

## COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Central Office Conference Room  
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, December 4, 2007  
5:30 p.m. (Work Session)  
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a Board meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 in the Central Office conference room. Those in attendance were: Chair, Dirk Reith; Directors: Mike Rogers, Dick Pecor, and Paul Smith; Superintendent, Larry Waters; Colchester High School Principal Amy Minor; Colchester High School Assistant Principal Michael Clark, parents and student.

### MINUTES (Work Session)

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Reith called the meeting (work session) to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **II. Hear and Discuss a Student Matter (Anticipated Executive Session)**

Chair Reith moved, seconded by Director Pecor to enter Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. to hear and discuss a student matter. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Smith moved, seconded by Director Pecor to exit executive session at 6:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **III. Action as a Result of Executive Session**

Director Pecor moved, seconded by Chair Reith to accept the Superintendent's recommendation in regards to the student matter. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Adjourn**

Director Pecor moved, seconded by Chair Reith to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at the Colchester High School Library. Those in attendance were: Chair, Dirk Reith; Directors: Dick Pecor, Dan Carver (arrived @ 8:05 p.m. during budget discussion), 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; Principals: Amy Minor, John Barone, Barbara Nason, Jim Marshall, Chris Antonicci and seven 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 November 27th, 2007**

Director Dick Pecor moved, seconded by Director Mike Rogers to approve the minutes (General, and Work Session) of November 27, 2007. Motion passed 4-0.

## **III. Citizen Participation**

None

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

Superintendent, Larry Waters informed the Board that Colchester was the only school district open in Chittenden County, and one of the very few open in the state due to the snow storm on Monday, December 3. The decision to have a snow day must be made by 6:00 a.m. Business and Operations Manager George Trieb called the Town of Colchester to determine the road conditions. Mr. Waters continued to say this decision was a difficult one, and it has led him to reevaluate the protocol that goes into determining whether or not to call a snow day. There were no traffic incidents, and the majority of feedback from parents was positive. The Board agreed that keeping school open was the correct decision.

## **V. Update from Facilities Committee on UMS Septic/Sewer Analysis**

Superintendent, Larry Waters requested approval from the Board for a \$6,000.00 study looking at the possible options for the septic systems at UMS. Mr. Waters continued by stating that there are four options for the future of the septic system at UMS: 1) replace the current septic system within the school, 2) connect to a South Burlington sewer line, 3) build a new system on Colchester Recreation Department land at Village Park. and 4) do nothing. The Board wants to move quickly on this issue. Director Dick Pecor moved, seconded by Director Mike Rogers to authorize spending up to \$6,000.00 on a study regarding the septic system at UMS.

## **VI. Hear Core Budget Discussion**

Business and Operations Manager, George Trieb prepared two documents: one discussing the assumptions that go into getting a core budget at a 7.88 % increase over the 07/08 budget and the second document discussing enrollment numbers. Mr. Trieb looked at some of the factors pushing the increase in the budget such as electric cost increasing 12%, being one of the largest contributors, stating that more time needs to go into looking at alternative forms of energy. Other alternatives would include purchasing new boilers; the boiler at CMS is only running at 62% efficiency, where as a new boiler would be running at around 92% efficiency.

Superintendent, Larry Waters looked at other numbers affecting the budget, including Net Equalized Pupils which has decreased by 1.45% approximately 30 students, decreasing the revenue that CSD will see next year. Common level of appraisals in Colchester is down from 81.07% to 72%, causing an increase in property taxes next year, possibly causing the community to be more cautious of a CSD budget increase. Superintendent Waters continued to look at enrollment numbers, putting the largest emphasis on all day kindergarten, and first grade. He is forecasting 150 students in all day kindergarten, and 126 in first grade (recapturing between 10 and 20 students that didn't enroll in the kindergarten program last year). The Board agreed that forecasting a recapture of all the students that didn't enroll in kindergarten last year would be a mistake. Superintendent, Larry Waters asked the Board to give him a number that they would like the budget to be at when it was presented to the public.

The Board agreed that they didn't want to move down from the proposed 7.88%, seeing that none of the administrators had put in their requests for additional programs, or needs at their schools. Director Mike Rogers stated that Colchester School District must continue to grow and be a leading school district when it comes to educating students. The Board and Superintendent, Larry Waters agreed that the budget that goes to the public during the week of December 10<sup>th</sup> will not be called the "Superintendent's Recommended Budget," but it would stand at a 7.88% increase.

**VII. Act on Personnel Consent Agenda**

There is no Personnel consent agenda at this time.

**VIII. Hear Possible Future Agenda Items**

- **Planning for upcoming budget hearings**
- **Discussion about the Article Fund**
- **School choice with Winooski**
- **School Calendar - 09**

**IX. Adjourn**

Director Paul Smith moved, seconded by Director Mike Rogers to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

---

Mark Ellingson  
Reporting Secretary

---

Michael Rogers