



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT

Kerry Hoffman, Chairperson  
Karin Vertefeuille, Vice Chairperson  
David Crim  
Linette Dooley  
Christopher Lent  
Lisa Napolitano  
Kathy Tolsdorf  
Laurence Fearon, Superintendent

Approved 10/05/2015

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

**September 8, 2015 (Tuesday)**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Horace W. Porter School Cafetorium**

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

**Others Present:** Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Mike Kenyon-Assistant Principal, Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Special Services

**I. Call to Order**

Kerry Hoffman called the September 8, 2015, Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 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. Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss:**

- a) *Matters Concerning Confidential Student Records and Information*
- b) *Matters Concerning Collective Bargaining*

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, C. Lent **SECONDED** to adjourn to executive session. **MOTION CARRIES 7:0**. Lol Fearon attended both items a and b discussions, and Mary-Kate Farley attended discussion on item a.

**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 August 3, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- b) *Approval of Payment of Bills*
- c) *Approval of 2014/15 Expenditure Report as of 08/31/2015 Including Line Item Transfers*
- d) *Appointment of Team Leaders, Co-Curricular Advisor Positions*
- e) *Appointment of Anne May, Elementary Spanish Long-Term Substitute .5 FTE*

C. Lent **MOVED**, K. Vertefeuille **SECONDED** to approve action items. K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, and C. Lent **SECONDED** to remove action item e from the current motion. K. Vertefeuille **MOVED**, K. Tolsdorf **SECONDED** to approve Action Items a-d as presented above. **MOTION CARRIES 7:0**.

C. Lent MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to approve action item e. Mr. Fearon presented the hiring process for the Elementary Spanish position, and Anne May's background. Anne May will be taking the ARC program to become certified for the position. Lisa and Dave stated how Anne's volunteering makes her an impressive candidate. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

**VI. Discussion and Acceptance of the Columbia Board of Education/Columbia Non-Certified Employees AFSCME, Council #4, Local 1303-377 Contract 2015-2018**

L.Napolitano MOVED, K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to accept the above contract. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

Kerry Hoffman and Lisa Napolitano gave a thank you to the negotiation team (Karin, Chris and Kerry) and Attorney Jessica Ritter.

**VII. Discussion and Acceptance of the Horace W. Porter School Roof Project**

Discussion on roof project began. Mr. Fearon stated that a vote is needed from the board to accept the project. The hold up on the roof project was the balancing of the roof air units. Contractors did follow the architect specifications but the amount of air needed to exchange changed due to some of our security renovations making those specifications inaccurate. Mike Sylvester worked with Charter Oak Mechanical and other vendors, and all those units were revamped. We held back \$30,000 to New Britain Roofing, who had the original contract. There is no cost to our budget as funds came out of the town appropriations for the job. Discussion continued.

C. Lent MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to accept the roof project. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

**VIII. Correspondence/Communications**

*a) 2015/2016 Horace W. Porter School Staff List*

*b) SRBI Team Thanks to the Columbia Board of Education for the Delicious Luncheon*

*c) Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Test Results for Area Towns – Willimantic Chronicle*

Mr. Fearon stated that we will have a report on SBAC at our next meeting on October 5, 2015.

**IX. Board of Education Subcommittees**

• Future Meeting Dates:

- September 10, 2015 - H.W.P. PreK-8 Open House, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- September 29, 2015 – Facilities 6:00 p.m. and Policy 7:00 p.m.
- October 5, 2015 - Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- October 5, 2015 - Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Cafeteria
- November 2, 2015 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- November 2, 2015 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Cafeteria

**X. Superintendent's Report**

Our enrollment stabilized this year. There were 12 students who returned from magnet schools. High School has been interesting because we've had a little bit of a migration from Bolton to E.O. Smith. High school numbers have had a slight increase at 241.

We received a clean bill of health from Mike Lester on the Fire Marshal Report. It is not an official report as of yet and we do have some items we need to fix.

K. Vertefeuille asked if we did any formal interviews with the students that came back to Porter. Mr. Fearon state no, but we did have discussions with the Bolton students who transferred over to E.O. Smith. Discussion continued on returning students.

**XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)**

- a) *SBAC Presentation – October 5, 2015*
- b) *Technology Update – October 5, 2015*

The following dates were added: Facilities meeting – September 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.  
Policies meeting – September 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

The BOE will be looking at subcommittees after the election.

**XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks**

C. Lent would like to formally invite FIPAC and Board of Selectmen to attend the SBAC presentation.

There was discussion regarding the BOE retreat. The BOE will wait until after the election to create a date.

K. Tolsdorf wondered how Andover did so well on the SBAC Testing and if we can find out. Mr. Fearon suggested that should be a principal to principal inquiry.

Karin Vertefeuille wishes Alyssa a speedy recovery and that she hopes to see her soon. She also told Mike Kenyon nice job for stepping up in her absence and to everyone who has stepped up. Thank you to Ann Clairmont for setting up a nice reception earlier this evening.

**XIII. Adjournment**

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin Vertefeuille,  
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairperson