

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, December 20, 2011
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 in the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were: Board Chair, Dirk Reith, Directors: Dick Pecor, Steve Cormier, and Christine Shepard. Student Board Member: Emily Berry. Superintendent, Larry Waters; Business and Operations Manager, George Trieb; Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Gwen Carmolli; Director of Special Education, Carrie Lutz. Principals: Julie Benay, Dawn Gruss, Jim Marshall and Amy Minor. Absent: Director Paul Smith; Principal Chris Antonicci. There were 4 members of the community in attendance.

MINUTES (General Session)

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Dirk Reith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Dirk Reith led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2011

Director Dick Pecor moved to approve the minutes for December 6, 2011, seconded by Director Christine Shepard. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Citizen Participation

A citizen returned seeking to follow up on the status of Act 62. Superintendent Waters reviewed that Act 62 is still on the board's agenda, seeing as it is in the middle of the budget process. Carolyn Reilly reminded the board that the State will need to know if Colchester is interested in the program by the beginning of January 2012.

V. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports

Superintendent Waters reviewed the different activities which occurred in observance of Veteran's Day at MBS and CMS. Additionally, Principals Benay and Gruss announced the approval of grants at CMS and MBS which will be used to purchase laptops and a laptop cart. This money will aid in CMS's writer project as well as technology and literacy initiatives. Principal Minor reviewed the approval of grant money from the VT Principal's Association which will go towards sustainable composting efforts. Principal Marshall invited the board and community members to a holiday concert.

Superintendent Waters provided an update on the Technology Committee and its task of choosing themes for future development. Additionally, he announced three trial spots at CMS for Virtual Middle School Program.

Director Dick Pecor spoke of a program from Comcast which provides students who qualify for Free and Reduced lunch with computers at a reduced rate.

VI. Hear Information Regarding Colchester High School Athletic Eligibility

Principal Minor and Athletic Director Bernie Ceplicki provided information regarding athletic eligibility at CHS. Athletic Director Ceplicki reviewed the process used to determine eligibility for fall, winter and spring sports. He reviewed how eligibility is earned, as well as athletes who earn an incomplete grade. Principal Minor reviewed the appeal process for student-athletes at CHS. Assistant Principal Tim Emery reviewed the procedures at other Chittenden County schools regarding eligibility.

All information regarding Academic Eligibility at CHS can be found within the Student/Parent Athletic Handbook for 2011-2012

VII. Colchester Alternative Program (CAP) Update

Special Education Director Carrie Lutz reviewed the process in examining alternatives to the current CAP location with the CAP committee. The CAP committee includes administrators and CAP faculty. After meeting as a committee, Carrie met and reviewed the needs and expectations of the program with R. Gardner from Gardner Associates. In addition, they toured the Garvin School and its layout in order to glean additional information in constructing an alternative program. Gardner created a sketch up of a possible layout to meet as many needs as possible. Ideally, the new space would house the current alternative program, possible “out of district” placements, and potentially community-based programs. A discussion followed.

VIII. FY’13 Baseline Budget–Second Draft Report

Superintendent Waters provided his first recommended budget for FY’13. The recommended budget has been reduced by \$100,000 from the December 6, 2011 meeting. The current budget is \$32,856,065 with a 2.9% increase and a dollar change of \$922,483 from 2011-2012. The CLA is 97.59% with a Base Amount per Pupil at \$8,723.

The next steps in the budget process is to gather community input; determine if more reductions or additions are needed; and, wait to see if any legislative changes regarding tax rate and base amounts occur.

A discussion regarding Act 62 followed including comments from the board, community members and school district administrators. The board asked Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz to gather additional information and return to the board.

IX. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

Superintendent Waters presented the following consent agenda:

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

Board Date: December 20, 2011

Board Date	Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Rationale	Admin Support
12/20/11	Support Staff	Kasandra	Fratini	New Hire	Paraeducator-SPED	32.5 hrs	UMS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Student Need	Yes

Director Christine Shepard moved to approve the personnel consent agenda for December 20, 2011, seconded by Director Steve Cormier. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Possible Future Agenda Items

- Superintendent's Recommended Budget (round 2)
- Public Input in Budget FY'13
- Bullying and Harassment Policies
- Action Plans K-12
- Revenues and Fund Balance
- New Approach to Drug Policy Violations
- Search and Seizure Policy Update
- Andros Field Trip for 2013
- CAP Recommendation

XI. Executive Session: Discuss Negotiations

Director Steve Cormier moved, seconded by Director Christine Shepard, to adjourn general session and move to executive session at 8:36 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Dick Pecor moved, seconded by Director Christine Shepard, to exit executive session at 9:24 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

Director Steve Cormier moved, seconded by Director Christine Shepard, to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

Rachel Howes
Reporting Secretary

Paul Smith
Board Clerk