

## COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, December 4, 2018  
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

### MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Lincoln White, Craig Kieny, Curt Taylor and Lindsey Cox; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli; and Principals Heather Baron and Michele Cote.

There were 3 audience members.

#### **I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **II. Citizen Participation**

None.

#### **III. Report from Building Principals**

#### **Information**

CMS Principal Michele Cote shared that the faculty is working to help kids understand bullying and its consequences. To encourage positivity, the school is using the month of December to focus on kindness. Teachers have been leading activities every morning in small groups to give back to the community. This week students are making wreaths filled with kind messages to distribute to local businesses.

CHS Principal Heather Baron and some of her faculty participated in a regional gallery showcasing the school's personalized learning plans. She said it was helpful to have the opportunity to see how other schools are achieving personalization and talk about the successes and challenges of their different processes. Principal Baron also explained the postcards hanging in the library where the meeting was taking place held. She explained that before Thanksgiving break, each faculty member chose a photo that illustrates a highlight from the year and wrote why they chose it on the back. The cards were hung in the library as a way to showcase them to students.

#### **IV. Flexible Pathways at CHS Presentation**

#### **Information**

CHS Principal Heather Baron along with School Counselor Bob Hall and English Teacher Hillary Carter gave the board an update on Act 77, also known as Flexible Pathways to Graduation. Mr. Hall went over Act 77's seven requirements, all of which CHS was already doing before the act was implemented. In the four years since the Act was passed, CHS has increased and evolved what the school offers to students. Previously, flexible pathways were explored on a case by case basis whereas now there are fully integrated into each student's education. The school offers multiple pathways for students to engage in independent learning opportunities. Hillary Carter and recent

CHS graduate Grace Carroll showcased one of the opportunities offered, the Laker Learning Lab (L3). L3 is an opportunity for students to turn their ideas, passions, and experiences into a personalized learning experience. L3 is unique because it is not scheduled in a classic class or mod format; its timing is flexible which allows students to work it into their individual schedule. The breakdown of traditional structures allows all students to take advantage of the opportunity, making it more equitable. Students are supported by an advisor who helps them refine their proposals, set personal and academic goals, and identify and access resources.

Grace Carroll, now a student at Middlebury College, used L3 last year to become certified in Google Analytics. Ms. Carroll stated it helped her regulate her schedule and set goals on her own which prepared her for college. Director Kieny asked Ms. Carroll if she benefited more from what she learned or the process of how she learned it. Ms. Carroll stated it was too difficult to choose which was more important and said, “we are always learning how to learn”. L3 gave her the tools to continue her learning. Director Cox asked Ms. Carroll to compare L3 to an Advanced Placement course. Ms. Carroll stated that AP courses are geared more toward rigor and content while L3 was more situational and focused on the process.

Board Chair Rogers asked Mr. Hall how he attracts students who do not have a lot of drive or interested in getting engaged. Mr. Hall stated they focus on providing a plethora of options and encourage the student to pursue a natural interest. He said what some students a lot of the work is teaching them how to learn in the first place.

Director White shared that when he went to school there were many kids waiting to do what they wanted to do until after the school day. He was impressed by L3 because it allows students to explore those things during the school day in a focused manner under the guidance of advisors.

**V. FY’20 Budget Presentation and Discussion** **Information**

The Central Office Administrative Team gave the board an overview of the early stages of the FY’20 budget. Superintendent Minor highlighted steady enrollment in most schools and shared that they expect another increase in enrollment and class size at the middle school. Business and Operations Manager George Trieb provided the board with the baseline budget figures and assumptions. The board asked several clarifying questions. The baseline budget is projected to have an overall increase of 4.29% or \$1.7M. This is largely impacted by a compensation increase of 3.02%, benefits increase of 6.55%, and remaining increases of 5.85%. Superintendent Minor went over the requests that came from building principals. The Central Office Administrative Team prioritized those requests into three different priority columns. Among the top priorities are maintaining current staffing levels; adding 2 FTEs for core teachers, one in grade 7 and one in grade 8; adding 2 FTEs for instructional coaches at CMS and CHS; adding 1.5 FTEs for the English Learner Program; and adding \$50,000 to the CSD Food Services Program. The board engaged in a general discussion about the priorities and asked for additional information, including the financial impact of adding any or all of the proposed items, to be prepared for the next meeting.

**VI. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda** **Action**

There was no Personnel Consent Agenda for December 4, 2018.

**VII. Approval of Minutes: November 20, 2018 – Executive Session** **Action**

*Director Taylor moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of November 20, 2018, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**VIII. Approval of Minutes: November 20, 2018 – General Session** **Action**

*Director Kienny moved to approve the General Session minutes of November 20, 2018, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**IX. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports** **Information**

- The VT Secretary of Education is scheduled to visit CHS on December 10<sup>th</sup>
- A Communication Survey recently went out to families.
- Green Lantern notified the district that there has been an issue with the land to be used for the solar project leading to a six-month delay until spring when the ground thaws.
- Director Taylor sat in on two math classes at UMS. He was impressed with the teachers and their instructional ability.

**X. Possible Future Agenda Items** **Information**

**Future Meetings:**

- Budget Discussions
- Discipline Policies
- District Nursing Report
- AOE Integrated Field Review

**XI. Adjournment**

*Director Cox made a motion to enter Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue, grievance, as well as a student matter, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

*Director Kienny made a motion to exit Executive Session at 9:48 p.m., seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

*Director Cox made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m., seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

Recorder:

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Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

  
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Craig Kienny  
Board Clerk