



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Columbia, Connecticut

The Columbia School District is a community of learners providing rigorous programs to ensure that each student can excel as an individual.

Christopher Lent, Chairman
Michael Maziarz, V. Chair/Secy
James Chakulski, Jr.
David Crim
Linette Dooley
Joseph Napolitano
Christine Sposito

Maria Geryk, Superintendent

Board of Education Special Meeting Agenda August 17, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Topic: BOE Special Meeting 8-17-2020

Time: Aug 17, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87691363147>

Meeting ID: 876 9136 3147

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Meeting ID: 876 9136 3147

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87691363147>

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Comments from the Audience

Time allotted for public participation is twenty (20) minutes; time allotted for an individual speaker is three (3) minutes.

For public comments during the meeting, please add your comments through the "Chat" feature in Zoom Meeting or use the "Raise Hand" function feature located at the bottom of your screen on the tool ribbon to let the host know you would like to speak. Please identify yourself by providing your name and address .

IV. 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 Special Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2020
- b) Payment of Bills
- d) Approval of the appointment of Willow Therrien, Library Media Specialist

V. Action Items (Discussion & Action)

- a) Administrators Association Contract Negotiations (7/1/18-6/30/21)
- b) Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes, June 1, 2020

VI. Correspondence/Communications

VII. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 6:30 p.m., BOE Subcommittee Meeting
- Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 7:30 p.m., BOE Regular Meeting

IX. Superintendent's Report

- a) Legislative Update
- b) Return to School Update

X. Comments from the Audience

Time allotted for public participation is twenty (20) minutes; time allotted for an individual speaker is three (3) minutes.

XI. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

XII. Adjournment

EXECUTIVE SESSION

For the purpose of Superintendent End of the Year Evaluation and Contract Negotiations

A C C O U N T S P A Y A B L E P O S T I N G R E G I S T E R

Document Ctl# 002378-01

Sequenced By Voucher Number

Type Column: *S=Sng Chk; *A=Ach Pay

Period: June 2020

Vcr#	Voucher Description	Vnd#	Vendor Name	Invoice#	Type	Ref#	PO#	Due Date	Vcr Total
041845	CROSS CONNECTION TESTING	P&J	P&J SPRINKLER COMPANY, INC	2555592	R		211158	07/16/20	420.00
041846	QTRLY TESTING	P&J	P&J SPRINKLER COMPANY, INC	2555593	R		211158	04/21/20	325.00
041847	SMARTBOARDS PRESCHOOL	SCHMAS	STS EDUCATION	43997	R		211357	06/29/20	8,139.00
041848	COMPASS ONLINE LEARNING	CREC	CREC	20373301	R		211292	07/16/20	600.00

Register Totals:

Number of Vouchers = 4

Total of Vouchers = 9,484.00

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE POSTING REGISTER

Document Ctl# 002380-01

Sequenced By Voucher Number

Type Column: *S=Sng Chk; *A=Ach Pay

Period: July 2020

Vcr#	Voucher Description	Vnd#	Vendor Name	Invoice#	Type	Ref#	PO#	Due Date	Vcr Total
041852	LAMINATOR MAINT. AGREEMENT	GBC	ACCO BRANDS USA LLC	4713428182	R		212002	07/27/20	615.74
041853	LAMINATOR MAINT.AGREEMENT	GBC	ACCO BRANDS USA LLC	4713430522	R		212002	07/07/20	493.48
041854	RODENT SERVICE	BRAMAN	BRAMAN TERMITE & PEST ELIM.	1935930	R			07/09/20	178.23
041855	WORKSHOP 8/5 C.SPOSITO	CABE	CABE	36102	R			07/23/20	25.00
041856	WORKSHOP 7/29 C.SPOSITO	CABE	CABE	36101	R			07/23/20	25.00
041857	BOARD MEMBER PACKET	CABE	CABE	22001	R		212031	07/23/20	105.00
041858	DIGITAL RECEIVERS 7/16-8/15	CHART	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	0005902071	R			07/17/20	23.68
041859	PRIOR YR PO 211318 BARRIER AS.	GAMETI	GAME TIME	PJI0140730	R			07/16/20	595.00
041860	PRIOR YR PO 211332 MATS	GOPHER	GOPHER	9750602	R			07/23/20	3,795.85
041861	PRIOR YR PO 211339 DESKS	HERTZ	HERTZ FURNITURE	659786	R			07/23/20	4,510.80
041862	PRIOR YR PO 211361 COVID SUPP	ROVIC	HILLYARD-NEW ENGLAND	603946360	R			07/22/20	343.36
041863	PRIOR YR PO 211361 COVID SUPP.	ROVIC	HILLYARD-NEW ENGLAND	603954651	R			07/14/20	2,653.12
041864	PAINTER'S PLASTIC	HOMEDE	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	1023071	R			08/14/20	19.98
041865	PRIOR YR PO 211372 WALL MATER.	MARJAM	MARJAM-FARMINGDALE	4581046	R			07/22/20	1,661.47
041866	INK	MASON	W.B. MASON COMPANY	212042998	R			07/22/20	37.34
041867	NEWSLEA PRO SUBSCRIPTION	NEWSSEL	NEWSLEA INC.	INV-12453	R		212027	07/27/20	1,000.00
041868	MILEAGE JULY	ROGEDE	DEVON ROGERS	MILEAGE	R			07/24/20	322.00
041869	GIFT CARD TEACHERS PAY TEACHER	TEACPA	TEACHER SYNERGY,LLC	120945756	R		212016	07/24/20	77.99
041870	SERVICE AGREEMENT YR 3	TRANE	Trane U.S., INC.	310945898	R			07/15/20	2,077.00
041871	PHONE 6/10-7/9	VERIZN	VERIZON WIRELESS	9858343357	R			07/09/20	229.08

Register Totals:

Number of Vouchers = 20

Total of Vouchers = 18,789.12

A C C O U N T S P A Y A B L E P O S T I N G R E G I S T E R

Document Ct1# 002379-01

Sequenced By Voucher Number

Type Column: *S=Sng Chk; *A=Ach Pay

Period: June 2020

Vcr#	Voucher Description	Vnd#	Vendor Name	Invoice#	Type	Ref#	PO#	Due Date	Vcr Total
041849	IREADY MATH & READING		CURRIC CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES LLC	90622838	R			07/27/20	2,250.00
041850	TAX CREDIT SCAFFOLDING		HOMED HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	TAX CREDIT M				04/29/20	-13.27
041851	MILEAGE JUNE		ROGEDE DEVON ROGERS	MILEAGE	R			06/23/20	32.20

Register Totals:

Number of Vouchers = 3

Total of Vouchers = 2,268.93

A C C O U N T S P A Y A B L E P O S T I N G R E G I S T E R

Document Ct# 002382-01

Sequenced By Voucher Number

Type Column: *S=Sng Chk; *A=Ach Pay

Period: June 2020

Vcr#	Voucher Description	Vnd#	Vendor Name	Invoice#	Type	Ref#	PO#	Due Date	Vcr Total
041895	ELECTRICITY 5/20-6/21	EVERSO	EVERSOURCE	5149690400	R			07/30/20	1,575.62
041896	LEGAL SERVICES JUNE 2020	SHIPMA	SHIPMAN & GOODWIN LLP	578430	R			07/15/20	939.00
041897	MILEAGE 1/1-6/30	WILSBA	BARBARA WILSON	MILEAGE	R			07/15/20	274.85

Register Totals:

Number of Vouchers = 3

Total of Vouchers = 2,789.47

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE POSTING REGISTER

Document Ct1# 002381-01

Sequenced By Voucher Number

Type Column: *S=Sng Chk; *A=Ach Pay

Period: July 2020

Vcr#	Voucher Description	Vnd#	Vendor Name	Invoice#	Type	Ref#	PO#	Due Date	Vcr Total
041872	ADULT EDUCATION 2020/2021	EASTCO	EASTCONN	9210134	R			07/30/20	4,882.00
041873	SCHOOL LUNCH CONTRACT	EASTCO	EASTCONN	9210185	R			07/28/20	22,500.00
041874	ELECTR.FIRE PUMP 6/22-7/23	EVERSO	EVERSOURCE	5145862409	R			07/28/20	44.00
041875	SMART-E LOAN	EVERSO	EVERSOURCE	5112185802	R			07/23/20	4,821.75
041876	PRIOR YR PO #211358 MASCOT	FACEMA	FACEMAKERS INC.	2019135	R			07/23/20	1,338.00
041877	PHONES 7/23-8/22	FRONTI	FRONTIER	8602280294	R			07/30/20	240.46
041878	PRIOR YR PO #211361 COVID	ROVIC	HILLYARD-NEW ENGLAND	603964339	R			07/23/20	63.68
041879	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES - SOAP	ROVIC	HILLYARD-NEW ENGLAND	603964340	R			07/21/20	714.40
041880	REIMB.LESSON PIX SUBSC.	LAPSAM	AMY LAPSIS	LESSONPIX	R			07/21/20	36.00
041881	PRIOR YR PO #211372 RM MATER.	MARJAM	MARJAM-FARMINGDALE	4581532	R			07/29/20	331.76
041882	BE SCIENTIST NOTEBOOK GR 2	MCGRED	MCGRAW HILL LLC	1134519610	R		212007	07/29/20	227.95
041883	BE SCIENTIST NOTEBOOK GR 2	MCGRED	MCGRAW HILL LLC	1134476340	R		212008	07/16/20	214.66
041884	BE SCIENTIST NOTEBOOK GR 2	MCGRED	MCGRAW HILL LLC	1134427260	R		212009	07/16/20	214.66
041885	NEWS-2-YOU SUBSCRIPTION	NEWS2Y	N2Y, LLC	1020388	R		212033	07/16/20	191.08
041886	COPIER USAGE 6/26-7/25	THEOFF	THE OFFICE WORKS, INC	201401	R			07/25/20	102.69
041887	REIMB.SUMMER SCHOOL SUPP.	SURFAL	ALYSSA SURFACE	REIMB.	R			07/25/20	30.25
041888	BOE WATER COOLER	VILLAG	Village Springs Dist. LLC	150051	R			07/20/20	4.50
041889	SPEC.ED COOLER RENTAL	VILLAG	Village Springs Dist. LLC	150050	R			07/16/20	4.50
041890	WATER COOLER TEACH.LOUNGE	VILLAG	Village Springs Dist. LLC	150049	R			07/16/20	4.50
041891	WATER COOLER TEACH.ROOM	VILLAG	Village Springs Dist. LLC	150048	R			07/16/20	4.50
041892	I-READY GR 5-8	CURRIC	CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES LLC	90657652	R		212032	07/27/20	4,710.00
041893	ELECTRICITY 6/21-7/22	EVERSO	EVERSOURCE	5149690400	R			07/30/20	1,738.82
041894	HOSE, DRILL PT	HOMEDI	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	9011329	R			08/26/20	56.30

Register Totals:

Number of Vouchers = 23

Total of Vouchers = 42,476.46

**DRAFT
Minutes
Board of Education Meeting
June 1, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: James Chakulski, Jr., Linette Dooley, Chairman Christopher Lent, Michael Maziarz and Joseph Napolitano

Board Members Absent: David Crim and Kathy Tolsdorf

Others Present:

Patty Bode, Karen Cavuto, Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo, Superintendent Maria Geryk, Alyssa Gwinnell, Amy Lapsis, Gillian Lyon, Katherine MacDonald, Kristen Maltese, Brenda Morey, Kate Rutledge, Michelle Shive, Christine Sposito and Alexis Stolarun

I. Call to Order

Chairman Lent called the meeting to order at 6:39 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 welcomed all present and opened the floor to comments from the audience.

Principal Alyssa Gwinnell said she wanted to thank everyone once again for this past great, but difficult, month. She spoke to and heard from many families, children and staff. So many have come together in ways we would not have expected. She can personally attest that everyday presented new challenges. She looks forward to what lies ahead.

IV. Presentation

Art Integration – Google Slideshow, Kennedy Center, Defining Arts Integration – Dr. Patty Bode – Art Integration Consultant, Ms. Katherine MacDonald and Ms. Michelle Shive – Art Teachers

Superintendent Geryk said it is amazing to have such a wonderful staff who are very creative and jump into something new with enthusiasm. Art teachers Kat MacDonald and Michelle Shive have been working with Patty Bode, a consultant to integrate art into content. When we talk about arts it is a visceral reaction. It pulls on a part of us that isn't always accessible. Porter is open to these exciting opportunities and Kat and Michelle jumped right in.

Dr. Bode said she has been an art educator for many years. She has worked in public schools with very young children through high school. She has also worked with Tufts University and Ohio State. She will be running an art ed program at Connecticut University. It has been a great honor working with these two art teachers this past year to provide support with this art integration initiative.

The Kennedy Center defines art integration this way – Arts integration is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding (learning) through an art form. Students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area and meets evolving objects in both.

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BOE MEETING MINUTES 6/1/20

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Ms. MacDonald said she'd like to thank both Superintendent Geryk and Principal Gwinell for time being built in the schedule to allow them to plan. She is very passionate about making connections with academic subjects. This has been a focus of hers since she started 13 years ago. She spoke about the Altered Book Project (eighth grade ELA and visual arts project) and StoryTeller Dolls Project (fifth grade honors art class first or third person narratives). Eighth grade students had a science/art integration project. They created alien art families and their habitat, which was displayed at an exhibit. This inspired another teacher to craft curriculum on the narrative.

Seventh grade ELA used visual art integration to illustrate and study Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech. In this project descriptive language was given to each child, who then connected emotionally. There was an eighth grade social studies/art integration collaboration project to honor the contribution of African Americans in our society. These were to be in the art show we planned to host.

Ms. Shive continued with the presentation by speaking of a living biography project in the elementary level that uses core subject knowledge being taught in the classroom. Examples also include a butterfly lesson and a fire prevention poster contest. Another example is a project first grade students completed using information they learned about the lives of owls as well as the phases of the moon.

Ms. MacDonald said community collaboration is a strength of the visual arts. There is a collaboration with the Columbia Historical Society. There has also been a Lions Club International Peace Poster contest. These, with the Fire Prevention Poster contest, all address community minded goals.

Art integration deepens and broadens academic understanding. Students at Porter love the arts.

Successful art integration requires strategic co-planning; adequate time to implement unit; consistent, intentional communication through the duration of a project; flexibility on the part of co-teachers; clear objectives; and student engagement.

Dr. Bode concluded the presentation by saying there are three variations in the arts in schools: arts as curriculum, arts-enhanced curriculum and arts-integrated curriculum. In arts-integrated curriculum, the arts become the approach to teaching and the vehicle for learning.

Superintendent Geryk thanked them for the work they have been doing with our students. The level of collaboration to integrate is extensive. Dr. Bode will continue to work with us again next year.

Chairman Lent thanked Patty, Kat and Michelle. It is a wonderful approach that teaches creativity and provides a completely different perspective of arts. Ms. Dooley thanked them, saying they are awesome, as usual. This approach keeps kids well rounded. Mr. Maziarz said the arts teachers have done an excellent job. It has been difficult figuring out how different subjects can support other areas. The more and more you dive into student interests, the more invested they become. Ms. MacDonald said they see kids' faces light up when they know they are going to do an integrated arts project, knowing their teachers will be working together. They are excited.

Superintendent Geryk said this approach allows students to creatively collaborate problem solving skills we need as adults. Mr. Chakulski, Jr. said it is great to see how this is being received in the school.

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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 April 6, 2020 Minutes
- b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes April 21, 2020 Minutes
- c. Payment of May Bills and June Bills
- d. Approval of the Daena Parmenter Scholarship
- e. Acceptance of Retirement Request, Mrs. Kathy Francis, Elementary Music Teacher
- f. Acceptance of Retirement Request, Ms. Lynn MacMullen, Library Media Specialist
- g. Approval of Purchasing English Language Arts Curriculum up to \$40,000
- h. Acceptance of Resignation of Jessica Atkins, Grade 4 Teacher

Ms. Chakulski, Jr. MOVED, Mr. Maziarz SECONDED to move g. Approval of Purchasing English Language Arts Curriculum up to \$40,000 to VI. Action Items (Discussion & Action).
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

Mr. Crim MOVED, Mr. Napolitano SECONDED to approve a. Approval of April 6, 2020 Minutes; b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes April 21, 2020 Minutes; c. Payment of May Bills and June Bills; d. Approval of the Daena Parmenter Scholarship; e. Acceptance of Retirement Request, Mrs. Kathy Francis, Elementary Music Teacher; f. Acceptance of Retirement Request, Ms. Lynn MacMullen, Library Media Specialist; and h. Acceptance of Resignation of Jessica Atkins, Grade 4 Teacher.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

VI Action Items (Discussion and Action)

Chairman Lent requested the discussion about the English Language Arts curriculum, Wit and Wisdom, be held before the original items on the agenda. All agreed.

- a. Approval of Purchasing English Language Arts Curriculum, Wit and Wisdom, up to \$40,000

Ms. Rutledge is updating the Board on the topic of ELA curriculum since the last time she presented. After the process of reviewing the curricula began, it became apparent we might need to consider if it is more feasible to find a program that is better able to meet our needs than go through the extensive revisions required on what is currently used. Over the past few months we underwent a lengthy and thorough review and decided upon Wit and Wisdom.

Superintendent Geryk expressed gratitude for the substantial amount of time and energy that went into this review. Ms. Maltese said this was a good process with a lot of voices. All are excited with the possibility of a new program to implement next year.

Chairman Lent said this was a rigorous process, where 17 potential programs were initially identified. It was narrowed down by nine teachers who were involved in the recommendation. It is critical that they were part of the process.

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Superintendent Geryk responded to Ms. Dooley's questions about budget and roll-out. If approved by the Board, this curriculum will be purchased this year, meaning there will not be a budgetary impact next year. Ms. Rutledge said a day long professional development is scheduled June 10. The publishers will have two staff involved. There will be additional work over the summer, before the new school year.

Mr. Maziarz asked what the ongoing cost will be for the future. He also asked about the mindset of the teachers, the commitment to it. This program was thoroughly researched. It was chosen. He does not want it to be replaced in just a couple of years. Ms. Rutledge said the bulk of the cost is realized this first year for texts. It is necessary to have a copy of the text for every student and teacher. There will be ongoing costs to replace as necessary, which is not expected to be much. In response to his second question, she said it is expected this will be used for many years. Superintendent Geryk agreed, saying we all have a similar philosophy. You need a program in place for a period of time to assess it. She believes the initial commitment should be at least five years.

Ms. Dooley MOVED, Mr. Maziarz SECONDED to approve purchase of the English Language Arts Curriculum, Wit and Wisdom, up to \$40,000.

MOTION CARRIES 5:0

Ms. Dooley said, when reading through notes, it appears we are getting charged 50% for a certain period of time, but then starting June first we are to pay 90% for budgeted transportation. Superintendent Geryk confirmed, saying typically we would pay 100%. We paid the bill for March. The bus company laid off staff. Negotiations ensued and we asked what percentage are paid if they don't have staff. It was agreed March 16 through May will be paid at 50% and 90% of the anticipated bill June 1 through June 16. We will not be spending approximately \$100,000 of the funds budgeted for this year's transportation.

Ms. Dooley asked about the potential of raising pre-k tuition, but she sees that we will not be. Superintendent Geryk said it is possible the discussion regarding preschool tuition occurred at a meeting when Ms. Dooley was not present. It has now been decided that we will not increase it based on not knowing what people's financial situation will be. We had talked about cost comparison to other towns, etc. We are very competitive compared to others but still decided not to increase it.

b. Upcoming Administrators Association Contract Negotiations (7/1/18-6/30/21)

Chairman Lent said the current contract is July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021. We would commence negotiations over the summer time prior to the end of the contract. He's wondering how we will proceed, possibly holding remote discussions. Superintendent Geryk said we are moving forward with timelines, with discussions starting this summer, either in person within guidelines or remotely. Ms. Gwinnell agreed. Chairman Lent said the committee does not need to be decided tonight, but will be by the July meeting.

c. Superintendent End of the Year Evaluation

Chairman Lent said there have been initial discussions about Superintendent Geryk's end of the year evaluation. We are supposed to have discussions about her contract by July 1. Due to the unusual circumstances, we have not yet done so. Superintendent Geryk agreed to a slight extension, if necessary, and we will now schedule those discussions. Any salary will be retroactive to July 1. Superintendent Geryk will provide self-assessment notes by June 15, as she had done mid-year. Mr. Maziarz offered to help Chairman Lent with tallying the input from Board members.

d. Review Request to Determine Tuition Rate

Superintendent Geryk said she received a request from a family to have their child attend Porter as a tuition student. She reviewed the policy to determine the rate and the policy references per pupil costs. The most recent rate available is from 2018-19, which is \$18,101. Considerable discussion regarding the tuition rate occurred. It was decided Superintendent Geryk will put a proposal in writing to bring forward to the Board for consideration.

VII. Correspondence/Communications

a. Elementary Virtual Student Art Show

Chairman Lent said this is a great presentation. He was very disappointed we were not able to attend it in person.

b. Middle School Virtual Art Show

Superintendent Geryk and Board members agreed the artwork is amazing.

c. Region 19 Superintendent Appointment, Sharon Cournoyer

Superintendent Geryk said she has not had an opportunity to talk with Dr. Cournoyer yet, but is looking forward to it. Sounds as though she is a strong collaborator with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm for the position. She wishes her all the best in this new position.

d. Preschool Update 5/22/2020

Superintendent Geryk reiterated what was stated earlier this evening, the fact that preschool tuition will not be increased this coming year.

Chairman Lent asked about screenings. Superintendent Geryk said we will not be doing screenings for either preschool or kindergarten until we are able to have face to face experiences with kids. Each child already identified comes with a lot of information available for the teachers. Tomorrow kindergarten teachers will send something to parents, asking them to share information about their child. Only 11 students coming to kindergarten are not from our preschool program.

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VIII. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, July 6, 2020, 6:30 p.m., BOE Subcommittee Meeting, Zoom Meeting
- Monday, July 6, 2020, 7:30 p.m., BOE Regular Meeting, Zoom Meeting

IX. Superintendent's Report

- a. Legislative Update
- b. Remote Education Update
- c. Please join me in Congratulating:
 - Brigid Keenan for reaching tenure in the 2019-2020 school year
 - National Junior Honor Society Inductees – Kelly Szegda, Corryn Tarbell, Rachel Buskey, Maya Roldan
 - Lions Club Scholarship Awardees – Alexander Greb and Victoria White

Superintendent Geryk recognized staff members who shared their intention to retire. She wishes Mrs. Francis and Ms. MacMullen all the best.

The students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society based on what they bring to Porter. She congratulated them for this accomplishment.

The budget passed. It does not increase the mill rate and still meets everyone's needs.

The transportation contract was negotiated. She expects we will realize savings from that contract. It was a challenging process for everyone involved.

For staff, families and students, this has been a pretty challenging situation. People really worked incredibly hard to make this work. We need to have kids back in school. Staff are working on end of year summaries to be provided to families. Not grading, per se, but provide information, documenting where they left off before going remote, and what was covered remotely. This will share information with new teachers next year.

A summer intervention program is being offered to families. Extended School Year for special education students is being worked on.

Devices, i.e., iPads, Chromebooks or laptops, will be coming back. They will be set up to be user friendly. Devices will be assigned to individual students to reduce germs, etc.

No clear direction/guidance for next year has been received from the state. Various options are being considered, but Superintendent Geryk said not all districts have the same configurations. The goal is to have kids back in school for the new school year. We will be prepared to be partially remote or fully remote if necessary. We are now in a much better position to do that.

She is thrilled Daena Parmenter's family has started the new memorial award in her honor. While she did not know Daena personally, she knows Daena was a beloved student and heard a lot of wonderful things about her.

DRAFT

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Eighth grade graduation. Teachers are working hard to create a graduation ceremony. We are thinking of having families come in cars to Porter and staff be out front to give each a celebration bag that includes wonderful things as well as their diploma. Photos may be an option. We want something that is festive and celebrates kids, but mindful of health and safety.

Field Day experience. More to come. A team is working very hard to develop this fun activity.

Food Service. Superintendent Geryk is not certain if this service will be extended through the summer. She hopes it continues, but has not had formal notification of that yet. The mobile food truck is there every other Thursday.

Facilities projects are in progress. New ceiling tiles are being installed. Summer cleaning will be done soon. For future planning we will have to figure out things like temperature checks, how many kids per room, sneeze barriers, etc., for next year.

We are exploring FM systems in the classrooms. This will make sense, especially if we anticipate people wearing masks, making them more difficult to hear. If this is determined to be viable, the purchase will be made by the end of this school year to be in place before school starts.

Superintendent Geryk said families have been incredibly supportive during such a difficult situation.

Chairman Lent asked about transportation. Will we need to discuss additional buses to accommodate social distancing? Will we change routes? Can M&J meet these potential changes? Superintendent Geryk said she talked about this and they are aware and will work with us. We may need to work on flexible hours. We are negotiating contracts. Depending on what comes to us in the next few months, there is a lot of work ahead on multiple fronts.

Mr. Chakulski, Jr. said a lot is up in the air. Potentially there will be multiple days and bus runs. Superintendent Geryk said that until we hear from the state, we are looking at personal protective equipment. Will we need more nursing staff? Will we need more teachers? We will figure it all out and provide discussions and forums for families to discuss how we can implement it well. Mr. Napolitano strongly encouraged Superintendent Geryk to not wait to order PPE. He also suggested face shields will be a perfect barrier for certain staff, i.e., speech pathologists who work so closely with children.

Ms. Dooley asked about summaries being used in place of grades. Superintendent Geryk said guidance from the state regarding grades was unclear. We opted to use summaries and feedback on individual assignments.

X. Comments from the Audience

Time allotted for public participation is twenty (20) minutes; time allotted for an individual speaker is three (3) minutes

Christine Sposito, 62 Doubleday Road, asked about posting for a grade 4 and long-term substitute in grade 3 next year. Superintendent Geryk said these are positions for music and the library media center. She wanted a better idea of the enrichment program for next year. She is looking at the library as a hub for the enrichment center. She will provide an update in July.

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Ms. Sposito wanted to compliment Laura Lawton for her hard work throughout the school year and remote learning. Her son benefited from Zoom class.

Ms. Sposito asked about the status of the website. Superintendent Geryk said she believes it will be ready to roll out this summer.

Ms. Sposito asked about the grade 5/6 science position. Ms. Gwinnell will send out an announcement in the very near future.

XI. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

Mr. Maziarz congratulated Mrs. Francis and Ms. MacMullen on their upcoming retirements. They have served the students well and they will be missed. He also said that his children have participated in the distance learning, finding the activities engaging. The live video conferencing meant a lot to his children.

Mr. Chakulski, Jr. thanked all staff who have been working so hard during this difficult time. All the work done has been very impressive.

Ms. Dooley also thanked everybody for their continued hard work. She specifically acknowledged how difficult this has been for parents of young children and children with special needs.

Mr. Napolitano said the amount of work that goes into distance learning is incredible. He, too, thanked everyone for their hard work.

Chairman Lent thanked Superintendent Geryk, staff, and everyone who has been keeping the learning moving forward. He spoke of the scholarships in memory of Daena. She touched the hearts of a lot of people. An award for someone who is a great person who is encouraging and a positive model for others is wonderful. Chairman

Lent stated it is with regret he must announce that Kathy Tolsdorf tendered her resignation from the Board earlier today. She served almost 12 years on the Board. This was a hard decision for her. He would like to invite her to be recognized for her many contributions at an upcoming meeting.

Superintendent Geryk also extended her gratitude for all her years of service and dedication. Ms. Tolsdorf has always been very generous in her time and commitments to the Board.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Maziarz MOVED and Mr. Napolitano SECONDED to adjourn.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

The Board adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Lent, Chairman

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Minutes
Board of Education Special Meeting
July 20, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Linette Dooley, Chairman Christopher Lent, Michael Maziarz, Joseph Napolitano and Christine Sposito

Board Members Absent: James Chakulski, Jr. and David Crim

Others Present:

Kristen Bacon, Lauren Barsom, Karen Butzgy, KC, David and Jessica Callahan, Karen Caputo, Michell Cassano, Lisa DeWitt, Shawn Douisi, Tammy Ekstrom, Toni Espinosa, Bob Fowler, Tom and Nela Franco, Superintendent Maria Geryk, Drew Guild, Alyssa Gwinnell, Heather, Hill, Nina Holmes, Gina Jarvis, Jen, Kim, Allie LaCroix, Amy Lapsis, Jennifer Laraia, Laura Lawton, Gillian Lyon, Melissa Mal, Helen Martin, Anna Matthews, Christa McManus, Brenda Morey, Jessica Neumut, E Niemczyk, D Nolette, Karen O'Hearn, Judy Ortiz, Kate and Tom Pierro, Karen Piro, Courtney Provost, R, Jessica R, Rachel, Nelisa Reagan, Kate Riquier, Carolyn Ritchie, Kate Rutledge, Fayne Sears, Barbara Stoner, Tammy, M Taylor, Jenny Vazquez, Dan White, Patricia Whitman and Barbara Wilson

I. Call to Order

Chairman Lent called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Presentation – Reopening School Plan

Chairman Lent welcomed everyone to tonight's special meeting. Comments and questions about the reopening plan will follow the presentation. The Comments from the Audience portion of tonight's meeting will be up to 20 minutes. Chairman Lent said there will be another opportunity to hear from the audience near the conclusion of the meeting. Chairman Lent also welcomed Christine Sposito in her new role as Board of Education member. She often attended meetings as an audience member and is now on the Board. Ms. Sposito thanked Chairman Lent, saying she is very excited to be involved in this role.

Superintendent Geryk opened her presentation by thanking everyone for attending via Zoom. Questions and comments may be written in the Chat window and will be addressed following the presentation. Any unanswered questions will be followed up.

Since closure in March, staff have been working incredibly hard in this totally new model of instruction. Staff are accustomed to working with students face to face, so teaching remotely has felt almost unnatural. Superintendent Geryk thanked the families and students. Everyone went from traditional school to a remote experience in one week, which exemplifies the dedication of everyone involved.

The plans developed to date are based on State Department of Education directives and guidelines. Advisories come in daily. We completed a lot of the summer cleaning early, which allows us to get ready for the fall. We are meeting with the State, working with the Department of Health and purchasing protective equipment.

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Districts were asked to create a plan that addresses three models:

- Full-time instruction with increased health and safety protocols
- Hybrid learning plan – if we are directed to reduce attendance to 50%
- Fully remote model

The goal was that with these models, based on Department of Health data, we could move from one model to another as seamlessly as possible. Currently we anticipate going back to school full-time in the fall. Additionally, we will provide educational opportunities for families who opt to not return in the fall. Requirements and guidance have changed dramatically throughout the time we have been out. We do not know if we will be asked to be flexible again as we wait to hear from the State.

Reopening Working Groups were created. Their goals and priorities were to

- Identify existing challenges and needs
- Engage stakeholders to hear their ideas and priorities and
- Consider multiple potential plans of action, including the logistics and resources involved, and make a set of policy recommendations to the Leadership Team.

Reopening plan guiding principles were

- To safeguard the safety of students and staff
- Equity, access and student supports
- Effective stakeholder communication
- Rigorous and engaging instruction for all learners

Staff and students are expected to:

- Screen before leaving home
- Wear face masks that fully cover your nose and mouth
- Practice effective handwashing
- Practice proper sneeze and cough etiquette
- Practice appropriate social distancing in school

As materials become available, they will be sent home to families. While it will feel “different” in all these models, staff will provide a calm environment for our students.

Face covering is a requirement for students, staff and visitors. Face shields are not needed for students, but they will be used by some staff. There are a few exceptions for the use of facial coverings – anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance; and anyone who has a medical condition making it unsafe to wear a face covering. We will individually address cases where face coverings cannot be worn. Clear plastic barriers will be installed in appropriate locations.

Classrooms will be organized to maximize social distancing between student workplaces. Desks will be arranged forward facing. Available spaces in each school building will be repurposed for instruction to the greatest extent possible.

Porter will designate patterns for directional foot-traffic within the corridors by markings on the floors. Use of lockers for the middle school will be suspended indefinitely. Porter Paws bags will be

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provided to each student to hold individual school supplies and individual instructional materials. Opportunities for recess will continue, but use of shared equipment and playscapes will be suspended at the start of the 2020-21 school year. Each classroom will have their own recess equipment, such as balls, to use.

Anyone with high-risk symptoms associated with COVID-19 should stay home. These symptoms include a fever above 100°F, new unexplained loss of taste or smell, respiratory symptoms or gastrointestinal symptoms. Protocols to return to school may be symptom-based, test-based or time-based.

There is an isolation room containment protocol for symptomatic cases in school. Students exhibiting symptoms during the school day will be immediately sequestered to a designated isolation room that is monitored by a school staff member. This is not the school health office. The student will remain in this location until a parent or guardian arrives to sign the student out of school. The student will be escorted to the exit for the parent to sign the student out. Disinfection and cleaning procedures will be initiated when the student is release from an isolation room.

The three models of learning are on-campus learning, hybrid learning, and remote learning.

On-Campus Learning – Minimal/no spread of virus

- All students have option of attending school 5 days per week
- Safety protocols and procedures in place to ensure staff and student safety
- Superintendent and school nurse monitor health data in collaboration with EHHD

Hybrid Learning – Moderate spread of virus – reduced student attendance

- Per local Health Department advice, the number of students attending school is reduced throughout the use of an alternating schedule
- Instruction is shifted to 50% capacity, with alternating in-person attendance and remote learning
- Safety protocols and procedures in place to ensure staff and student safety
- Superintendent and school nurse monitors health data in collaboration with EHHD

Remote Learning – High virus spread – full distance learning

- Per local Health Department advice, student learning is completely shifted to remote learning from home due to significant transmission rates
- Instruction is shifted to primarily synchronous learning from home
- All school events and athletics are cancelled
- Superintendent and school nurse monitor health data in collaboration with EHHD

Instructional format for students returning to Porter School:

- Grades PK-8 will be organized in cohorts by classroom teachers
- Academic support staff and related arts teachers will primarily push into classroom spaces to support student learning and provide related services
- Efforts will be made to limit the number of cohorts staff are assigned
- Outdoor learning spaces will be available
- Physical education classes will occur outdoors whenever possible, or in spaces that allow for maximization of social distancing. Locker room spaces will not be utilized

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Instructional format for students whose families opt for remote learning:

- Students will continue to gain access to instruction through either live stream and/or recorded instruction based on availability
- Assignments and assessments will be posted through a learning management system (Google Classroom, See Saw)

Instructional format for hybrid learning:

- Students will follow an “A-Day/B-Day” schedule rotation
- Students learning remotely will be assigned activities to reinforce, extend or develop learning from lessons. This instruction may be delivered through synchronous (live) or asynchronous learning through See Saw, Google Classroom, and/or Zoom
- Students may also engage in small group or individual virtual meetings with academic support specialists, special education teachers or other related services staff
- Students learning on-campus will participate in classroom lessons with instructional staff adhering to health protocols

Instructional format for remote learning:

- All instruction will be delivered through a synchronous (live) and an asynchronous learning model through See Saw, Google Classroom and/or Zoom. Synchronous learning is where instruction and learning happen at the same time, but not in the same place. Asynchronous learning is where instruction and learning do not occur in the same place or at the same time.
- Staff will meet face-to-face virtually with students in large and small groups or individually
- An instructional schedule will be tailored to the students at each grade level

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.

Chairman Lent thanked attendees for submitting comments and questions through the Chat feature of Zoom. He would like Superintendent Geryk to respond to questions from Board members before she answers questions posed on Chat.

Ms. Dooley asked when temperatures would be taken. Ms. Sears said parents are asked to check their child’s temperature and screen for any symptoms, reiterating that anyone with a temperature over 100°F should stay home. Responding to Ms. Dooley’s questions, Superintendent Geryk said there are rooms without air conditioning. Air is not to be flowing on kids or circulating in that way. However, the ventilation is excellent with a strong air exchange. The air only goes in and out, it does not circulate throughout the building. Ms. Dooley said it is not easy to wear a mask when it is hot and some kids need air conditioning for health conditions.

Responding to Ms. Dooley’s questions, Superintendent Geryk said buses will run at full capacity and will not be cohorted. Ms. Cavuto is working with the bus company to see how many kids are on each bus. There will be assigned seats and kids will sit with family members. Families are encouraged to drive their kids to school if possible.

Superintendent Geryk said there will be devices for students in the fall, which will eliminate sharing. Amplification systems will be available in most classrooms. Equipment for teachers who will be

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Zooming in to other classes and home will be in place. Water fountains will not be available, so some families may opt to fill water bottles from home. Foggers cannot be used to disinfect due to people having allergies, etc.

The classes that may not be available due to COVID-19 are Life Skills, chorus and instruments due to the stringent requirements that are to be in place. However, the schedule is not done yet. We will try to be creative with scheduling related arts.

Ms. Sposito thanked the Leadership Team for their hard work. She asked about short-term and long-term closures. Will this be a district or state decision? Will these days be handled like a snow day? Will distance learning take place or will days be made up? Superintendent Geryk said it will be a Department of Public Health decision based on the situation. It may be based on cohorts. Analysis will determine if a class is closed for 2 – 5 days or if the whole school will be. She said that even if kids are not in the building, they will still be receiving their education. At this time it is hard to know if these days will need to be made up. We will know better in about three weeks.

Ms. Sposito asked about live video teaching. Superintendent Geryk said live instruction from the teachers is expected. This may need to be negotiated with teachers. Teachers will have to get together to see what this looks like because different age groups have different needs.

Regarding the district website link designated to the re-opening, Ms. Gwinnell said this will not be on the site until a plan is set. A re-opening site was created, but the plan is not on it yet. Not going to lockers will not cause the students to carry large backpacks throughout the day because they will be staying within the same area throughout the day.

It is possible students will not be allowed to ride multiple buses on a set schedule, which may cause difficulty for some working parents. Ms. Caputo said she is in the process of collecting data, which is why parents are strongly encouraged to submit the survey. We want to try to accommodate working parents while being sure drivers and students are safe. She noted some districts have decided there will be no option to have students ride multiple vehicles, even though it is a consistent schedule.

Mr. Maziarz thanked Superintendent Geryk for putting this all together. His first question was about mask breaks and if it is following CDC guidelines to have masks worn by all visitors and kids. Superintendent Geryk said there will be scheduled mask breaks. Individual students will need their own breaks in terms of safety and protocols. Expectations are to the letter of the Department of Health.

Mr. Maziarz asked about the school calendar. Superintendent Geryk said the goal is to have days before school starts for staff training for procedures to be put in place and time for teachers to plan. He then asked if she feels we are financially able to do all she wants to with everyone being in five days per week. She said, based on a survey completed for the state, the district would need an additional four teachers, a nurse and custodian. She would love to have bus monitors. Once a teacher becomes ill, we will have to pay teacher subs. She estimated the additional costs would total \$600,000. We will have to think about creative options.

Mr. Napolitano asked if she received guidance about households who have a member diagnosed with COVID. Will they have to stay home for two weeks? Ms. Sears answered, saying if somebody has

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had close contact with somebody with COVID, they are expected to be quarantined for 14 days. There is no definitive answer right now, and each will be decided on a case by case basis.

Mr. Napolitano asked about students wearing masks during gym. Superintendent Geryk said they will not wear masks, but will practice social distancing outside.

Ms. Dooley asked about the impact all this will have on our policies or bargaining unit agreements. Superintendent Geryk said she just received a lot of information from Shipman and Goodwin. She will review this information as others work on the Teaching and Learning.

Ms. Dooley asked about food services. Superintendent Geryk said funding and guidance comes from the federal government. Meals will be delivered to classrooms. We will need a cart and staff to distribute.

Chairman Lent said we are allotted 20 minutes for audience questions and comments. Another opportunity for questions will be on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Tony Franco asked what the thresholds are to move from on-campus to hybrid to remote. Superintendent Geryk said the state has directed we open fully in person. Changes are made by the state, working with our health department.

David and Jessica Callahan, 105 West Street, asked how the district plans on handling cohorts in relation to children with different intellectual levels. Will parents have a say in their child's cohort group if they feel there needs to be a change? Superintendent Geryk said the needs of all children will be reviewed. Cohorts are based on recommendations by previous classroom teachers.

Tom P asked if a child may start remotely, then have the option to return to in-school learning and vice versa. Yes. Parents may make these decisions in either direction. Advance notice of one week is requested because we may need to adjust cohorts. Families have this right.

Tony Franco asked if students will be taught what was lost during remote learning. In the fall assessments will be used to see skill levels. Interventions will be provided.

Selene said her biggest concern is kids will fall behind if they are learning from home.

Karen O'Hearn, 41 Doubleday Road, asked what the instruction will look like for students whose families choose to keep their kids home. Superintendent Geryk said this is still being developed, but will include some real-time live instruction as well as lessons done through See Saw, etc. More will be provided by the Teaching and Learning subcommittee.

Carolyn Ritchie asked about ensuring symptom screening compliance prior to school entry (especially for students). Is there consideration for a second level of screening, once in school? The answer is we cannot ensure families and staff will comply. We are not planning on a secondary screening at school. Teachers will have an opportunity to take a look at the kids to see if anyone is feeling under the weather. We will have a lot of training for staff and a lot of information will be going home to families.

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Nina Holmes, 7 Scalise, asked Superintendent Geryk to please describe how mask breaks look and the proposed frequency. Will masks be required during recess? If a child tests positive, will the entire school be notified and will the cohort of the child be required to quarantine? Superintendent Geryk said there will be morning and afternoon breaks. Social distancing will assist in determining if masks are worn. If there is a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, Eastern Highland Health Department will be notified. Families will be informed, while being mindful of privacy.

Lisa DeWitt asked if it would be possible to hold a parent meeting after work hours as opposed to 3:30 on a work day. Yes, early morning or late in the day options will be available.

Michael Cassano asked what the purpose of the Porter Paws bag is, if the students have book bags. Superintendent Geryk said backpacks go home. Porter Paws bags stay in school and do not cross-contaminate.

Jenn V asked if you intend to keep your child home for the start of the year, can/should you still fill out the forms about transportation etc. for later in the year if they start attending. Yes, please fill out the transportation form, even if you stay at home initially.

Kate Riquier said she is concerned about teachers (and faculty) being able to balance all this. Will additional staff be hired? This is an immense undertaking. Superintendent Geryk agreed this is an immense undertaking. She is concerned about what this requires of a school system to do all this well. We must take into consideration health and safety aspects as well as educating children. Yes, there will be additional staff hired if we need them, depending on staffing patterns.

David Callahan asked if the district can provide a definitive study that shows long term mask use is NOT harmful to children. Superintendent Geryk said her job is to take health guidance provided by the experts in the field. She knows teaching and learning and must rely on others when it comes to health.

Ashley O'Connell said she arrived late and is asking if a hybrid learning option is available, as other schools are offering, especially for preschoolers. Superintendent Geryk said we are currently required by the state to open full-day. Parents may opt to have their students at home. Right now a hybrid option is not offered.

Lisa DeWitt asked if children who are quarantined for any reason will be able to use distance learning. Yes.

M Taylor asked if a meeting will be held to address special education services and individual student development plans and how they will be impacted during all three models. Questions about special education services may be directed to Director of Student Services Barbara Wilson. Individual IEPs will be reviewed. Ms. Wilson said there is a statewide directors' meeting tomorrow, where they will receive guidance on special education. Case managers will be in touch with anyone who has accommodations via an IEP or 504 plan. FAPE will be adhered to.

Christa McManus, 553 Route 87, asked if classroom cohorts will be somewhat based on "districting" to whatever extent possible – so that the kids on the busses will be some of the same kids in their classes. An answer is not available at this time because data is still being gathered.

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Christa McManus asked if Porter bags are being provided, does that mean the children are not allowed to have their own backpacks. What exactly are “recess bags”? Are they for individual use? How will the materials be sanitized between uses? Backpacks will still be needed, but less things go home and come back. Recess bags are net bags with balls, etc., for cohorts. Sanitizing will be done between classes as much as we can. We will have additional staff on through the day to do cleaning throughout the day. Pre-k and kindergarten will have a bin for “clean” toys and “dirty” toys to be sanitized.

Chairman Lent thanked Superintendent Geryk for answering all questions posed.

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 1, 2020 Minutes
- b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes June 15, 2020
- c. Payment of Bills and Expenditure Report
- d. Approval of the appointment of Daryn Rush-Grade 4 Teacher, Mehera Ortiz-.6 Elementary Music Teacher

Ms. Dooley MOVED, Ms. Sposito SECONDED to move a. Approval of June 1, 2020 Minutes to VI. Action Items (Discussion & Action).
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

Ms. Dooley MOVED, Ms. Sposito SECONDED to approve b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes July 15, 2020; c. Payment of Bills and Expenditure Report and d. Approval of the appointment of Daryn Rush-Grade 4 Teacher, Mehera Ortiz-.6 Elementary Music Teacher
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

VI. Action Items (Discussion and Action)

- a. Upcoming Administrators Association Contract Negotiations (7/1/18-6/30/21)

Chairman Lent said the current contract is in effect 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2021. The members who agreed to negotiate on behalf of the Board are Chairman Lent, Mr. Maziarz and Ms. Sposito. Discussion followed about the next steps.

- b. Review of Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

Superintendent Geryk said the Commissioner of Education recommends waiving the 180 day rule this year. We are looking at 177 days, with three days being added at the start of the school year for teachers to be trained and for them to put plans and lessons in place. Students would start Wednesday, September 2, 2020. The first three days will be early release. This would be consistent with Bolton’s start date. E.O. Smith starts on September 3, 2020. Thursday, June 10, 2021 is the scheduled last day.

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Mr. Maziarz MOVED, Ms. Sposito SECONDED to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

c. Approval of June 1, 2020 Minutes

Ms. Dooley noted that page 3 has an error. It states, “Mr. Crim MOVED, Mr. Napolitano SECONDED . . .” Mr. Crim was not present at this meeting. It was agreed this will be tabled until the August meeting to research who made this motion.

VII. Correspondence/Communications

a. FIPAC Non Lapsing Account Resolution

Chairman Lent said there is updated language in the Memorandum of Understanding to address a change in the amount a district may set aside in a non-lapsing account. The MOU allows us to set aside the current maximum amount without having to go through a formal process every time the amount changes.

b. The View Article

The View is published quarterly. This article is recognizing our graduates and taking the time to say thank you to our staff on behalf of our students and families.

VIII. Board of Education Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, August 3, 2020, 6:30 p.m., BOE Subcommittee Meeting
- Monday, August 3, 2020, 7:30 p.m., BOE Regular Meeting

IX. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Geryk gave this update:

- Summer cleaning is out of the way. The remainder of the summer will be spent preparing for alterations.
- Cameras have been installed
- Generator is underway
- Ceiling tiles project is progressing
- Truck was purchased
- 8 new bathroom sinks have been installed
- We are fixing multiple sinks or toilets that were leaking
- The exterior will be cleaned and painted
- Awnings are lined up to be painted
- Permanent walls are being put in place in classrooms upstairs.
- Asbestos abatement in tiles before new tiles are installed (instead of carpet)
- Replacing tables with desks in classrooms
- Classrooms will need some furniture removed to make place for desks
- Panther Paws in the hallways – nice for the students to see something familiar

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- Can families help provide tents or canopies to be used by kids while attending class or eating lunch outside?
- Water fountains are being turned off

Superintendent Geryk said the family who previously requested information to pay tuition for their child to attend Porter has opted to not pursue this. She also shared that St. Mary's in Windham has closed. There was discussion about establishing a tuition rate. This will be discussed more thoroughly at an upcoming meeting.

X. 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.

No one wished to be heard.

XI. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks

Ms. Sposito said she appreciates all the hard work. Porter is doing a great job and are very responsive to e-mails. Superintendent Geryk agreed more will most likely be coming.

Ms. Dooley said she knows how incredibly hard Superintendent Geryk and the Leadership Team have been working based on the amount of information she has been receiving. It is extremely difficult to balance everything and it is very much appreciated.

Mr. Napolitano expressed his gratitude as well. He said guidelines keep changing and it must be hard to keep on top of it.

Mr. Maziarz congratulated our new teachers, saying we are looking forward to them joining the district. He also congratulated our graduates. He thanked everyone involved in the COVID-19 planning and said health and safety is paramount.

Chairman Lent thanked everyone for all their hard work. Consensus is the district is on the right track, balancing safety needs and education, trying to be nimble wherever possible to adapt and make changes as necessary.

Superintendent Geryk thanked the Board members for their continued support. A plan is in place that meets the needs of our children and staff.

Ms. Gwinnell said she always says we can't do this alone. She extended a big thank you to the parents who came to tonight's meeting. She looks forward to seeing them as the summer continues.

Chairman Lent concluded this portion of the meeting at 8:45 p.m., saying the Board will be going into executive session.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Maziarz MOVED and Mr. Napolitano SECONDED to adjourn.
MOTION CARRIES 5:0

The Board adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Lent, Chairman

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