



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.

James Chakulski, Jr.
David Crim
Linette Dooley
Christopher Lent
Lisa Napolitano
Kathy Tolsdorf
Karin Vertefeuille
Laurence Fearon, Superintendent

December 7, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes 7:30 p.m. Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Lent, Lisa Napolitano, David Crim, Linette Dooley, Kathy Tolsdorf, Karin Vertefeuille, James Chakulski, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Mary-Kate Farley-Director of Special Services, Natasha Nau-Town Administrator, members of the Haddad, Elumogo and Griffin families.

I. Call to Order

Lol Fearon called the December 7, 2015, Regular Meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

II. Election of Board of Education Officers

Superintendent Fearon shall call for nominations from the floor for Board of Education Chairperson. The newly elected Chairperson shall open the floor for nominations for the following:

- Vice-Chairperson
- Committee Appointments

Lol Fearon called for nominations for the Board of Education Chairperson.

L. Napolitano **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to Nominate Christopher Lent for Board of Education Chairperson

MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

Chris Lent called for nominations for the Board of Education Vice-Chairperson.

K. Vertefeuille **MOVED to Nominate Kathy Tolsdorf for Board of Education Vice-Chairperson.**

L. Napolitano **SECONDED** the nomination of Kathy Tolsdorf for Board of Education Vice-Chairperson.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

The Committee Membership sign-up sheet was passed around to the BOE members.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. 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.

Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, congratulated the new officers of the Board.

V. Celebration of Excellence

At Porter School our students are empowered to lead and to demonstrate civic responsibility. These students exemplify those ideals:

- **Congratulations to Porter's 2015/2016 CAPSS Superintendent Award Winners:**
 - **Katherine Griffin & Nicholas Haddad, Grade 6**
 - **Emmanuel Elumogo & Madison Shea, Grade 8**

C. Lent turned the floor over to L. Fearon, Superintendent. Mr. Fearon read paragraphs on why the students were chosen and then they came up for a hand shake with the Superintendent and Chairman and a gift from the Board of Education. Madison Shea was unable to attend.

VI. 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 November 2, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- b) *Approval of November 30, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes*
- c) *Approval of Payment of Bills*
- d) *Appointment of 2015/16 Co-Curricular Positions*

J. Chakulski, Jr. **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to approve action items a-d as presented.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

VII. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon

- a) *Second Reading of Policy 3171.1 – Non-Lapsing Education Fund*
- b) *Second Reading Policy 3240 – Tuition Fees*
- c) *Second Reading Policy 5118.211 – Tuition for Children of Faculty and Staff*

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, L. Napolitano **SECONDED** to discuss and act upon Action item (a).
There was discussion and changes decided upon.

K. Tolsdorf **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to approve action item (a) with the change that paragraph three, first line, the word “specific” to be changed to “specified” and “an emphasis” be changed to “a priority.”

MOTION CARRIED 7:0

D. Crim **MOVED**, L. Dooley **SECONDED** to approve action item (b) as presented.
There was some discussion by the Board.

MOTION CARRIED 7:0

J. Chakulski, Jr. **MOVED**, D. Crim **SECONDED** to approve item (c) as presented.
There was some discussion by the Board.

MOTION CARRIED 4:3

K. Vertefeuille, L. Dooley, D. Crim and J. Chakulski, Jr. **voted for the motion.**

K. Tolsdorf, C. Lent, and L. Napolitano **voted against the motion.**

VIII. Correspondence/Communications

- a) *Creatures Living Around Us – ALBUM, Saturday 10/31/15 Chronicle*

IX. Board of Education Subcommittees

• Future Meeting Dates:

- December 15, 2015 – Board of Education Special Mtg./Retreat, 5:00 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Classroom Area
- December 16, 2015 – Tri-Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Columbia Town Hall
- January 4, 2016 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- January 4, 2016 – Regular Board of Education Meeting with Public Budget Input, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Cafe
- January 11, 2016 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- January 19, 2016 – Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H.W.P. LMC Conference Room
- February 1, 2016 – Regular BOE Meeting – Supt. Presents Draft 2016/17 budget, 7:30 p.m. H.W.P. Cafe

X. Superintendent’s Report

- a) *CABE/CAPSS Convention – Update*

L. Fearon, K. Tolsdorf, J. Chakulski, Jr., and C. Lent spoke to their respective convention experiences. Mr. Fearon stated that he recommends going to the CABE/CAPSS conferences.

- b) *Governor Malloy’s Budget Rescissions and Future Impact*
- c) *Authorization of NCLB as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*

d) Clean Energy Communities – Update

L. Fearon stated that Porter received a 97% Energy Star Rating, which reflects the improvements made to the Porter infrastructure over the past 5 years. L. Fearon distributed information on the changes to the NCLB and on the Legislative Special Session to review the state's 2015-16 budget.

XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

After discussion a Budget Subcommittee Meeting was added for January 26, 2016.

XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

L. Napolitano thanked Karin Vertefeuille for all her hard work as a chairperson. Also stated that the BOE meetings are never printed in the Chronicle and should be put on the town website.

K. Tolsdorf stated she and K. Hoffman went to a focus group conducted by SDE on equity and excellence. The SDE is preparing a new 5 year strategic plan. She praised the HWP Veteran's Day Assembly. She informed the Board that E.O. Smith is doing choral concert Thursday night December 10th at St. Joseph's in Willimantic.

J. Chakulski, Jr. commented on the Veteran's Day Assembly as well done.

C. Lent thanked Karin Vertefeuille for her last two years as a chairperson, and also the board for his election as Chair, and that he will do his best and looks forward to future meetings.

XIII. Adjournment

L. Napolitano **MOVED**; D. Crim **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Tolsdorf,
Columbia Board of Education Vice Chairperson