

Minutes
July 10, 2017
Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Horace W. Porter School Cafeteria

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

Others Present: Lol Fearon-Superintendent, Alyssa Gwinnell- Principal, Beverly Ciurylo-Finance Director, Mark Walter-Town Administrator, Al Jacunski-Jacunski & Humes Architects, Jennifer Tigeleiro and several others

Call to Order – Chairman Chris Lent called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Revision: L. Napolitano MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED to revise the order of the agenda as follows:

Special Recognition

Discussion and Action, c) Budget -2017/2018 – Fourth Grade Teacher Position Proposal

Comments from the Audience

MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

II. Special Recognition

Columbia students are encouraged to explore their creativity and the District values their individual contributions and commitment to excellence.

• Middle Level Scholar Leaders, Thomas Boardman & Brenna Crooks-Connecticut Association of Schools - Brenna Crooks was recognized, congratulated and presented an award certificate in recognition of the Connecticut Association of Schools awards recipient.

Thomas Boardman was also recognized but was not in attendance.

III. Discussion and Action

c) *Budget 2017/2018 – Fourth Grade Position Proposal 2017/18* – L. Fearon said many parents attended recent meetings and presented compelling reasons for consideration of an additional 4th grade section. Federal Funds from the REAP Grant can be accessed to reduce class sizes however grants are generally for one year. An unexpected resignation at the end of the school year and revision of speech and language staffing for next year and changes in high school tuition have created unanticipated funding allowances and an additional position can be funded within the approved budget. Mr. Fearon recommended that the Board approve an additional section of grade 4 for the 2017/2018 school year.

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to approve the hiring of a one year additional staff member for the 2017/2018 school year. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

IV. 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.

Jennifer Tigeleiro thanked the Board and Administration for their time, consideration and energy in addressing the addition of a staff member for the upcoming school year for fourth graders.

V. 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 June 5, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes*

b) *Appointment of Matthew Tew, Facilities Technician for the 2017-2018 school year*

c) *Resignation of Lea Finnie, Speech and Language Pathologist*

- d) *Resignation of Michael Kenyon, Assistant Principal/Data Coordinator*
- e) *Appointment of Bonnie Quinn, Main Office Secretary for the 2017-2018 school year*

D. Crim MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to approve the Action Items Consent agenda (a-e). MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

VI. Discussion and Action

- a) *Payment of Bills* – L. Napolitano MOVED, K. Tolsdorf SECONDED approval of payment of bills in the amount of \$737,924.64. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

- b) *Expenditure Report 2016/17 Update* – Review of the expenditure report and Fire Suppression System Repair and Replacement discussion was combined. There is an anticipated \$56,852.96 remaining in the 2016/2017 budget. The Fire Marshall raised concerns about the Fire Suppression System which is old and in need of repair. Replacement of the control panel is estimated to cost \$25,000.

K. Vertefeuille MOVED, L. Napolitano SECONDED to appropriate \$25,000 from the 2016/2017 for the purpose of repair and replacement of the fire suppression control panel. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

K. Tolsdorf MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to approve the expenditure report as presented. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

- c) *Budget 2017/18 – Fourth Grade Position Proposal* – addressed earlier in the meeting.

- d) *Parking Lot Site Plan Capital Plan Proposal*
Architect Al Jacunski of Jacunski Humes Architects presented a plan to revamp the parking lots and entrance of the school. BOE members reviewed the report and their questions were addressed.

- e) *Fire Suppression System Repair and Replacement of Controls – Addressed in item VI b.*

- f) *Acceptance of the Superintendent’s Evaluation 2016/17* –
K. Vertefeuille MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to approve the 2016/2017 Superintendents Evaluation. MOTION CARRIES 7:0. Members commented they liked the format of the evaluation.

- g) *Approval of Superintendent’s Contract 2017/2020* Superintendents Contract – L. Napolitano MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to approve the Superintendents 2017-2022 Contract. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

- h) *Second Reading Policies 1700 (a)(b), Form 2b, P3542.43(d), P5131.6(a-f)*
L. Napolitano MOVED, J. Chakulski SECONDED to table the second reading of Policies 1700 (a)(b), Form 2b, P3542.43(d), 5131.6 (a-f). MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

VII. Reports of Board Committees

- Policy – discussed earlier in the meeting
- Budget- addressed earlier in the meeting
- Teaching and Learning- A. Gwinnell reviewed the middle school schedule during the subcommittee meeting.
- Ad hoc Committee on Future Needs – L. Fearon said the Focus Group Meeting held in June was well attended and many commonalities came out of the meeting. Possible next steps in the process were discussed. The BOE will meet to discuss strategies and preparation on 8/7 at 6:30 p.m. Members will email questions to C. Lent prior to the August meeting.

VIII. Correspondence/Communications

- a) *Enrollment Report* – L. Fearon noted enrollment has remained steady and is above projections by about 10 students.

- b) *Willimantic Chronicle - The Big Dig* – The archeological dig was well attended by staff and students and was a great learning experience.

IX. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings

- *Future Meeting Dates:*
 - *August 7th, 2017, 5:30 pm, Administrator Contract Negotiations, LMC*
 - *August 7th, 2017, 6:30 pm, Subcommittee Meeting – Future Needs Committee, LMC*
 - *August 7th, 2017, 7:30 pm Regular BOE Meeting, HWP Cafeteria*
 - *August 22nd, 2017, 5:30 pm Administrator Negotiations, LMC (tentative)*
 - *August 29th, 2017 5:30 pm Administrator Negotiations, LMC (tentative)*
 - *September 11, 2017, 6:30 pm, Building Walk Through*
 - *September 11th, 2017 pm, 7:00pm New Teacher Reception, TOTY, POTY and Tenure Recognition, LMC Conference Room*
 - *September 11th, 7:30 pm Regular BOE Meeting, Cafeteria*

X. Superintendent's Report

- a) As of June 30, 2017, Jessica Neumuth will achieve tenure. She is an exemplary teacher. Her everyday work with both students and staff is commendable.
- b) Update on the Assistant Principal Search – A diverse group of 70 applicants have applied. The first round of interviews will be held on 7/19 and 7/20.
- c) CABE – Bill 104 – At a recent Superintendent's meeting (CAPPS) Bill 104 was discussed. The bill proposed to give municipalities veto authority over non-instructional academic areas. L. Fearon suggested members contact their representatives, Tim Ackert and Cathy Osten.

XI. Future Regular and Subcommittee Agenda Items (Tentative)

August 7, 2017, 5:30 – Non Meeting, Negotiations

August 7, 2017, 6:30 – Future Needs

Goal assignment and time was discussed.

Policy 2nd Reading

XII. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

K. Tolsdorf would like more emphasis and time in schedules for Science and Social Studies.

J. Chakulski thanked the administration, staff and current and former BOE members for their impact on the school. He is very thankful for the positive experience his son had while attending Porter School.

XIII. Adjournment

Adjournment – K. Vertefeuille MOVED, D. Crim SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. MOTION CARRIES 7:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Tolsdorf,
Vice Chairperson/Secretary