

## Columbia School Board Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	03/03/2021						
<b>Time</b>	5:30 p.m.						
<b>Location</b>	Columbia Town Offices						
<b>Chairperson</b>	Christopher Brady						
<b>School Board Members</b>							
<b>School Board Members</b>			<b>Principal</b>		<b>SAU Members</b>		
P	Chris Brady	P	Carrie Klebe	E	Kim Wheelock	P	Debra Taylor
P	Stacey Campbell					P	Cheryl Covill

**Roll Call:** Chairman Chris Brady called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**Hearing of the Public:** None

**Reading of the Minutes:**

S. Campbell / C. Klebe: Motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2021.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

**Special Reports:** None

**School Administrator's Report:**

- Reviewed School Administrator's written report.

**Superintendent's Report:** Debra Taylor

- Schools have been in session throughout January and February.
- February 18th a Town Hall Zoom meeting was held on COVID-19 and the vaccine. Approximately 75% of the staff attended.
- Legislative Update:
  - ESSER II grants should be released in the next few weeks.
  - Federal Government is working on releasing ESSER III.
    - Waiting for guidelines to be released
- Curriculum Committee has been working on Competency-Based Education.
- SAU 7 and Canaan are moving forward to hire a Curriculum Coordinator.
- The school boards are reviewing an extension to the Federal Governments' staff leave time based on COVID circumstances. Restoring lost time for staff exposed to COVID.
- Kim Wheelock is taking the lead to develop the "Portrait of a Graduate"

**Business Administrator's Report:** Cheryl Covill

- Audit Report
  - Fothergill, Segale & Valley have submitted the annual audit report for FY 2020.
  - A copy is available at the SAU office if you would like to review the report.

- Annual School District Meeting
  - I met with our IT staff, moderators, school clerk, and Selectmen regarding the layout for our annual meeting and potential voting, if required that night. Justin met with John Shatney last week. John is willing to assist with a sound system that will travel between the Gym and Café.
  - We are staggering rows for single attendees and couples. We can fit 60 singles on the main floor and expect to gain 36 on the bleachers.
  - The town will be working independently for their sound system at the annual meeting on March 9th.
- Legislative Updates – FYI
  - The Governor released his proposed state budget. The proposal includes a provision that would protect school districts from drops in school funding due to the USDA’s paperwork waiver for Free and Reduced Lunch.
  - HB20 - Statewide Voucher Bill. Several thousand people signed on in opposition to the bill. Note: This bill was voted to Retain in Committee.
  - However, Senate Bill 130 “An act relative to education freedom accounts” is nearly identical to the original HB20 and would give families between \$ 3,700 and \$ 8,400 per student per year in taxpayer-funded “Education Freedom Accounts” or vouchers to pay for private school tuition, homeschooling expenses, computers, and other education-related costs. The hearing is scheduled for March 2nd.
  - Concern with costing; what data has the state used to calculate this reimbursement to families?
  - Several bills (SB145, SB158, HB623, HB608) discuss increasing Adequacy Aid for FY 2021 to FY 2022 or similar calculation.
  - HB110 – Will require all Adequacy Aid payments be sent to municipalities not directly to schools.
  - HB243 – Budget line-item determination for funding based on GL line items.
  - SB135 - Hold harmless on Adequacy Aid.
  - ESSER II funding is expecting to roll out within a couple of weeks. The preliminary allocation for Pittsburg is estimated at \$128,404.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

- Distributed handouts for the Annual District Meeting.
- Reviewed the Facility setup for the meeting.
- WW Berry is donating a bus and driver for transportation for the Annual district meeting in Colebrook.
- John Shatney has donated a great deal of time setting up the sound system to accommodate the needs for district meetings.

**Connecticut River Collaborative Committee Update**

- In the process of scheduling a committee meeting next week.
- RHR has been working on the proposed budget for the various models
- Looking at 3 models to present to the committee

**Information:** None

**Other Business:**

- Inquired about the Farm to School vacancy

**Next Meeting Date:**

- Columbia School Board Annual Meeting: March 17, 2021, to be held at the Colebrook Academy & Elementary School cafeteria.

**Adjournment:**

C. Klebe / S. Campbell: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Covill  
Business Administrator

**Adopted 04/07/2021**