

School Board

Members

President – Kevin White
VP – Liz O'Donnell
Clerk – Cindy Damm
Treasurer – Mary Arnold
Bill Braun
Joe Conlin
Mike O'Brien

Board Minutes

Meeting held on **11/09/15**

Information/Discussion:

- Board retreat to be held on 11/10.
- Report on WASB regional meeting on 10/27 held in Baraboo.
- Agriculture dinner to be held on 11/18.
- WASB State School Board Convention registration is open (1/20-1/22)
- Legislative update: letter drafted from Board regarding referendum limitations.
- Governance Process & Board/Superintendent Relations reports due in November.
- Governance Committee meeting held 11/5.
- Superintendent Report: personalized learning, tests embargoed until end of December, Superintendent evaluation to be held 11/23 in closed session.
- Community Engagement: employee food drive, Kids against Hunger (12/5), Holiday Parade (11/27), Holiday Train (12/4), newsletter.
- Policy revisions reviewed.

Action:

- Approved EL-1 Executive Global Constraint and EL-9 Asset Protection reports.
- Approved GP-8E Calendar revisions (changed Ends report dates)

CHS - Safe & Secure

With all the construction that occurred over the summer at Columbus High School and all the dust and grime that covered the hallways and classrooms, things are finally back to normal almost one semester into the school year. The science rooms have been updated and are top-notch, heating and cooling can now be controlled, but the biggest improvement has been the new secure entrance and office area.



It took a couple months for parents, community members, delivery drivers and other visitors to remember where the new entrance was located, but we are finally there and people appreciate the new level of security, let alone how nice the office looks.

The old "main entrance" that had been used since the high school was built did not have a very secure entrance. People coming into the building came to the locked doors and the lock was electronically lifted and then the visitors needed to come into the office, but there was nothing stopping them from going pretty much anywhere in the building. Now with the new location of the office (at the main parking lot entrance) visitors can walk into the vestibule and then the office personnel unlocks the door in order to come into the office. If office personnel don't unlock the doors, there is nowhere for the visitors to go except back outside. Once inside the office we have a new machine that runs a background check on individuals if they are going out into the school for any reason. We request the driver's license and the program runs a quick but thorough background check. If all is OK, the office personnel take the visitor's picture and print out a visitor's pass with the location and time of the visit along with the picture. Without this pass visitors are not allowed into the school. After the background check and visitor's pass is granted, another door must be electronically unlocked for the person to enter the school building. Our office personnel have always done a great job meeting and greeting people now there is a new sense of ownership as well, the safety of everyone in the building

The security and safety of our students and staff have always been a priority, but with the limitations the high school building had to offer, only so much could be done. Now, the safety and security of everyone in the high school building is not only important but is a reality.

Columbus Holiday Train – Opportunities for Giving

The past couple of years, Columbus has been fortunate enough to have the Holiday Train stop and perform on their route across the northern rails of the United States and Canada. With the help of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Columbus recreation department, the Columbus-Fall River food pantry, and every business that donated, the Holiday Train was a great success in drawing people to Columbus for a splendid night of cheer.

While people waited patiently for the train to make its appearance, the Columbus-Fall River food pantry collected monetary donations and food items with the help of students and faculty of the Columbus and Fall River school districts alongside the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Also, members of the Columbus High School choirs directed by Mark Lefeber, were singing Christmas songs with the local band Convoy. After the wonderful performance by the musicians of the Holiday Train, the food and money collected by volunteers added up to a very successful amount of \$659 and four pickup loads of nonperishable food items.

Written by Adam Sydow

Sensory Playground Equipment

Columbus Elementary and Discovery Charter Schools were fortunate to receive one of the Columbus Education Endowment grants awarded last year. Our goal was to add handicap accessible play structures to provide multisensory input for students on the new CES 4K-1 playground.

We used the \$800 grant to purchase the Thunder Wall because it provided functional play options and fit nicely with the nature theme of the school's new play area. The wall has textures, reflection, and sound providing tactile and auditory input for the children that use it.

The new CES 4K-1 playground has proven itself to be a big hit with all of the students, not just those in 4K-1. The original intent

was to have handicap accessible items for sensory and imaginative play for the younger students of our school community; however, students in all grades have spent time in the new play areas discovering other ways to play at recess. The thunder wall has provided a place for all students to have sensory feedback while playing.

Thank you Columbus Education Endowment for this grant that allowed us to provide handicap accessible play areas for all of our students.



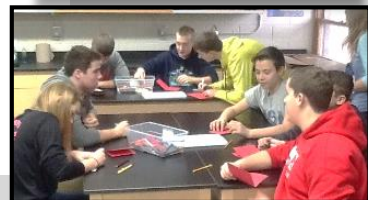
Second Year of State Required Testing

As mid-school year approaches, people are already thinking ahead to warmer weather and the spring of the year. With spring, comes the second year of the state mandated ACT and WorkKeys testing for all juniors across the state of Wisconsin. This year all CHS juniors will be again taking the ACT test at Fireman's Pavilion as a group on March 1. The pavilion is large enough to house the entire junior class while still allowing the other three grades to function normally.

WorkKeys is the other state mandated test for all juniors that assesses skills needed for work. All juniors will be taking WorkKeys on March 2 during our normally scheduled late start, so no one else will be in the building for a quiet atmosphere. Spring means the school year is almost complete, but for the juniors, there are still some major assessments that will be administered.

Community Connections

In December:



- Columbus High School (CHS) students created Christmas cards for area nursing home residents.
- Fifth Grade students at Columbus Middle School collected Toys for Tots for area children.
- CHS students and faculty participation in the Holiday Train activities (singing), and Food Pantry collection.
- Columbus & Fall River students worked together on the Rotary / Interact Club Kids Against Hunger packaging meals activity.
- Band and Choir students marched in the Holiday Parade, performed at the Holiday Train, and sang for the Rotary Club meeting.

Board Minutes

11/09/15 Meeting continued

Consent Agenda approvals:

- Accepted donation of \$1,000 from FFA & FFA Alumni for landscaping at new CHS front entry. McKay Nursery & Jahnke Company assisted students.

Retreat held on **11/10/15**

Discussion:

Communication from/with Board was theme of retreat:

- Newsletter distribution
- Linkages – external / dates
- Board policy review B/SR-1, 2; GP-1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 11

We Need Substitutes

Support Staff Substitutes

- ☐ **custodians** (begin after 3 PM)
- ☐ **teacher assistants** (ESP) (7:45-3:45)
- ☐ **food service** (hours vary)

Rate of pay is **\$12/hour**.

Application forms available at 200 West School Street, Columbus, or apply online at www.columbus.k12.wi.us (Administration/Job Openings).

Teacher Substitutes

- ☐ **substitute teachers** for all three buildings. Applications must be completed online; to apply, go to <http://services.education.wisc.edu/wecan>

A background check will be completed.

COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



Fifth Grade students collected Toys for Tots for area children.

January, 2016

Message from Superintendent

As we enjoy a winter break and time with family and friends, I wanted to take a moment and express my gratitude for allowing me to become a member of the Columbus Community. I knew from the first moment I drove into town, Columbus was a special place. As I have begun my tenure as superintendent, I have been most impressed by the way the schools and the community have interacted to provide services to the residents of Columbus.

Whether it is the booster clubs organizing fund raising events for our athletic teams and music program or the FFA Alumni and Ag Community gathering for a dinner to talk about the future of Ag Education in Columbus, the community demonstrates again and again the importance of our students' experiences and successes. Hopefully, the community has felt the appreciation through the efforts of our students and staff as they have: collected food for the food pantry at school and at the Holiday Train, performed in the Holiday parade and at the Holiday Train, created Christmas cards for our senior citizens, and packaged over 35,000 meals to be distributed locally and world-wide.

As we begin 2016, I welcome discussion regarding new ideas and opportunities to create partnerships with the school and businesses or organizations of Columbus. Happy 2016!

Go Cards!

ANNETTE DEUMAN



Collaborating with Fall River Students

More than 100 students from Columbus and Fall River gathered in the CHS cafeteria to package meals destined for children around the world. Over 35,000 meals made of rice, dehydrated vegetables and other foods were prepared.

The meals will be sent to villages in Nicaragua as well as used locally.



High School Musical "The Drowsy Chaperone"

The high school is continuing its musical theatre tradition this March with a production of the hilarious 'musical within a comedy'—*The Drowsy Chaperone*. The first read-through of the show had the cast getting together just before winter break to look at the show, and rehearsals began the first day back to school in the new year.

The show begins with a narrator (Mina Kianovsky) talking with the audience. She puts on a record, also titled *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and transports us back to the 1920s. The show progresses on to mix in two lovers on the eve of their wedding (Kyla Peterson & Ike Glasbrenner), a bumbling best man (Isaac Schepp), a desperate theatre producer (Michael Rowe), a not so bright hostess (Sophi Genco), an underappreciated butler (Adam Sydow), two gangsters posing as pastry chefs (Kayci Womack & Lauren Kirchberg), an Amelia Earhart-style aviatrix (Stephanie Njeru), a misguided Don Juan (Devan Jordan), and the drowsy chaperone (Caralea Grant). *The Drowsy Chaperone* is full of throwbacks to the "Golden Age of Musicals." It has fun with the style perfected by the likes of Rodgers & Hammerstein, Cole Porter, Meredith Wilson, Irving Berlin, & many others from the era. The show was the winner of 5 Tony Awards during its first year on Broadway in 2006 (including Best Book, and Best Original Score). It is hailed by New York Magazine as "The Perfect Broadway Musical".

The show will have over 30 actors, a pit orchestra of around 15 members, as well as students helping back stage, with set construction, costume design, hair & makeup. Performances will be held at Columbus High School March 18 & 19 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, March 20 at 2:00 PM. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. Tickets will be available at the CHS Office, by calling the CHS "Box Office" and leaving a message 920-623-5956 x2849, or emailing tickets@columbus.k12.wi.us.

Learning Today, *Leading Tomorrow*

Upcoming Events

January, 2016

- 1 Vacation – NO SCHOOL
- 4 Classes resume
- 6 School Board Retreat – Superintendent's Office – 6:30 PM
- 11 School Board Meeting – Columbus High School Library – 7 PM
- 13 Late Start Day; classes begin at 10 AM
- 15 End of Quarter/Semester
- 16 Jazz Cabaret at CHS
- 18 In-Service Day – NO SCHOOL
- 22 Spelling Bee at Columbus Middle School
- 25 School Board Meeting – Columbus High School Library – 7 PM

February, 2016

- 3 Late Start Day; classes begin at 10 AM
- 8 Parent/Teacher Conferences – NO SCHOOL



CHS Athletic Events for Freshmen, Junior Varsity, and Varsity athletes can be found at www.columbus.k12.wi.us (link on right side of page.)

GO CARDINALS!



Mission

Columbus School District empowers students to be community, career, and college ready.

Vision

Create a global learning experience in rural Wisconsin.