



## Columbia Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes November 4, 2013

7:30 P.M.

Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

Board Members Present: Kerry Hoffman, Lisa Napolitano, Lauren Perrotti-Verboven-Chairman, John Schroder, James Thorn, Kathy Tolsdorf

Administration Present: Mark Winzler-Interim Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Horace W. Porter School Principal

Others Present: Bev Ciurylo-Finance Manager, Karin Vertefeulle, Christopher Lent, Paula Shepard

### I. Call to Order

Lauren Perrotti-Verboven called the November 4, 2013, regular meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Time allotted for public participation is thirty (30) minutes; time allotted for an individual speaker is three (3) minutes.

*Christopher Lent* thanked Mr. Thorn and Mr. Schroder for their Board of Education service.

### IV. Proclamation

- Sincere thanks and appreciation to *Mr. John Schroder* and *Mr. James Thorn* for service and commitment to HWP students, staff and Town of Columbia!

*Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven* thanked both *Mr. Schroder* and *Mr. Thorn* for their kindness, experience and what they brought to the Board of Education during their terms of office. Students were always thought of first when John and Jim made any decision. There are no party lines on this Board.

### V. Finance Report

Mrs. Ciurylo reviewed the Columbia School Grant Status Actual & Budgeted Expenses as of 10/30/13 Report and handed out a revised 2013/2014 Expenditure Report as of 10/30/2013.

### VI. Discussion and Possible Action on Adhoc Committee MBR Recommendations

*Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven* thanked the members of the MBR Adhoc Committee for their participation and quick turnaround of research. She also thanked Mr. Sylvester for contacting vendors for estimates. The onetime amount of \$253,000 must be prioritized and wisely spent this year. The Board of Ed would like the spending to touch Porter students and offset this coming year's budget. The MBR Adhoc Committee has recommended the following projects/spending:

1. A playscape that is assessable for all children
2. Bringing technology to younger grades; partial refresh of smartboards and laptops
3. STEM classrooms or a room that will foster curiosity and knowledge with special projects; "enrichment for middle class"
4. Gym curtain/batting cage repair
5. The purchase of stationary cameras for constant scanning to eliminate current blind spots
6. Air conditioning in the teachers' lounge
7. A new refrigerator in the teachers' lounge
8. Greenhouse
9. Instruments for students whose families cannot afford them
10. Maintenance truck with plow - \$45,000
11. Middle school library books
12. Curriculum – presenters and field trips
13. Conversion of VHS to DVD

14. Overhaul of track
15. Ceiling tiles, carpets
16. New phone system
17. Classroom chairs

The Board of Education will prioritize and finalize the list for the December 2, 2013 BOE meeting. Action will be taken then.

**Discussion:**

- **Mr. Schroder** suggested that the school and district websites be merged. The initial cost would be approximately \$12,000 with an annual maintenance cost of \$3,000.
- **Mrs. Tolsdorf** agreed and said it is the best way to market Porter School.
- **Mr. Winzler** reviewed security project spending: \$198,000 from overage, \$130,000 from capital funds and \$45,000 should come from the MBR money making the amount available to spend on the MBR Adhoc Committee's recommendations \$208,000.

**VII. 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 Payment of Bills
- b) Approval of October 7, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c) Approval of October 10, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
- d) Approval of October 21, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
- e) Approval of Columbia Board of Education 2014 Regular Meeting Dates
- f) Adoption of Columbia School System Professional Learning and Evaluation Plan
- g) Appointment of Cory Tobler, .4 FTE Physical Education Teacher

L. Perrotti-Verboven **MOVED** and J Thorn **SECONDED** to accept and approve consent action items a-g as written and presented.

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

**VIII. Correspondence/Communications**

- a) Resignation of Sondra Montesi, Columbia Board of Education Member

**Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven** commended **Ms. Montesi** for stepping up to the plate and accepting the Board of Education position when a slot opened. The Republican Town Committee will appoint someone to take her place very soon.

**IX. Reports/Discussions**

- **Board of Education Chairperson**
  - **Security Update** – On behalf of the Board of Education, the Superintendent has signed contracts with Tull Brothers and Tech Controls. Both vendors have met and discussed the project so there will be no overlap of service; both vendors will know what the other vendor is doing. Storage containers will arrive around November 15<sup>th</sup>. The start date for installation is early December. Both companies have discussed scheduling. The control people can work on things behind the scenes, after school, in the evenings and on Saturdays. The front doors will be the first entrances worked on during the December break.
  - **iPad Rollout** – This has been a huge undertaking and thoughtful roll out. Teachers have had input and internet safety has been discussed. There will be professional development and training, polices/regulations will be updated and added. Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven will contact CABA for a solid acceptance policy that should be in place.

- **Superintendent Search Update** – There have been staff, administrator, parent and town focus groups conducted and a link placed on the district website for updated superintendent search information. CABA is conducting the search and will be advertising and screening the applicants. The deadline is December 31, 2013 as Interim Mark Winzler will be leaving on that date.

- **Discussion and Possible Action on Windham High School Contract**  
 L. Perrotti-Verboven **MOVED** and J. Schroder **SECONDED** to authorize Columbia’s Interim Superintendent to inform the Superintendent of the Windham Public Schools, in writing, that Columbia does not wish to extend the contract which ends on June 30, 2014 and to discuss and negotiate any outstanding terms of the existing Agreement.

**Discussion:**

**Kathy Tolsdorf** – does the Board have the responsibility to give current Columbia students who attend the Windham STEM school the option to continue with Windham High School? Should the Board consider having a sibling clause with Windham?

**John Schroder** - it is counterproductive to the Board’s self promoting concept of selling the Columbia School System to keep WHS as an option for Columbia’s high school students.

**Lauren Perrotti-Verboven** referred to the grades 7 and 8 parent survey that asked if families would be interested in sending their student to Windham High School: 79 no, 2 yes, 6 undecided.

**Jim Thorn** reminded Board members of the transportation costs for continuing with the Windham High School contract for so few students.

**Lauren Perrotti-Verboven** - students/families have enough high school choices. Teachers and administrators meet with each of Columbia’s designated high schools to ensure that curriculum is in line with their district, the Director of Student Services goes to every Columbia high school student’s PPT and thought should be given to the quality of living in Columbia.

**Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler** shared the current enrollment at Windham High School:

**2013/14 Windham High School Enrollment  
 October 1, 2013**

Grade	# of Students @ WHS
9	2
10	1
11	8
12	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

- **Discussion and Possible Action on Security Project Funding**  
 K. Hoffman **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to assume that the costs for the security door project first come out of the overage from the 2012-2013 budget and then from the designated capital fund, and motion that the remainder of the costs of the project of at least \$45,000 come from the Board of Education budget.

**MOTION CARRIES: 5-0-1**

K. Hoffman, L. Napolitano, L. Perrotti-Verboven, J. Schroder, J. Thorn VOTED FOR THE MOTION  
 K. Tolsdorf ABSTAINED

- **Board of Education Subcommittees**
  - Future Meeting Dates:
    - December 2, 2013:
      - Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Horace W. Porter Cafeteria

**Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven** explained that the Board of Education is not ignoring its subcommittee work. The Board has been working on Teacher negotiations, MBR and the superintendent search. Subcommittee meetings will resume after these important issues are finalized.

- **Superintendent's Report**

**Mr. Winzler** reported the teacher negotiations are progressing well and should be finalized on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The superintendent has already conducted a preliminary budget prep meeting with Mr. Luiz and Mrs. Ciurylo. He will keep the budget process open and transparent. New Board member packets have been ordered from CAFE.

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

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

**Mrs. Perrotti-Verboven** thanked Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler. His presence has healed the district and is appreciated. Mr. Winzler has exceeded the Board's expectations.

**Mr. Thorn** thanked the Board for four great years. He has learned a lot and enjoyed working with Board members. He wishes the new Board the very best.

**XI. Adjournment**

J. Schroder **MOVED** and J. Thorn **SECONDED** to adjourn the November 4, 2013, regular meeting at 9:03 p.m.  
**MOTION CARRIES: 6-0**

Respectfully submitted,

James Thorn  
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairman