

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
Lisa Napolitano
Karin Vertefeuille
Laurence Fearon, Superintendent

January 3, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes Horace W. Porter School Cafetorium

Approved 2/6/2017

Board Members Present: Christopher Lent-Chairman, James Chakulski, David Crim, Karin Vertefeuille, Kathy Tolsdorf – Vice Chairman, Linette Dooley

Board Members Absent: Lisa Napolitano

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Barbara Wilson-Director of Student Services, Alyssa Gwinnell- Principal, Steve Piro, Kristen Heckt – Bolton Superintendent, Joseph Maselli-Bolton Principal and 3 Columbia/Bolton students

I. **Call to Order** - The regular meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by C. Lent.

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.

IV. **Civic Pride and Scholastic Excellence**

Teachers are models of continuous learning and improvement.

- Recognition – Cheryl Munoz and Brooke Kleinman, Presenters CEA New Teacher Conference, April 1, 2017

L. Fearon – introduced and congratulated Cheryl Munoz and Brooke Kleinman. They have been invited to present at CEA for new teachers in April.

C. Munoz and B. Kleinman explained they will be presenting a collaborative workshop on Google Classroom and are anxious to share what they have learned with other teachers.

Alyssa Gwinnell noted she is very proud of Cheryl and Brooke and the amount of work they have put in and the skills they've gained in a short time.

C. Lent asked if the information could be shared with parents.

V. **Presentation**

We are proud of our designated high schools for their rigorous and student-centered programs.

Bolton High School, Principal Joseph Maselli, Superintendent Kristen Heckt and 3 Columbia students attending Bolton High attended the meeting.

The students shared their positive experiences and love of attending Bolton High School.

Joe Maselli and Kristen Heckt invited the board to visit Bolton High School for a tour. Mr. Maselli and Ms. Heckt described the variety of options available at Bolton High School and what they can offer to students as a smaller district. The students and administrators were in agreement that Columbia students are welcomed in Bolton and there is the ability to work closely with staff and students because of the size of the school.

K. Vertefeuille complimented Bolton on tours and open houses she has attended noting they are very welcoming and well done.

J. Chakulski was very impressed with a recent presentation and tour he attended.

VI. 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.

- a) *Approval of December 5, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- b) *Approval of Payment of Bills*

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to approve the consent agenda items a-b. MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

VII. Action Items – Discuss and Act Upon

- a) *Adoption of Board of Education Goals – 2016-2017 – L. Fearon reviewed the strategic goals proposal of 2016-2018 outlining and reviewing the goals. The first goal is to develop a plan outlining the board's recommendations to the community for the on-going organizational structure of the District to address the future student and staffing needs and meet the challenges in enrollment, the implementation of rigorous curriculum standards and the development of program offerings and funding. A proposal of 10 actions steps and timeline were reviewed. Board members agreed to revise step 7 to include an additional public hearing in July of 2017.*

Goal two pertains to fiscal support and operations. The goal is to maintain the fiscal integrity of the District and develop an annual budget that supports the District's current programs and its efforts in long-range planning. Members reviewed the action steps for goal 2.

L. Dooley suggested making information available on the website and members would like as much feedback from the community as possible. L. Fearon suggested using a Survey Monkey as an option for electronic feedback.

K. Tolsdorf MOVED and K. Vertefeuille SECONDED to accept the strategic goals as presented with a revision to #7 to include: The Future Needs Committee develops a final (draft) report (July 2017) and a presentation at a public hearing.
MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

- b) *Substitute Pay Proposal – L. Fearon noted a raise in the minimum wage up to 10.10 per hour sparked the proposed raise of substitute rates. We currently pay subs \$75 per day and we compete with other local districts for substitutes. An increase of \$80 effective immediately and \$85 effective July 1st is proposed.*

K. Vertefeuille MOVED and J. Chakulski SECONDED to approve an increase in substitute rates to \$80 per day effective immediately and \$85 per day effective 7/1/17. The rate applies to substitute teachers and para substitutes.

MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY 6:0.

c) *2017-2018 Calendar*

Members reviewed the proposed 2017-2018 calendar.

D. Crim MOVED and L. Dooley SECONDED to approve the 2017-2018 Calendar.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

VIII. Reports of Board Committee

This portion of the agenda has been added so representatives of each subcommittee can provide information on the Board's progress in meeting its goals. There is no current information to report at this time.

- Policy - we subscribe to the policy service provided by CABA – CABA provides a template of the policies we may want to focus on.
- Budget
- Teaching and Learning
- Ad hoc Committee on Future Needs

IX. Correspondence/Communications

- Calendar of Columbia FY 2017-2018 Budget Process
Members commented January and February are going to be very busy months.

X. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings

- *Future Meeting Dates:*
 - January 23, 2017, Budget Subcommittee, 6:30 p.m., LMC Conference Room
 - February 6, 2017, Tentative Policy Subcommittee
 - February 6, 2017, Budget Subcommittee, 6:30 p.m., LMC Conference Room
 - February 6, 2017, Regular Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m., H.W.P. Cafeteria
 - March 6, 2017, Policy Subcommittee, 6:30 p.m., LMC Conference Room
 - March 6, 2017, Budget Subcommittee, 6:30 p.m., LMC Conference Room
 - March 6, 2017 Regular Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m., H.W. P. Cafeteria

XI. Superintendent's Report

- Update on Tri-Board Meeting
L. Fearon said the update from the Tri-Board Meeting reported the town is in good financial shape. The tax collection rate was better than expected and the undesignated fund balance is healthy.
- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) L. Fearon discussed changes to Title I as a result of the passage of ESSA which replaced NCLB. There were additional handouts in the Board packets.

XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

a) *Budget 2017-2018*

Milestones for ad-hoc
Enrollment Projections

- b) *Superintendent Mid-Year Evaluation Review* – Members agreed a combination of the 2 evaluations may be a better format to fit our needs. Mr. Lent will work on the document.

XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

Mr. Crim stated that the December Board Retreat was very helpful and refocused the Board's work towards achieving their goals. He thanked Nick Caruso of CAFE for facilitating the session.

XIII. Adjournment

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. MOTION CARRIES 6:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tolsdorf,
Vice Chairman/Secretary