



Columbia Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2010
7:30 P.M.
Horace W. Porter School Library Media Center

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

Board Members Absent: William Mulcahy

Administration Present: Francine Coss-Superintendent

Others Present: Amy Raffa, Kate Starkey, Connie Medeiros, Laurie Rogers

I. Call to Order

Nelson Petrone called the September 20, 2010 regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Addition to agenda:

P. Belekewicz **MOVED** and L. Jurovaty **SECONDED** to add the grade 8 soccer tournament concession fundraiser to action item VIII.A. PTO Halloween Party Fundraiser. These items will be voted on jointly.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of September 7, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes – Take Action

P. Belekewicz **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to approve the September 7, 2010 regular meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0-1

P. Belekewicz, L. Jurovaty, N. Petrone, J. Schroder, J. Thorn VOTED FOR THE MOTION

L. Perrotti-Verboven ABSTAINED

IV. Comments from the Audience (Bylaws of the Board #9300)

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

Kate Starkey asked the Board to consider a high school option that is in the middle of Columbia's current designated high school choices. Windham is urban and Lyman is rural. College credits and college courses that any new school may offer is important because of the cost savings to parents. **Mrs. Starkey** is disappointed in the current condition of Porter's soccer field. It is not usable for this soccer season. It is inexcusable to incur the cost of busing the soccer teams for practices and games to another field in town. **Mrs. Coss** explained the Town seeded and fertilized the field during soccer season. She has contacted the Town Administrator who is working to get this promptly corrected.

V. Correspondence/Communications/Information

A. Ms. Anna Nassiff to the Columbia BOE – Thanks for Arts at the Capitol Theater Magnet School Tuition

Mr. Petrone thanked Miss Nassiff for her nice letter and wished her well in her future.

VI. Financial Review

A. Payment of Bills

B. Actual & Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances – 97.38% remains in the 2010/2011 Board of Education budget.

Mrs. Coss reported the finance office has inputted all grant information into the budget. She will draft an update that lists district grants, their balances and what they can be applied to.

VII. Reports/Discussion

A. Board of Education Chairperson – Mr. Petrone informed the audience that the Board of Education and Porter teachers have come to a tentative contract agreement. Both sides worked well together. A Special Meeting will be scheduled for Monday, September 27th at 6:00 p.m. to approve the contract. The Board of Education Retreat will immediately follow the special meeting.

VII. Reports/Discussion - continued

B. Board of Education Subcommittees

1. September – December 2010 Meeting Date Schedule Draft

C. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Administrative Update** – Mrs. Coss was glad the administration included a sample CMT report with their update. All BOE members will now receive Weekly Thursday Papers via their e-mail accounts.

VIII. Action Items/Discussion

A. PTO Halloween Party Fundraiser and Grade 8 Soccer Tournament Concession Fundraiser Approval

J. Thorn **MOVED** and L. Jurovaty **SECONDED** to approve both the PTO Halloween Party Fundraiser and Grade 8 Soccer Tournament Concession Fundraiser as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

IX. Future Agenda Items

- October 4 – Public input and high school discussion action plan
- Mrs. Coss will prepare a listing of future meeting presentation topics for the 9/27/10 BOE Retreat.

X. Board of Education Member Comments

Lauren Perrotti-Verboven said the teachers were very organized in the negotiations process. They were reasonable and their intent was to always be a better teacher. She thanked Mrs. Coss and Mr. Petrone for their guidance in the method and discussions. She also praised Mr. Parenti for his positive force and Ms. Trask as well. **Paula Belekewicz** attended the September Fiscal Policy Board meeting where the Education Jobs Grant was discussed. The Superintendent asked the Fiscal Board for input regarding the spending of this grant. The Board responded by saying they respect the superintendent's judgment and her spending decision to benefit Porter students. **Mrs. Belekewicz** requested a school visitation timeline that was discussed at the September 7th BOE meeting during the School Improvement Plan presentation. **Mr. Schroder** asked what changes have occurred in the healthy lunch hot lunch meals. Mrs. Coss discussed the larger than recommended serving sizes, wheat ingredients, and smaller snack sizes.

XI. Adjournment

L. Jurovaty **MOVED** and L. Perrotti-Verboven **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jurovaty
Columbia Board of Education Vice-Chairperson