answer to the long term traffic flow problem when turning onto Route 66 from Schoolhouse Road and asked if there are any known bullying issues at Porter. **Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven** thanked the Board of Education, Porter staff and Columbia community for their many well wishes during her daughter's recent surgery and recovery. She would not trade Columbia for any other school or community.

### **XII. Executive Session for the Purpose of Negotiation Discussion**

N. Petrone **MOVED** and W. Mulcahy **SECONDED** to enter in to executive session for the purpose of negotiation discussion at 8:45 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to adjourn executive session at 10:30 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

### **XIII. Adjournment**

N. Petrone **MOVED** and L. Jurovaty **SECONDED** to adjourn the June 6, 2011 regular meeting at 10:31 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jurovaty  
Columbia Board of Education Vice-Chairperson