

## COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, April 15, 2008  
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular Board meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at the Colchester High School Library. Those in attendance were: Chair, Dirk Reith; Directors: Dan Carver, Mike Rogers, and Paul Smith; Student Representative Jessica Guter; Superintendent, Larry Waters; Business and Operations Manager, George Trieb; Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Gwen Carmolli; Director of Special Education, Carrie Lutz; Principals: Amy Minor, John Barone, Barbara Nason, Jim Marshall, Chris Antonicci; and 5 members of the community.

### MINUTES (General Session)

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

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

#### **II. Act on Minutes of April 1, 2008**

Director Dan Carver moved, seconded by Director Mike Rogers to approve the minutes of April 1, 2008 as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **III. Citizen Participation**

Colchester Middle School Teacher Damien Dulude, wanted to comment on article IX, and stress the importance of having an in-depth Drug Search and Seizure policy.

#### **IV. School Board Communication, Committee Reports, Correspondence**

Superintendent, Larry Waters asked the Board for its support in developing an Energy Efficiency Policy. The Board discussed creating an environment at Colchester that was conducive to "Being Green," and agreed that developing a policy regarding energy efficiency was an important step in that process. He also informed the Board that two finalists have been chosen for the Colchester Middle School Principal position, and the candidates need to be interviewed by the Board.

Chair Dirk Reith wanted to thank the principals, staff, and administrators for running a superb School District.

#### **V. Quarterly Financial Report**

Business and Operations Manager, George Trieb discussed the current trends versus fiscal year 06/07, and noted that we are tracking right in-line with last year. Total commitments to this point are 85.9% vs. 86.1% to this point last year. Mr. Trieb continued by saying he is happy with where we stand for Fiscal Year 07/08.

**VI. Discuss Daniel Pink Video -“A Whole New Mind”**

The Board discussed the pros and cons to the “A Whole New Mind” video. Chair Dirk Reith wanted to stress the importance of “melding the two sides of the mind”. The Board agreed that while nurturing the right side of the brain, the left side can’t go unattended. Director Dan Carver added that Differentiated Instruction is leading us down the right path, teaching Colchester School District students to be critical thinkers. The Board thinks that it would be beneficial for the people of the town to see this video, to help show the ever changing learning environment that is necessary to stay competitive in today’s economy.

**VII. Hear Update on Homework Committee**

UMS Principal Chris Antonicci, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Gwen Carmolli provided the Board with a complete overview of the policy. In studying the different homework practices throughout the district, the Committee found that there is very little consistency from teacher to teacher. The Homework Committee used two texts (Battle Over Homework and The Homework Myth) to build CSD’s homework policy and procedures. The document looks at homework from different aspects: frequency and duration, differentiation, grading, missed assignments, communication, and responsibilities (teacher, student, parents, and administration). This document is in draft form and is expected to be finalized in May.

**VIII. Hear and Discuss High School’s NECAP Scores**

Colchester High School Principal Amy Minor reviewed the NECAP scores for current 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Conversations focused on the math section, CHS reading and writing scores were very comparable to state and regional scores. CHS is turning these low test scores into a positive, using this to look at GLE’s and Curriculum and ensuring everything is being taught, and being taught before NECAP testing. Superintendent, Larry Waters wanted to remind the Board that Adequate Yearly Performance from the D.O.E. is still more important than NECAP.

**IX. Hear and Discuss Drug Search and Seizures Guidelines in Schools**

Superintendent, Larry Waters informed the Board that he has had conversations with the Colchester Police Department about having drug dogs search CMS and CHS for drugs. Director Paul Smith wanted to know if there was something that brought this on. Superintendent Waters told the Board that there was a dog in CMS and the dog smelled multiple areas. The goal of this is to see how big of a problem drugs are on CSD campuses. Superintendent, Larry Waters discussed how he would like this process to work; he has been in close contact with CSD’s attorney. Mr. Waters continued to stress the importance of finding out the magnitude of the problem at CSD and allowing us to get help for the students involved, and see what is driving them to drugs. Director Mike Rogers asked if the facilities committee would be willing to consider installing security cameras in the parking lot at CHS? Mr. Waters agreed that cameras should be looked at as an option.

**X. Act on Personnel Consent Agenda**

Superintendent Waters presented the following consent agenda

**Personnel Consent Agenda**

**Dated: April 15, 2008**

**ADMINISTRATOR**

NEW HIRES:

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

RESIGNATIONS:

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> | <b><u>Effective Date</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|

LEAVE REQUEST:

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

**TEACHER**

NEW HIRES:

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

RESIGNATIONS:

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> | <b><u>Effective Date</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
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|                 |             |     |          |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|----------|
| Laura Sommariva | Mathematics | CHS | 06/30/08 |
|-----------------|-------------|-----|----------|

NON-RENEWAL

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> | <b><u>Effective Date</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|

CHANGE IN FULL TIME EQUIVALENCY:

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

|              |                                       |     |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Rachel Howes | Alternative Program Teacher .5 to 1.0 | CAP |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----|

LEAVE REQUEST:

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> | <b><u>Admin Support</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|

|                |                                  |     |     |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Ginger Epstein | Health Teacher                   | CMS | No  |
| Mona Tapia     | Elementary Teacher               | PPS | Yes |
| Terry Ferland  | Special Education Teacher .5 FTE | PPS | No  |
| Meghan Kelley  | Spanish Teacher .8 FTE           | CMS | Yes |

**CO-CURRICULAR**

CONTRACT OFFER:

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

|             |                         |     |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Joe Johnson | "B" Team Baseball Coach | CMS |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----|

RESIGNATIONS:

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
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**SUPPORT STAFF**

LEAVE REQUEST

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Building</u></b> | <b><u>Admin. Support</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|

**POSITION DESCRIPTION(S)**

## SUPPORT STAFF INFORMATION

### NEW HIRES

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Building</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|

### RESIGNATIONS

| <u>Name</u>      | <u>Position</u>         | <u>Building</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Justine Cuce     | Instructional Assistant | CMS             |
| Daniel Trosclair | Computer Lab Monitor    | CHS             |

### TERMINATIONS

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Building</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|

### CHANGES

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------|

Director Mike Rogers moved, seconded by Director Dirk Reith to accept the personnel consent agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously

### **XI. Hear Possible Future Agenda Items**

- Homework Policy and Guidelines (May)
- Search and Seizures Policy Review with Attorney
- Board Interviews with CMS Candidates
- Scheduling School Board Retreats

### **XII. Adjourn**

Director Paul Smith moved, seconded by Director Dirk Reith to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

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Mark Ellingson  
Reporting Secretary

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Paul Smith