

Minutes
Board of Education Meeting
May 6, 2019 7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: James Chakulski, Jr., Linette Dooley, Christopher Lent-Chair, Gary Littlefield, Kathy Tolsdorf

Absent: David Crim, Joanne Prague Doyle, Vice Chair

Others Present: Superintendent Maria Geryk, Christine Sposito

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Lent called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Chairman Lent asked if there are any comments from the audience.

Christine Sposito, 62 Doubleday Road, asked the Board about plans for the Resource Team similar to the UMASS Teacher Team scenario.

Superintendent Geryk stated the opportunity is an ongoing system wide program which will continue to be fine-tuned.

Ms. Sposito asked about the “walk through” in the classroom. Superintendent Geryk stated that the object is to get teachers to think and be proactive. Board of Education members and others will be invited to the classrooms. These visits do not evaluate any teacher and there are no names associated with the visit.

Ms. Sposito stated that Assistant Principal Jennifer Hill put lots of time and effort into building programs at Porter. She doesn't want to see the program forgotten.

IV. Action Items

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 February 4, 2019, Regular Board of Education Minutes~~

- b) *Approval of April 8, 2019, Special Meeting Minutes*
- c) *Payment of Bills*
- d) *Approval of Columbia Historical Society Scholarship-Book Award*

Mr. Littlefield MOVED, Ms. Tolsdorf SECONDED, to remove item a, Approval of February 4, 2019, Regular Board of Education Minutes. MOTION CARRIES 4:0:1 (yeah – Littlefield, Lent, Tolsdorf, Dooley/1 Abstention-Chakulski).

Mr. Chakulski Jr. MOVED and Ms. Tolsdorf SECONDED to approve the consent agenda items b-d. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

V. Action Items (Discussion and Action)

Superintendent Evaluation Process

Chairman Lent suggested that the Board of Education review the Superintendent's evaluation by end of June. Superintendent will provide self-evaluation to Board within two weeks.

VII. Reports and Board Committees

- Policy: Updates were discussed.
- Budget: A Town Meeting to vote on the Budget will be held May 14,2019
- Teaching and Learning : Updates were discussed
- Ad hoc Committee on Future Needs: Superintendent discussions are occurring with E.O. Smith and Bolton high school.

- Communications and Community Outreach

Chairman Lent introduced topic on Communications and Community Outreach. Superintendent Geryk provided an update on the process to update the website.

Mr. Chakulski stated that there is a need for an interactive calendar inclusive of all departments. Superintendent Geryk indicated that the third party provider will have a "mock" website within two weeks from May 6 so the Board of Education and the Parent Teacher Organization to gather feedback to present to Board of Education.

VIII. Correspondence/Communications

- a) *Retirement Party Invitation to BOE Members for Michael Hetherington*

IX. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings

Future Meeting Dates:

- Monday, June 3, 2019, 6:30 p.m. Subcommittee Meetings, H.W. Porter Conference Room
- Monday June 3, 2019, 7:30 pm, BOE Regular Meeting, H.W. Porter Cafetorium

- Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 7:00 pm, Columbia Town Hall, Annual Town Budget Meeting for the 2019-2020 Budget

X. Superintendent's Report

- Communications – Website meeting progress as addressed under Reports and Board Committees.
- PTO Fundraising – An Electronic Message will be displayed near the front of the old fire house. The sign will display a two line message which will change frequently. Ms. Dooley indicated that the PTO made an incredible effort to raise the funds for the signage.
- The Book Fair – The video at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 2B-of2giXw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B-of2giXw&feature=youtu.be). Superintendent Geryk indicated that the video was well worth watching.
- Contract Negotiation with Bolton and EO –Meetings occurred with the Superintendent of EO Smith regarding the process for contract discussions and a meeting is scheduled with the Bolton Superintendent next week.
- Finance - Town of Columbia Retirement Plan Proposed Change – The Town and school viewed presentations by Empower Retirement. A decision will be reached in the next few days.
- Update on ECS and Teacher's Retirement“ Kickback” may or may not be an option.
- Teaching and Learning - Superintendent Geryk stated that all are on track as indicated.
- Applications are being accepted for the Special Education Teacher.

Articles – Continuous Improvement Planning – Educational articles were provided for board member review.

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

- Ms. Sposito shared her thoughts and concerns regarding the administrative opening.

XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items

- Chairman Lent proposed to establish a committee for a November/December review of the Superintendent's future goals. Ms. Tolsdorf stated that goals should be aligned and integrated. Superintendent Geryk stated that her goals would include a school improvement plan based on institutional practices, professional development, short and long term goals an action steps now and in the future.

XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

- Mr. Littlefield shared information relating to the rollout in Connecticut schools the Model Student Awareness Program. The program is nationally accredited and certified. It identifies children who may be at risk for drugs, homelessness, etc. A seminar will be offered to every

state on May 5th, 6th, and 7th, of 2020 at no cost. Mr. Littlefield will forward the link to the Board members and Superintendent Geryk.

- Ms. Tolsdorf reiterated the need to set aside a percentage of funds in a separate account for special purchases. The State has expanded the funding level from 1% to 2% in the event of a budget shortfall. FIPAC should support this effort and consider the savings. This may be useful and productive if spent wisely.

Mr. Chakulski Jr. stated that he would volunteer to be on the interview panel for the assistant principal position if no other volunteers come forth.

Chairman Lent reviewed the timeline for CEA negotiations.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Lent, Chair