

Minutes
Board of Education Meeting
March 6, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: David Crim, Linette Dooley, Joanne Prague Doyle, Chairman Christopher Lent and Gary Littlefield

Absent: Kathy Tolsdorf

James Chakulski, Jr. arrived 6:15 p.m.

Joanne Prague Doyle left 6:50 p.m.

Others Present:

Karen Butzgy, Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo; Tom Doyle, Superintendent Maria Geryk; Principal Alyssa Gwinnell and Rachel Riendeau

I. Call to Order

Chairman Lent called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

No audience member wished to be heard.

IV. March is Board of Education Appreciation Month

Superintendent Geryk thanked the Board for all they do. She spoke of the large amount of time they commit to attend subcommittee meetings, full Board meetings as well as other related commitments. She said the students, families and community benefit from all the hard work they do. She presented a certificate of appreciation to each member.

V. Action Items (Consent)

- a. Approval of February 4, 2019 Regular Board of Education Minutes
- b. Approval of February 25, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes
- c. Payment of Bills
- d. Approval of Revised 2019-2020 H.W. Porter School Calendar

Mr. Littlefield MOVED, Ms. Dooley SECONDED, to move items a. Approval of February 4, 2019 Regular Board of Education Minutes and b. Approval of February 25, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes to Section VI. Action Items (Discussion and Action)

MOTION CARRIES 5:0 (Crim, Dooley, Prague Doyle, Lent and Littlefield)

Mr. Crim MOVED, Mr. Littlefield SECONDED to approve items c. Payment of Bills and d. Approval of Revised 2019-2020 H.W. Porter School Calendar.

MOTION CARRIES 5:0 (Crim, Dooley, Prague Doyle, Lent and Littlefield)

VI. Action Items (Discussion and Action)

a. Approval of the 2019-2020 Board of Education Operating Budget

Mr. Littlefield MOVED, Ms. Dooley SECONDED to approve the town appropriated 2019-2020 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$12,825,826.

Discussion:

Chairman Lent expressed appreciation for the diligent work Superintendent Geryk, Alyssa Gwinnell and the team of administrators and staff put forth in developing this budget. They worked on it since the start of the school year and really amped up their efforts since December. This budget reflects a zero percent increase, which was a target, while meeting the needs of the students, school, and improving programming.

MOTION CARRIES 5:0 (Crim, Dooley, Prague Doyle, Lent and Littlefield)

b. Approval of the 2019-2023 Capital Plan

Mr. Littlefield MOVED, Ms. Dooley SECONDED to approve the 2019-2020 Capital Plan as proposed in the amount of \$195,509.50.

Discussion:

Superintendent Geryk said that since the last iteration, she and Bev Ciurylo met with Mike Sylvester and Tom Doyle. Determinations were made, based on current fiscal health, to move a few items off the capital plan. Items include the washer, fence, window replacement, duct cleaning and fire alarm. This request is consistent with what has been requested in the past.

Superintendent Geryk clarified that the status of the security grant is not yet determined. However, the grant requires that we have it fully funded and then it would be reimbursed if awarded. There was discussion regarding driveway repaving and side walk upgrades, purchase of a truck and track repair. Superintendent Geryk said the team prioritized curriculum materials and facilities needs.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0 (Chakulski, Jr., Crim, Dooley, Prague Doyle, Lent and Littlefield)

c. Approval of February 4, 2019 Regular Board of Education Minutes

Mr. Littlefield MOVED, Mr. Crim SECONDED to approve the February 4, 2019 Regular Board of Education Minutes.

Discussion:

It was not accurately documented Mr. Chakulski was not present at the meeting. This caused confusion regarding the vote tallies. Therefore, it was decided to re-visit these minutes at the next meeting to confirm and/or correct the tallies as well as make other edits prior to approval.

Mr. Littlefield MOVED, Mr. Crim SECONDED to reconsider approving the February 4, 2019 Regular Board of Education Minutes.

MOTION CARRIES 5 Yea (Crim, Dooley, Prague Doyle, Lent and Littlefield): 0 No: 1 Abstain (Chakulski, Jr.)

d. Approval of February 25, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes

Mr. Chakulski, Jr. MOVED, Mr. Littlefield SECONDED to approve the February 25, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes.

Discussion:

These changes are needed:

Page 1 – Change *Caputo, Karen* to read *Karen Caputo*

Page 4 – Remove the wording:

Mr. Crim MOVED, Mr. Littlefield SECONDED, to exit executive session and return to regular session.

MOTION CARRIES 7:0

Page 4 – Replace with:

Mr. Crim declared that the Board is back in open session.

Page 4 – Correct *VII. Adjournment* to read *VIII. Adjournment*

Page 4 – Correct *Mr. Crim MOVED, Mr. Crim Littlefield to adjourn* to read

Mr. Crim MOVED, Mr. Littlefield SECONDED to adjourn.

Mr. Chakulski, Jr. MOVED, Mr. Littlefield SECONDED to approve February 25, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes as amended.

MOTION CARRIES 6:0 (Chakulski, Jr., Crim, Dooley, Prague Doyle, Lent and Littlefield)

VII. Reports and Board Committees

Policy

Per recommendation from Shipman and Goodwin, at the April 1 meeting the Board will vote to suspend bylaws requiring first and second readings prior to adoption of the complete set of policies provided by Shipman and Goodwin. These policies are already vetted. This will allow us to be in compliance. The subcommittee will then be able to focus on revisions pertinent to the Columbia School District.

Budget

The Board met on February 25, 2019 to receive the Superintendent's budget proposal.

Teaching and Learning

Superintendent Geryk said another update will be provided in May. Which will include a curricular update and information about instructional improvements.

Ad hoc Committee on Future Needs

Chairman Lent said they will reach out to identify people who would want to be part of the subcommittee working on high school choice. Superintendent Geryk has reached out to superintendents for both Bolton and E.O. Smith high schools to inform them of the Board's decision to pursue negotiations to continue our current options beyond 2022. Both superintendents were pleased with this prospect.

Mr. Chakulski confirmed they will also establish the Community Engagement subcommittee to reach out to establish better communication with families.

VIII. Correspondence/Communications

- a. Registrar of Voters Letter 2/22/19 – Request for the use of H.W. Porter School for the Presidential Preference Primary Voting to be held on 4/28/2020.

Superintendent Geryk said this is why the school calendar is on tonight's agenda. Making April 28, 2020 a professional development day for staff allows the building to be used for the primary voting. Further review of the proposed 2019-2020 calendar showed the date was listed as half-day student attendance for professional development. Superintendent Geryk said the calendar will be updated to be full-day professional development for staff.

- b. Enrollment Update

Three students recently left district. One each in grades 4, 5 and 6. It is not known if they moved out of town, are attending a magnet school or an alternative school. Superintendent Geryk will look into it and let the members know. We currently have 37 students enrolled for kindergarten.

- c. Willimantic Chronicle, High School Honor Rolls

Columbia has students attending Windham Tech and they are included in this article. Discussion about where to find a Bolton High School honor roll listing followed. Superintendent Geryk will reach out to Bolton's superintendent to ask.

IX. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings

- a. Future Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, March 13, 2019 7:00 p.m., BOE & BOS Budget Presentation to FiPAC, Columbia Town Hall
It was noted that on subsequent Wednesdays there will be budget development meetings prior to the public hearing
- Monday, April 1, 2019 6:30 p.m. Budget, Policy and Future Needs Subcommittee Meetings, H.W. Porter Conference Room.
- Monday, April 1, 2019 7:30 p.m., BOE Regular Meeting, H.W. Porter Cafetorium
- Wednesday, April 24, 2019 7:00 p.m., Columbia Town Hall, Public Hearing 2019-2020 Budget for the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen Budgets

X. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Geryk shared a photograph of a kindergarten student's drawing of all of the Presidents. This one student drew all 45 pictures in the photograph. Board members were impressed with this student's attention to detail and what appears to be advanced ability for such a young budding artist.

The girls basketball team came in third place in the NEMSAC regular season with a 6-2 record and lost in the NEWMSAC Tournament Finals to Coventry by only one point in overtime. The girls also went to the Porter Preseason Tip-Off Tournament and came in second in the Woodrow Wilson Tournament.

The boys basketball team came in seventh place in the NEMSAC regular season with a 3-5 record, not making it to the playoffs. They came in third for the Porter Preseason Tip-Off Tournament and came in fifth in the Woodrow Wilson Tournament.

The Porter Drama Club will present My Son Pinocchio Jr., directed by Mrs. Janet Stice on two dates: March 28 after school and March 29 in the evening.

The monitor has been installed in the main entry of the building for students to be able to view solar energy production. It is a big hit!

In addition to the previously-mentioned kindergarten registration, preschool lottery registration is underway. There are full-day options available as well as half-day.

Budget documents are posted on the website in three locations in the District section of the website.

High school families received an invitation to meet with her. She looks forward to hearing from graduating students about their experiences.

Instructional rounds took place in school today. Information will be available in the Teaching and Learning presentation. Teachers will receive direct feedback from the instructional rounds.

The current expenditure report indicates a healthy balance but additional expenditures are to be expected throughout the year. Mrs. Ciurylo helped factor out where funds have not been encumbered but will still be needed. With this all in mind, we have \$227,000 available, which is due to the appropriated funds to bring us to Minimum Budget Requirement.

A revised billing has been received from E.O. Smith which includes an adjustment in their rates. The adjustment increases tuition by approximately \$30,000. She will pursue investigating this further.

XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items

- Teaching and Learning
- Communications and Community Outreach
- Policy
- Minutes from the February 4, 2019 Regular Meeting
- 2019-2020 Calendar

XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

Members discussed the potential forced regionalization being considered by the state legislature. Mr. Littlefield shared that the people speaking before the legislature were not in favor of this proposal. There was then discussion about potential construction of schools, etc. Chairman Lent said Senator Cathy Osten had a proposal on this topic and he encourages people to reach out to her to share their sentiments on this matter. Superintendent Geryk said the Superintendents' Group is compiling talking points.

Approved 4/8/2019

BOE MEETING MINUTES 3/6/2019

Page **6** of **6**

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Crim MOVED, Mr. Littlefield SECONDED to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIES 5:0 (Chakulski, Jr., Crim, Dooley, Lent and Littlefield)

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Prague Doyle, Board Secretary