DRAFT
Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2019
Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Horace W. Porter School
H.W. Porter Cafetorium

Board Members Present: James Chakulski, Jr., David Crim, Linette Dooley, Chairman Christopher Lent, Kathy Tolsdorf
Absent: Gary Littlefield, Joanne Prague Doyle, Vice Chairperson/Secretary

Others Present:
Assistant Principal Jennifer Hill, Superintendent Maria Geryk, Principal Alyssa Gwinnell, Christa McManus, and Christine Sposito

I. Call to Order
Chairman Lent called the meeting to order at 7:40 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.
Chairman Lent asked if there are any comments from the audience.
Christine Sposito, 62 Doubleday Road, stated she is glad to be a part of the information at meetings regarding the bylaws. She asked the Board to consider moving the “Comments from the Audience” closer to the end of the meeting. The Board discussed, and will consider this change. Ms. Sposito would like the Board to consider expanding the preschool program. She stated there were forty children on the wait list last year and only twenty-three this year. Ms. Sposito also stated that the progress in learning assessments is great. She is very pleased iReady and Ready Math programs are in development and will be implemented.

IV. Action Items
a) Approval of February 4, 2019, Regular Board of Education Minutes
b) Approval of March 6, 2019, Special Meeting Minutes
c) Payment of Bills
d) Approval of Revised 2019-2020 H.W. Porter School Calendar
e) Approval of Spring Co-Curricular Appointments
f) Approval of Addendum to Administrative Contract
g) Approval of Resignation of Michael Hetherington, Grade 7/8

Chairman Lent MOVED, Ms. Tolsdorf SECONDED, to move item a, Approval of February 4, 2019 Regular Board of Education Minutes and d, Approval of Revised 2019-2020 H. W. Porter School Calendar to Section V, Action Items (Discussion and Actions.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0(Chakulski, Crim, Dooley, Lent, Tolsdorf)

Mr. Chakulski MOVED, Ms. Tolsford SECONDED to revise February 4, 2019, Regular Board of Education Minutes to remove h from the approved items. Items, a, b, c, d, and f will be listed.
Ms. Dooley MOVED, Mr. Chakulski, SECONDED to change the MOTION CARRIES from 7:0 to 6:0 under each MOTION.

Mr. Crim MOVED, Ms. Tolsdorf SECONDED to approve the *Revised 2019-2020 H.W. Porter School Calendar*. MOTION CARRIES 5:0 (Chakulski, Crim, Dooley, Lent, Tolsdorf)

V. **Action Items (Discussion and Action)**

*a) Board Approval of Proposed Purchases:*

1) IReady Diagnostic Only Reading, 6 year
2) Fire Alarm System Update
3) Windows Repairs
4) Security Assessment
5) Duct Cleaning
6) Purchase of New Sinks

*b) Policy 9311 Suspension and Action Policy Adoption*

Ms. Tolsdorf MOVED to approve specified amounts;  
1) IReady Diagnostic Only Reading, 6 year up to $16,000  
2) Fire Alarm System Update up to $46,000  
3) Windows Repairs up to $35,000  
4) Security Assessment $35,000  
5) Duct Cleaning $26,000  
6) Purchase of New Sinks $20,000

Ms. Dooley SECONDED. Chairman Lent opened for discussion. MOTION CARRIES 5:0 (Chakulski, Crim, Dooley, Lent, Tolsdorf)

Mr. Crim MOVED to suspend the bylaws of Policy 9311(a), Board Formulation and Adoption of Policies which require first and second readings of policies.  
Mr. Chakulski SECONDED. Chairman Lent opened for discussion. MOTION CARRIES 5:0 (Chakulski, Crim, Dooley, Lent, Tolsdorf)

A discussion was held to review the consent agenda concept or add items to the sub-committee meetings to consider approving in one action rather than filing motions on each item separately. Using a consent agenda can save boards anywhere from a few minutes to a half hour. Superintendent Geryk asked the Board to review agenda items before meetings and to email requests for changes to the office prior to the board meetings.

VII. **Reports of Board Committees**

- Policy
- Budget
- Teaching and Learning
- Ad hoc Committee on Future Needs
- Communications and Community Outreach

Policy: Chairman Lent stated that the recommendation made by Shipman and Goodwin for the Policy customizes and meets the letter of the law.

Ms. Dooley MOVED to suspend bylaw 9311(a) requiring the first and second readings of policies per the recommendation from Shipman and Goodwin. Ms. Tolsdorf SECONDED. Chairman Lent opened for discussion. MOTION CARRIES 5:0 (Chakulski, Crim, Dooley, Lent, Tolsdorf)
Budget: Chairman Lent opened discussion stating the Town of Columbia will hold a Town Meeting on April 24, 2019, open to the public at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Chairman Lent encouraged citizens to attend. The Board of Education's budget was reduced by FiPAC by $89,000 for the 2019/2020 year.

Teaching and Learning: A meeting will be held in May and will provide an update and plans for the future.

Ad hoc Committee on Future Needs: Superintendent Geryk will contact E. O. Smith and Bolton High School to gain information to share with the Board in order to enter negotiations and to obtain contracts by fall.

Communications and Community Outreach: Superintendent Geryk will send the information to Mr. Chakulski from the conference call meeting regarding the website. Superintendent Geryk and Principal Gwinnell lead discussions to revise the website. Community and staff input will be sought through a questionnaire for responses and/or ideas regarding the revised website. Discussions included adding links to the website to try to make it a one-stop information portal. Superintendent Geryk stated the target date to launch the website is August 1st. Ms. Tolsdorf asked if the questionnaire will be provided to Columbia Seniors. Reference and discussions were noted on the applications available such as Google Classroom and Power School.

VIII. Correspondence/Communications
   a. Connecticut Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (Cory Tobler & Steven Piro)
   b. State Fact Sheet, 2019 Legislative Session, House Bill 7150, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Education
   c. Email of 3/20/19, Sent on Behalf of Fran Rabinowitz – Regionalization Update

Superintendent Geryk shared a flyer on the Connecticut Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the State Fact Sheet, and the email of 3/20/19 – Regionalization Update. Superintendent Geryk noted the email indicates that “…Governor Lamont’s legislation does not force school consolidation.” Superintendent Geryk will continue to send legislative updates.

IX. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings
   a) Future Meeting Dates:
      • Monday, May 6, 2019, 6:30 p.m. Budget/Teaching & Learning/Future Needs Subcommittee Meetings, H.W. Porter Conference Room
      • Monday May 6, 2019, 7:30 pm, BOE Regular Meeting, H.W. Porter Cafetorium
      • Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 7:00 pm, Columbia Town Hall, Public Hearing 2019-2020 Budget for the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen Budgets

Future meeting dates: Change Monday, May 6, 2019, 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

X. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Geryk shared good news “Brenda” and positive feedback on links, new reporter, Lisa Massicotte, from the Chronicle, Parent Night a success, new math curriculum, opportunities for families to obtain news and articles on website for new school year. The health insurance changed from Anthem to Cigna, Board approved, to be complete by the end of April, process is moving along.

Superintendent Geryk shared good news on the nomination of Principal Alyssa Gwinnell by Eastern Connecticut State University. (Please refer to article in Chronicle for further info) Copies of the article will be mailed to the Board.
XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items  Add PowerPoint to all communications and outreach. Ms. Tolsdorf asked that a percentage of the unexpended budget be appropriated to an account year by year as a savings measure to be spent on approved costs. This measure should be incorporated with the Board of Education Budget planning.

XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

Ms. Dooley noted the following:

1. The school play was awesome.

2. She thanks all the many people who contributed to the event.

3. The Student led discussion to be held on April 25, 2019 should be posted.

4. Shout out to Alexis Stolarun for the incredible work they have done with the band. Whether it was technology or sound, the Parents recognize the hard work of the students and appreciates the results the person has accomplished.

Mr. Crim gave praise to all the individuals who work hard and do a great job with the classrooms and set-up.

Chairman Lent stated that Michael Hetherington will be greatly missed and wished him well in retirement. Chairman Lent’s children had the opportunity to have Mr. Hetherington as a teacher and enjoyed his teaching techniques.

Chairman Lent commented on item III, Comments from the Audience, to remain at the beginning of the meeting and toward the end. Mr. Crim stated that comments would be best in the beginning for the approval process of items. Chairman Lent stated Comments from the Audience could be placed between Board of Education Upcoming Meetings and Superintendent’s Report.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Crim MOVED, Mr. Chakulski SECONDED to adjourn.
MOTION CARRIES: 5:0 (Chakulski, Crim, Dooley, Lent, Tolsdorf)

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lent at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Lent, Chairman