

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT



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

Christopher Lent, Chairman  
Kathy Tolsdorf, Vice Chairperson

James Chakulski, Jr.  
David Crim  
Linette Dooley

Karin Vertefeuille  
Lisa Napolitano

Laurence Fearon, Superintendent

## AGENDA

**Monday, November 6, 2017**  
**Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria**

Board Members Present: Christopher Lent, Kathy Tolsdorf, David Crim, Lisa Napolitano, Lynette Dooley

Absent: Karin Vertefeuille, James Chakulski

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Barbara Wilson-Student Services Director, Jennifer Hill, Assistant Principal, Steven Piro

**I. Call to Order** – Chairman C. Lent called to meeting to order at 7:31 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.

No comments were received from the audience.

**IV. Action Items (Consent)**

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.

L. Napolitano MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to move item a) Approval of October 2, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes to Discussion and Action. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

- a) *Approval of October 2, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes* - moved to VI. Discussion and Action.
- b) *Payment of Bills*
- c) *Expenditure Report 2017/18 Update*

D. Crim MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to approve the consent agenda items b and c. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

**V. Discussion Item – BOE Self Evaluation – Mr. Nicholas Caruso**

Mr. Nicholas Caruso from CAFE attended the meeting. He feels the Board's self-evaluation shows a strong sense of self and shows great strengths.

K. Tolsdorf expressed her desire to have more impact on driving the school in areas of curriculum and programming.

L. Dooley noted there have been many changes which have occurred in regard to programming and curriculum.

C. Lent said he had hoped to be further along in the Future Needs process. He suggested the BOE consider the possibility of scheduling additional meetings or more time during meetings to address specific topics.

C. Lent said Columbia provides rigorous programs. He suggested reviewing goals and getting feedback from community early next year and to looking at the mission and goals at that time.

L. Napolitano feels the board has operated in the area that it needs to. Administration quickly adjusts to changes in educational direction.

Mr. Caruso will be in contact with the BOE again in January.

**VI. Discussion and Action**

- a) *Impact of State Budget* - Mr. Fearon reported the state budget has been put in place but he cautioned members that the numbers currently reported by the press are incorrect. Updated figures are anticipated by Thanksgiving for funds coming to the town this year.

The recommendation for towns with less than 1000 students and 1 site to enter into an agreement with another town to share the position of a superintendent is still in legislation. The requirement to post any administrative position with the town, is not contained in the budget. The current proposal is to request prior approval by the town for a position over \$100,000 but this is still under consideration.

Towns will be allowed to reduce their MBR by amount cut from ECS funding.

- b) *First Reading of Policy 4131(a-c) and Policy P6111*

Mr. Fearon reviewed the changes in the policies which are reflected in the revisions.

P4131(a-c)

D. Crim MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED to move Policy P4131(a-c) be advanced for a second reading. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

P6111 – Previously following a regional calendar was mandated. The revised policy language allows districts more flexibility.

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to move Policy 6111 be advanced for a second reading. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

- c) *2017-2018 Snow Removal Contract, Wrana Excavation LLC*

Mr. Fearon described the bid process and indicated two bids were received, one from Wrana Excavation and one from Archer Landscaping.

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to award the snow removal contract to Wrana Excavation LLC for snow removal services for 2017-2018. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

d) *Review of 2018-2019 Proposed Meeting Dates*

Mr. Fearon noted most meetings fall on the first Monday of the month. Meetings following a holiday weekend will be held the following week.

L. Napolitano MOVED, L. Dooley SECONDED to approve the 2018-2019 Meeting Dates as proposed. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

e) *Approval of October 2, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes -*

L. Napolitano MOVED, L. Dooley SECONDED to approve the minutes of October 2, 2017.

Discussion: Mr. Lent suggested changing the wording on page 2 section d) Future Needs Committee, paragraph 3 to:

Members agreed the decision to move middle school students should **not be based solely on financial reasons** but **also** based on program considerations **too**.

L. Napolitano MOVED to amend the motion to approve the minutes of October 2, 2017 as corrected. K. Tolsdorf SECONDED the amended motion. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

## VI. Reports of Board Committees

- Policy - Mr. Fearon said there are two policies going to second reading. An additional policy was given to the school nurse to review and will come to the BOE for a first reading at the next meeting.
- Budget - The Budget Subcommittee met earlier in the evening.
- Teaching and Learning – Test results will be presented in December.
- Ad hoc Committee on Future Needs – The survey will be discussed later in the meeting.

## VII. Correspondence/Communications

a) *Chronicle Article, "No Children Hurt in Columbia School Bus Crash"*

Mr. Fearon said the person involved in the accident with the bus fled the scene but was later identified. Mr. Fearon said the situation was handled well by administration and first responders and the students were in school with only a slight delay.

## VIII. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings

a) *Future Meeting Dates:*

- December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, BOE Budget Committee, LMC Conference Room
- December 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm, Regular BOE Meeting, Cafeteria

## IX. Superintendent's Report

- Update on Halloween Storm - Mr. Fearon said from the Town and School perspectives there was a lack of information from Eversource to the community. Seven roads were blocked across the town. Power was

on at school (generator) but it wasn't possible to safely transport students to school. Colonial Drive, the final road to be cleared, was still blocked by wires Thursday.

School was open and available for showers but it was not utilized during this storm.

- Status of FNC Survey II – Mr. Fearon sent the electronic survey link to board members for their feedback. He will meet with Andy Depalma from Eastconn next week. He noted members can take the trial survey if they would like.

**X. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items**

- Budget 2018/19
- Future Needs Committee
- Board of Education Goals - C. Lent suggested hold off until surveys have been returned.
- Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation - L. Fearon provides a reflection on goals.

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

**XIV. Adjournment**

D. Crim MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.  
MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tolsdorf, Vice Chair/Secretary