

Columbia Board of Education

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2011

7:30 P.M.

Horace W. Porter School Library Media Center

Board Members Present: Chairman Lauren Perrotti-Verboven; Vice-Chair Lisa Jurovaty;
William Mulcahy; Nelson Petrone; James Thorn; Paula
Belekewicz

Board Members Excused: John Schroder

Administration Present: Francine Coss, Superintendent; Ms. Jean Trask, Principal; Mr. Robert Parenti,
Assistant Principal

Staff Present: Jacqueline Middleton; Janet Stice

Citizens Present: Louise Nowak

I. Call to Order: L. Perotti-Verboven called the regular meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Action Items (Consent)

- Approval of August 15, 2011 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes: The August 15, 2011 regular meeting minutes were amended as follows (in bold): Item VII: F. Coss reported that payments of bills for the June 30, 2011, the beginning of August 2011 and today will be presented at the September 6, 2011 BOE meeting and under Item VIII: September 19, 2011: remove **“Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H. W. Porter School Conference Room”**
- 2010/2011 End-of-the-Year Budget Transfers
- Appointment of Ms. Nicole Henry, Kindergarten Teacher
- Appointment of Mr. Thomas Doyle, National Jr. Honor Society Advisor

P. Belekewicz MOVED to APPROVE the Action Items presented above with the amendments made to the August 15, 2011 regular meeting minutes. W. Mulcahy SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

IV. Comments from the Audience: L. Perrotti-Verboven thanked the Superintendent and the administration for the assistance provided from the school during storm Irene.

V. Correspondence/ Communications

- Superintendent Coss to Mrs. Julie Goldstein, School Social Worker –Acceptance of Resignation
- Associate Commissioner Barbara Beaudin to Superintendent –preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress Report: F. Coss said the school has reached all of the levels and mentioned the good work from the teachers. R. Parenti said the results are still embargoed but will be released to the public soon.
- Chief Financial Officer Brian Mahoney to Superintendents-2011-12 MBR and Related Reporting Requirements
- Superintendent Coss to Chief Financial Officer Brian Mahoney: Receipt of Noncompliance Letter: F. Coss responded to B. Mahoney that the BOE does not anticipate that the Town of Columbia will provide the BOE with the additional funds (\$158,723.00) the State Department of Education determined was needed during this fiscal year (2011/2012) to meet Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) compliance. The Department of Education will send a letter to the Town that they have been notified by the BOE that the Town will not be sending this money over so, in fiscal year 2013/2014, the funding from the State Department of Education will be reduced by two times the \$158,723.00.

VI. Presentation

- CT Mastery Test (CMT) performance Data & School Improvement Plan: Jacqueline Middleton, Director of Student Services, gave an overview of the presentation. The presentation was broken down into four focuses: Behavior; Reading/Writing; Mathematics; and General.

Assistant Principal Robert Parenti reported on the Anti bullying survey done with the middle school students. He then presented the CMT Analysis and explained what the numbers mean on the charts. He said these are pure scale scores. This past summer, he attended a conference and learned about vertical scale scores and this method of reporting gives a true picture of a student's growth. He said a student's achievement should be examined over a three year period. R. Parenti said the vertical scale score method of reporting is not yet available. The CMT will focus on critical thinking. Discussion followed. P. Belekewicz said one should to be able to compare the numbers to something like a year to year comparison to show the students' improvement and growth. L. Jurovaty asked if things were in place to help the 4th to 5th grades in writing. J. Thorn asked for the linear growth slide to be emailed to the members. R. Parenti commented on the SIP goals. He said the student population is transient which affects the behavior goals.

Principal Jean Trask gave a presentation on how to support student achievement during the 2011/2012 school year. The administration will continue to focus on a comprehensive look at the behavior elements. Some of the current focus elements in math will be continued. There is an increase in math time from 42 to 62 minutes in grades 5-6. For reading, there is an increase in language arts time in grades K-8. New middle school reading materials have also been implemented. The added time for language arts instruction will be a great asset for the focus on writing. With all other general instruction, the common core of teaching will continue to be implemented. Immediate feedback will be provided to the teachers. There will be communication and face time with the staff. L. Jurovaty asked when the data collected from the administration walk-throughs in the classrooms would be available to the members. J. Trask responded that the first data will be available by the end of October. Discussion followed. L. Jurovaty would like the presentation to the Board to be specific with the data on the classroom visits reflected over time. J. Trask brought back valuable information from the Pre-K through 8 Principals' Consortium. F. Coss said the teachers have concern with being away from the classroom but would benefit in attending out of the classroom seminars. F. Coss said the "back to basics" theme for this school year is a focus on academic achievement; to remember what we are here to do. J. Trask thanked the Board for their support.

W. Mulcahy asked J. Trask what the one thing was that she wanted to implement this year that she could not. J. Trask responded that she wishes there were more of her and her school day was longer and she could give more support to her team. L. Perotti-Verboven thanked the administration for their long hours put into the presentation.

VII. Financial Review

- Payment of Bills: F. Coss reported that the document shows everything from June 30, 2011 to today.
- Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrances: W. Mulcahy was concerned that there is already an overage on repairs and maintenance. F. Coss responded that some of the furniture purchases are in that total for lack of a line item to put them in. The costs will be shifted from the repairs and maintenance category to another.

VII. Reports

- Board of Education Chairperson
 - 2011 CABE/CAPSS Convention Pre-Registration: L. Perotti-Verboven recommended that members attend this conference or part of. She would like suggestions for the BOE guidelines for the new board members. She suggested that the meeting agendas be sent out as early as possible and asked for feedback from the members on the agenda before the agenda is posted. Her goal is to get the new members up to speed more quickly.

Board of Education Subcommittees

-Future Meeting Dates:

○ **September 12, 2011:**

- Facility Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H. W. Porter School Conference Room: There will be a facilities tour starting at the LMC.
- Policy Subcommittee Meeting immediately following Facility Subcommittee Meeting, H. W. Porter School Conference Room
- Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting immediately following Policy Subcommittee Meeting, H. W. Porter School Conference Room: J. Thorn would like a copy of the curriculum handbook.

○ **September 19, 2011:**

- Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H. W. Porter School Conference Room: This meeting date will be held, but the meeting may not be necessary.

September 26, 2011:

Bolton Board of Selectmen Special Meeting for Pooled Health Care Presentation by Ovation Benefits, 6:30 p.m., Bolton High School Student Center (Invitees: Columbia Board of Education; Columbia Board of Selectmen; Columbia Financial Planning and Allocation Commission; Bolton Board of Education; Bolton Board of Finance): F. Coss received word from the law firm of Shipman & Goodwin that they will not be able to co-represent the two communities (Bolton & Columbia).

October 3, 2011:

Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., H. W. Porter School Conference Room: This committee will meet before every regular Board meeting.

Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., H. W Porter School Library Media Center

October 11, 2011:

Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H. W. Porter School Conference Room

Facility Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. H. W. Porter School Conference Room

Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting immediately following Policy Subcommittee Meeting, H. W. Porter School Conference Room

October 17, 2011:

Budget Subcommittee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., H. W. Porter School Conference Room: This meeting was moved to October 3, 2011.

Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting immediately following Budget Subcommittee Meeting
H. W. Porter School Conference Room

Superintendent's Report

State of Connecticut Department of Education Division of Finance and Internal Operations
ED001 Report: F. Coss reported that this report has to be submitted in a timely manner.
This report has been completed by Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo.

Revised 2100/2012 Horace W. Porter School Calendar: The February break in 2012 has been reduced to only President's day (2/20/12) as school year started late due to storm Irene.

2011/2012 Horace W. Porter School Staff List:

Pooled health Care: F. Coss reported that the Board has a copy of the presentation to the towns and boards in Columbia and Bolton sent by Ovation Benefits.

IX. Future Agenda items

SRBI Presentation – September Curriculum subcommittee Meeting

Technology Presentation – October Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting: J. Thorn commented that there are some curriculum issues that Marian Lowry, school Technology Specialist, said she would clear up at this meeting. The Board would like to hear from M. Lowry how she goes into the classroom to show how the technology is being used. J. Thorn would like to know how the students are being prepared for learning and about the integration of the technology in the classroom.

W. Mulcahy asked for a report from J. Trask at a future meeting. This will be added to the agenda for the November regular meeting.

N. Petrone suggested an orientation for the new BOE members. This will be added to the agenda for the November 15, 2011 meeting.

There is a retreat for the members planned for January 23, 2012.

X. Columbia Board of Education Member Remarks:

XI. Adjournment: N. Petrone MOVED to ADJOURN the regular meeting of the BOE at 9:13 p.m. L. Jurovaty SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald, Interim Board Clerk

