

MINUTES
Board of Education
(draft amended 4/10/18)
April 2, 2018

Board Members Present: Christopher Lent, Linette Dooley, Gary Littlefield, James Chakulski, Kathy Tolsdorf

Absent: David Crim, Karin Vertefeuille

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell-Principal, Barbara Wilson-Director of Special Education, Jennifer Hill-Assistant Principal, Karen Caputo, Jennifer Tigeleiro, Steve Piro, Christine Sposito, Petty Stygar, Glen Stygar, Kim Lewis, Amy Stygar, Jon Stygar, Ashley Lewis & Jayden Stygar

I. Call to Order Chairman, Christopher Lent called the 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.

Jenn Tigeleiro is looking for clear, easily accessed information concerning plans of the Future Needs Committee (FNC). She is hopeful Columbia will not pursue alternatives for our middle school. She would like more details concerning the FNC direction prior to the April 23rd meeting.

Mr. Fearon reviewed the steps taken to communicate with the citizens by the FNC. A recent "Save the Date" postcard outlining key points to be addressed at the April 23rd Public Forum was mailed to everyone in Columbia. Additional information is planned to be provided through Facebook postings, Twitter. The Porter website has been updated to provide easier access to information as well.

(http://www.hwporter.org/district_info/future_needs_committee_information.php) An additional article is also planned for the Willimantic Chronicle.

C. Lent explained the focus of the meeting on April 23rd will be public feedback. No decisions are planned in the near future and there will be many opportunities for communication prior to any decisions being reached.

Christine Sposito requested a better means of communication. She said the Board minutes are difficult to access and also difficult to follow. She felt the recent FNC survey was not easy to complete and it was hard to know what was being asked. She said some parents reported closing the survey because they didn't understand it. She said the Porter website didn't include an updated calendar or meeting minutes.

IV. Recognition of CABA Leadership Award Winners

- Ashley Lewis & Jayden Stygar

Mr. Fearon explained that CABA is the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education which is a statewide association. They sponsor the Leadership Awards. The awards are determined by the faculty and students are chosen based on strong leadership skills, critical thinking and students who are standouts in the community.

This years' CABA Leadership Award Winners are **Ashley Lewis** and **Jayden Stygar**. Both students were congratulated by the Superintendent and Chairman Lent and the Board of Education. Awards will be forthcoming from CABA.

V. Board of Education Appreciation Month

Special Recognition: Stakeholders are models of Leadership and Civic Responsibility – We acknowledge the work of the Columbia Board of Education.

Mr. Fearon noted March is Board of Education appreciation month. He thanked the Board for their commitment as volunteers and for their time serving on the BOE for the Columbia School District.

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.

Changes to the Agenda:

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to remove item b) Approval of March 5, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes from VI. Action Items (consent) to VII. Action Items (discussion and action), item c.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

G. Littlefield MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED to add VII. d) Line item transfers to the 2017-2018 budget.

MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

- a) *Approval of February 26, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes*
- ~~b) *Approval of March 5, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes*~~
- c) *Approval of March 19, 2018, Special Meeting Minutes*
- d) *Payment of Bills*
- e) *Expenditure Report*
- f) *Approval of extended leave – Meredith Eberhard, Speech Language Pathologist*
- g) *Approval of Spring co-curricular positions*
- h) *Approval of appointment of Mr. Anthony Gervase as Grade 5/6 Math Teacher for the 2018/2019 School Year*
- i) *Approval of Resignation of BOE Clerk effective June 30, 2018*
- j) *Acceptance of a Gift from the Columbia Windham Soccer Alliance*

G. Littlefield MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to approve the consent action items a-j, excluding b.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

VII. Action Items (Discussion and Action)

- a) Review and approval of the April 23, 2018 FNC Public Forum agenda and presentation/materials – Board members reiterated the main purpose of the meeting is to obtain as much feedback as possible from the public. The main topics to be discussed are High School Choice (2022) and Middle School Plans. Board members reviewed the proposed agenda and a booklet outlining the history, purpose, essential questions and challenges of the Future Needs Committee. The booklet will be available on Porter's

website, the Town Library, Senior Center and Town Hall prior to April 23rd. Signs will be posted at the Town Transfer Station, Town Green and at Porter. The Board is hoping for as much input from the community as possible.

Andy DePalma from EASTCONN will attend the meeting to provide a brief summary of the second survey. Information concerning enrollment and Peter Prowda's enrollment report will be available at the meeting.

Mr. Fearon reviewed how contracted high school tuition costs are reached noting that the cost includes not only base tuition but also transportation, special education and support service costs.

J. Chakulski suggested creating a zip file containing as much information as possible for the public to access prior to the meeting. He also wants to be sure the public understands the Board is not looking to make change for the sake of change.

- b) Appoint members to an Ad hoc Committee in support of contract negotiations with Noncertified Staff. Attorney Ritter is available on April 25th. J. Chakulski, L. Dooley and C. Lent will serve on the AFSME Non-Certified contract negotiations committee.
- c) Approval of March 5, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes – K. Tolsdorf MOVED, G. Littlefield SECONDED, to approve the minutes of March 5, 2018.

Discussion: C. Lent noted a correction on page 2, Section V. c) Approval of February 26, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes should be corrected to **Special Meeting Minutes**.

Section XII. Page 5, Mr. Lent said ~~they~~ **he and Mr. Everett, First Selectman** met shortly after the last regular Board meeting.

G. Littlefield MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to amend the Minutes of March 5, 2018 as corrected.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

J. Chakulski MOVED, G. Littlefield SECONDED to approve the corrected Minutes of March 5, 2018.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

- d) Allow the Superintendent to make line item transfers to the 2017-2018 Board of Education Budget – G. Littlefield MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED to approve allowing the Superintendent to make line item transfers to the 2017-2018 Board of Education Budget.

Discussion: Mr. Fearon explained the need to review various line items in the 2017/2018 budget in order to balance the Expenditure Report. There have been changes in the areas of Salaries due to unanticipated leaves of absence and in Substitutes and Professional Services. In addition, there are changes in the tuition and transportation accounts that need to be reconciled. Mr. Fearon will work with Mrs. Ciurylo to make recommendations for the BOE to review at the May meeting.

MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

VIII. Review of the 2018-2019 Budget

Mr. Fearon noted FiPAC unanimously approved the BOE budget and send it to the Public Hearing.

IX. Reports of Board Committees

- Policy – The subcommittee will meet in the near future to review updates.
- Budget – Mr. Fearon reported FiPAC unanimously approved both the Board of Selectman and BOE budgets. A town meeting is scheduled for April 19th to review changes to the Rec Park project. The Annual Town Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for April 25th. The Annual Town Budget Meeting is scheduled for May 15th.
- Teaching and Learning – The Teaching and Learning Subcommittee met earlier this evening and reviewed additions of two programs. A pilot French Language program which will align to high school curriculum and Project Oceanography have been added.
- Ad hoc Committee on Future Needs – Public Forum, April 23, 2018, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Search Committee Update – Mr. Fearon reported RFPs have been sent out and 2 responses have been received. Requests were sent to CABE, NESDEC, CES and Jackie Jacoby. The Search Subcommittee plans to meet on May 7th prior to the regular meeting. The next step will be to select a search group.

Steve Piro asked what the target date is for filling the position.

Mr. Fearon responded this will depend on what the search consultant recommends and how the process unfolds. He noted that interim superintendents have been used in the past.

X. Correspondence/Communications

- a) *Eastconn, BOE Membership Seat Opportunity, EASTCONN Board of Directors* – K. Tolsdorf volunteered to participate.

XI. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings

- a) *Future Meeting Dates:*
 - April 23, 2018, Monday, 6:30 pm, Future Needs Committee Public Forum
 - April 25, 2018, Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Town Budget Public Hearing, Yeomans Hall
 - May 7, 2018, Monday, 6:30 pm, Superintendent Search Committee, LMC Conference Room
 - May 7, 2017, Monday, 7:30 pm, Regular BOE Meeting, HWP Cafetorium
 - May 15, 2018, Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Annual Town Budget Meeting

XII. Superintendent's Report

- School Safety Plans – Mr. Fearon noted safety plans have been updated and modified and we are in the process of obtaining signatures. The Plans will be filed with various agencies.

XIII. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items

Middle Level School Leaders Awards were recognized by CAS and will be included on the May Agenda.

A Literacy and Math Intervention update will be included in June.

A Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held in the near future. Members discussed the option of working with CAFE or Shipman & Goodwin in the future concerning policies. If Shipman & Goodwin is used, the policies will already be vetted.

Members discussed the pros and cons of changing to Shipman & Goodwin. Mr. Fearon will look into costs.

Members will continue to review the option of using CAFE or Shipman & Goodwin for policies at the May meeting.

XIV. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

D. Crim was unable to attend the meeting but asked Mr. Lent to congratulate Jayden Stygar and Ashley Lewis. He also commended the Porter Players on their recent play – “Alice in Wonderland”.

C. Lent said the gift from the Columbia Windham Soccer Alliance is a great example of the school and community working together. A formal thank you will be extended to Mr. Cory Tobler.

G. Littlefield noted there was a Facebook complaint from a parent concerning a recent morning snow.

XV. Adjournment

J. Chakulski MOVED, L. Dooley SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tolsdorf, Vice Chairperson/Secretary