



**Columbia Board of Education**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**July 14, 2014**  
6:30 P.M.  
Beckish Senior Center

Board Members Present: David Crim, Kerry Hoffman-Chairperson, Christopher Lent, Lisa Napolitano, Karin Vertefeuille-Vice Chairperson

Board Members Absent: Lauren Perrotti-Verboven, Kathy Tolsdorf

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Kerry Hoffman called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Developing Vision Statement**

Board members discussed the 3 vision statement drafts:

**Draft 1 Vision Statement**

Columbia School District is a highly regarded district which provides a safe environment where a commitment to innovation, creativity and academic excellence ensures that learning comes first. Students master essential skills, apply what they learn, are empowered to lead by demonstrating civic responsibility, prepare for a lifetime of learning and engage in positive personal development. Parents are active partners in their student's education. We seek out and retain the most highly qualified administrators, teachers and staff. Students, staff and leadership recognize the value of their individual contributions and commit to excellence. We honor our community by developing partnerships which support the educational process and build life-long relationships.

**Draft 2 Vision Statement**

Columbia School District is a highly regarded district which provides a safe environment where a commitment to innovation, creativity and academic excellence ensures that learning comes first. Students master essential skills, apply what they learn, are empowered to lead by demonstrating civic responsibility, prepare for a lifetime of learning and engage in positive personal development. Parents are active partners in their student's education. We seek out and retain the most highly qualified administrators, teachers and staff. Students, staff and leadership recognize the value of their individual contributions and commit to excellence. We honor our community by developing partnerships which support the educational process and build life-long relationships. Columbia is proud to prepare students to be confident, well-rounded, and prepared for their future success.

**Draft 3 Vision Statement**

Columbia School District is a highly regarded district which provides a safe environment where a commitment to innovation, creativity and academic excellence ensures that learning comes first. Students master essential skills, apply what they learn, are empowered to lead and demonstrate civic responsibility, prepare for a lifetime of learning and engage in positive personal development. Parents are active partners in their student's education. The district will seek out and retain the most highly qualified administrators, teachers and staff. Students, staff and leadership recognize the value of their individual contributions and commit to excellence. The district honors the community by developing partnerships which support the educational process and build life-long relationships. Columbia will provide opportunities for all students to meet their potential by ensuring programs which will make our schools highly competitive with the best public and private schools.

It was the Board members' consensus to adopt Draft 3 with changes that included;

1. Renaming it as Columbia District Mission Statement.
2. Formatting the Mission Statement in bullet format.

**Columbia District Mission Statement**

Columbia School District is a highly regarded district which provides a safe environment where a commitment to innovation, creativity and academic excellence ensures that learning comes first. To that end:

- Students master comprehensive skills and apply what they learn
- Students are empowered to lead and demonstrate civic responsibility
- Students prepare for a lifetime of learning and engage in positive personal development
- Parents are active partners in their student's education
- The district seeks out and retains the most highly qualified administrators, teachers and staff.
- Students, staff and leadership recognize the value of their individual contributions and commit to excellence
- The district honors the community by developing partnerships which support the educational process and build life-long relationships

The Columbia School District will provide opportunities for all students to meet their potential by developing and implementing programs which will make our schools highly competitive.

Board members then developed a separate vision statement to read:

**Vision Statement**

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

Superintendent Fearon was asked to distribute the Vision and Mission Statements to members of the Focus Group for their comments.

**IV. Executive Session for the Purpose of Negotiations**

A motion was made and seconded at 7:25 p.m. to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing upcoming administrator negotiations.

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

The Board of Education came out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

**V. Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Vertefeuille  
Columbia Board of Education Member