

Town of Columbia
FISCAL POLICY BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2010
8:30 A.M.
Horace W. Porter School Conference Room

Members Present: Carmen Vance-First Selectman, Jonathan Luiz-Town Administrator, Francine Coss-Superintendent, Earnest Sharpe-FIPAC Chairman, Paula Belekewicz-Board of Education Member

Members Absent: Bev Ciurylo-Interim Fiscal Manager

Others Present: William Mulcahy-Board of Education Member

Staff Present: Karen Johnson-Superintendent's Secretary

I. Call to Order

J. Luiz called the January 13, 2010 Fiscal Policy Board meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

II. Approve Regular Minutes of December 8, 2009

C. Vance **MOVED** and P. Belekewicz **SECONDED** to approve the December 8, 2009 regular meeting minutes with the following change: VA. insert "on 12/7/09" after the words, Mrs. Coss reported.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

III. Correspondence - None

IV. Old Business

A. BMSI Access – Mrs. Coss reported BMSI access is in the works and she is waiting for a firewall change. Mr. Luiz reported he has access to BMSI reporting.

V. New Business

A. Chronicle BOE Salary Shortfall Article – Selectman Vance asked for clarification of the Chronicle's salary shortfall article. The Superintendent reviewed a salary chart which detailed 2009/2010 budgeted and actual certified salaries, projected ECS/ARRA SFSF revenue, salary expenditures and actual payroll percentage remaining. District grant tracking will start February 28th. Members discussed Bill #9-06, Town compliance and the lack of a process to appeal. Mr. Sharpe will contact state level representatives as well as Senator Prague for Bill #9-06 clarification.

B. Audit – Mr. Luiz reported the auditors will be finishing the audit this week and they are pleased with the improvement of department procedures.

C. Board of Education Negotiations – Mrs. Coss informed members that contract negotiations will begin next month. The certified union has requested using Interest Based Bargaining for negotiating. Mr. Luiz will begin negotiations for two contracts soon. Mr. Sharpe asked what the proposed 2010/2011 health care cost increase will be. Mrs. Coss and Mr. Luiz have been informed the increase will be 15%. Currently, teachers pay a 16% co-pay and non-certified employees pay 15%.

VI. Fiscal Department – Mr. Luiz reviewed the Fiscal Manager hiring timeline. In February, advertising will begin with resumes reviewed by a panel of three well-respected fiscal people. Mrs. Coss asked if a Board of Education representative might be a part of the review panel. Ms. Vance would like both the Superintendent and Town Administrator to review the Fiscal Manager resumes.

VII. Audience

VIII. Other – Ms. Vance informed members of current community concerns; the library expansion design and the need for additional space in town for rec department activities. The Board of Selectmen will begin addressing these community concerns in addition to the school roof replacement project. Fiscal Policy Board members discussed bonding, additional gymnasium space, and possible use of EASTCONN's building in Columbia. Mrs. Coss asked that Bill #9-06 and Audit be topics under Old Business on future agendas.

IX. Adjournment

E. Sharpe **MOVED** and P. Belekewicz **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Johnson, Superintendent's Secretary