

Columbia School Board Meeting Minutes							
Date		2/5/2025					
Time		5:15 p.m.					
Location		Columbia Town Hall					
Chairperson		Stacey Campbell					
School Board Members				Principal		SAU Members	
P	Kristin Brooks	P	Diane Little	E	Kim Wheelock	P	Bridget Cross
P	Stacey Campbell				Assistant Principal	P	Dana Hilliard
				E	Stephanie Cameron		
					CTE Director		
				P	Emilie Hall		
Public Present: Donald Campbell, Eric Stohl, Steve Brooks, Marcia Parkhurst							

Roll Call: Chairman Stacey Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

Hearing of the Public: No comments from the public

Reading of the Minutes:

Kristin Brooks/Diane Little : Motion to approve the minutes of the School Board Meeting of January 7, 2025

VOTE: Motion Carried

Principal Report – Kim Wheelock

February Report – Kim was unable to attend. Dana asked if there were any questions regarding her report. Stacey mentioned that she always provides a great amount of information and it’s appreciated.

Dana did inform the board that he does have data regarding enrollments numbers not only in CTE but all courses offered at CAES. This will be shared upon request.

CTE Report – Emilie Hall

February Report – Emilie asked if the board had any questions about her report. Diane asked what the enrollments were this year for some of the programs. Emilie said she could provide this at the next meeting.

Emilie also stated that she has been going into the classes and meeting with students to provide an overview of the CTE offerings. She said about 50% or more of the students express interest. She’s confident that we will have an increase in enrollments next year. Diane asked what the max amounts are per program. Emilie explained that due to space issues, Automotive can only enroll 5 but that the district can determine the max for the other programs. The school board asked Dana what the status was on the lease for the tech ed building housing the automotive and woodworking programs. Dana said he met with the new owners who have expressed that they will honor the current lease in place. The current lease expires in April 2027. Dana stated that we are trying to create partnerships with community businesses to help “house” our programs as the building expansion project has been turned down twice already.

Emilie is very excited to become the full time CTE Director next year as she is unable to bring all programs to their full potential as a part time Director. She knows if this wasn’t possible, she would be unable to continue it next year.

Superintendent Report – Dana Hilliard

February Report – Dana mentioned that Jennifer Mathieu and himself will be attending college fairs to try to recruit graduating students for teaching position and vacancies that are open in SAU 7 next year. We hope the newsletter will make its way to mailboxes this Friday. We will mail out the ones who don't have their mail distributed from the Colebrook post office. This affects students with a North Stratford zip code. This first newsletter is 15+ pages and has a wealth of information. We will scale the size down for the next newsletter in the Spring. He recommended that the board review the videos from Jamie Vollmer called Schools Cannot Do It Alone. The Title IX lawsuit was repealed, and we must revert back to the 2020 policies. Colebrook SD was unable to adopt the 2024 policies due to being mentioned in the lawsuit. There won't be any change for that school.

Business Manager's Report – Bridget Cross

Bridget notified the board that the tuition rate for Pittsburg has been set. Columbia has one student tuitioned there for the 24-25 school year. The total cost will be \$22,822.

Stacey Campbell/Diane Little : Motion to approve the Special Warrant

VOTE: Motion Carried

Stacey Campbell/Kristin Brooks : Motion to approve the Warrant

VOTE: Motion Carried

Diane Little/Stacey Campbell : Motion to approve the MS 26 Report

VOTE: Motion Carried

Discussion on the Assistant Treasurer – Bridget informed the board that Amanda Dagesse has resigned her position as Assistant Treasurer. The board appointed Eric Stohl to take on this role. Marcia Parkhurst, Town Clerk, swore him in. Bridget will confirm with the Secretary of State that he can serve both the School Moderator role and Assistant Treasurer role.

Next Meeting Date:

Columbia School Board Meeting March 4, 2025 @ 5:15 pm CAES Business Room

Columbia Annual Meeting: Tuesday, March 11 2025 @ 7:15 pm Columbia Town Office

Adjournment:

Diane Little/Stacey Campbell: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 pm.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully Submitted
Bridget Cross

Board Approved: February 4, 2025