

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Central Office Conference Room
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
6:00 p.m. (Executive Session)
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held an executive session board meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 in the Central Office Conference Room. Those in attendance were: Board Chair: Dirk Reith; Directors: Steve Cormier, Dick Pecor and Paul Smith; Superintendent Larry Waters, Principal Dawn Gruss and Assistant Principal Dovid Yagoda. Absent: Director Christine Shepard.

MINUTES (Executive Session)

Board Chair Dirk Reith called the executive session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Director Dick Pecor moved, seconded by Director Paul Smith to enter executive session at 6:01 p.m. for a student discipline hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Dick Pecor moved, seconded by Director Steve Cormier to exit executive session at 6:49 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Dick Pecor moved, seconded by Director Steve Cormier to support the Administration's recommendation with regard to a student discipline matter. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Paul Smith moved, seconded by Director Dick Pecor to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. and reconvene the Board meeting in the Colchester High School Media Center. Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 in the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were: Board Chair: Dirk Reith, Directors: Dick Pecor, Steve Cormier, Christine Shepard and Paul Smith. 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: Chris Antonicci, Dawn Gruss, Jim Marshall and Amy Minor. Absent: Principal Julie Benay. There were 14 members of the community in attendance

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: January 17 & 24, 2012

Director Christine Shepard moved to approve the minutes for January 17 & 24, 2012, seconded by Director Steve Cormier. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Citizen Participation

No citizen participation.

V. School Board Communication, Committee Reports & Correspondence

Superintendent Larry Waters announced that Principal Antonicci had a PTO meeting and would be tardy. Additionally, Principal Benay had a health related issue and was also absent.

Superintendent Waters referenced a Burlington Free Press article which addressed concerns regarding inaccurate recording of minutes at BFA St. Albans and the Northwest Technical Center board meetings. Superintendent Waters believes CSD minutes are detailed, professional and respects confidentiality at all levels.

Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz reviewed the upcoming technology in-service on March 5, 2012. There are morning and afternoon workshops with a keynote speaker at lunchtime. The format allows workshops the time and opportunities for teachers to “play” with the programs. The breadth and depth of the day is impressive. A website is being used for the teachers to choose their sessions.

Superintendent Waters addressed concerns regarding polling for the presidential election and availability at Union Memorial School. Voting at this location is undesirable due to the fact that it would interfere with the school day. This would mean school at UMS would be cancelled, and hence all schools in the district. His recommendation is to hold school on that day and ask the town to find an alternative polling place. The board is in agreement.

Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz reviewed the estimated cost for the Colchester Alternative Program and Educational Annex Building. The estimate is \$748,000 which includes total building cost and allowances including septic; parking/paving; alarm system; sprinkler system; and flooring. It was unattainable to get this on the ballot in March. The next conceivable vote would be in November. The board encourages the district to move forward regarding these plans. The board would like to see a full package of information.

Superintendent Waters addressed Act 62 and whether it is necessary to put information out to the public regarding the board’s position. The board feels it is important the community knows and understands its position and reasoning behind their decision regarding Act 62. This will be accessible on the district’s website and blog.

Business and Operations Manager Trieb reviewed information regarding budget increases and tax increases. Additionally, he reviewed the fiscal year 2012 education tax rate components including the base amount per pupil (\$8,544), homestead tax base rate (\$0.87), per equalized pupil spending (\$11,625), net equalized pupils (\$2,159) and the Common Level Appraisal components (99.67%). He also provided the board with price sensitivity information. He will go into further detail when the camera is present.

VI. Colchester Middle School Program Update

Principal Dawn Gruss introduced the leadership team at CMS: Carol Smith, Aubrey Garrison, Jen Roberge, Kara Pawlusiak, Marianne Nealy, Peg Gillard, and Dovid Yagoda. The focus at CMS this year encompassed climate & culture, academic rigor & relevance, and data-driven decision making.

In regards to climate & culture, there are three main focuses including a shift in the planning room focus; building a new system of social-emotional-behavioral supports to research-based best practices; and utilizing a shared leadership model. CMS is enhancing its culture with a new rally song, motivational videos, Luther the therapy dog, and CMS News. In regards to the community, there are new clubs, community service outreaches, Hurricane Irene donations and continued TA connections.

In regards to academic rigor and relevance, there are CAT Teams which pursue 6-8 curriculum mapping; KUD development; Berlin City Grant for Netbooks; and increasing fiduciary responsibility and accountability.

In regards to Data-Driven Decision, CMS has built a system of data-driven decision making points; reviews data in ways which are SMART (specific, meaningful, achievable, relevant, and time-bound); and, uses literacy and math data to begin to identify classroom and school-wide trends.

At CMS, actions require intentionality! The future at CMS includes action planning; building a Behavioral System aligned with a theoretical framework and is research based; continued KUD development; and, maintaining inclusion opportunities.

VII. Hear and Act on First Reading of Bullying Prevention Policy

Superintendent Waters presented the first reading of Bullying Prevention Policy. The policy has been reviewed by the district's attorney to ensure it is up to date and in compliance with new regulations. At this time, it no longer matters *where* the bullying occurs if it interferes with a student's learning. Schools continue to be held accountable and required to respond to all cases. The new policy provides our administrators with the support to recognize and respond to bullying incidents. Superintendent Waters reviewed the new language and intent. A lengthy discussion followed regarding how investigations occur at the schools and the increase in frequency due to mobile devices.

Director Christine Shepard moved to approve the first reading of Bullying Prevention Policy, seconded by Director Steve Cormier. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Hear and Act on First Reading of Search and Seizure Policy

Superintendent Waters presented the first reading of Search and Seizure Policy. With the significant increase in drug violations on campus and with vehicles, the district believes it necessary to have this policy reviewed. There is only one small change.

Director Dick Pecor moved to approve the first reading of Search and Seizure Policy, seconded by Chairman Dirk Reith. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Approval of iPad Purchases for K-5

Superintendent Waters presented information regarding the purchase of eighty iPads to distribute throughout the district at the K-5 level for teachers to integrate into their classrooms and use technology with students. This recommendation is supported by our new Vision/Strategic Plan.

Director Dick Pecor moved to accept the recommendation to purchase the iPads for the K-5 schools and authorize the Business and Operations Manager to execute the necessary documents to make this happen, seconded by Director Christine Shepard. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Approval of Library Software Purchase

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb presented information regarding the need for new library software. The current Follett software is approximately ten years old and it is time to upgrade district wide. The new software will seamlessly communicate with Power School. The cost of the software is \$19,870 with additional expenditures of approximately \$6,300 for new computers for each school. This was a known budgeted item.

Director Christine Shepard moved to accept the recommendation to purchase the library software and replacement computers and authorize the Business and Operations Manager to execute the necessary documents to make this happen, seconded by Director Steve Cormier. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Personnel Consent Agenda

Superintendent Waters presented the following consent agenda:

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA**Board Date: February 7, 2012**

Board Date	Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Rationale	Admin Support
02/07/12	Support Staff	Ethan	Kichura	New Hire	Paraeducator	30 hrs	MBS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Student Need	Yes
02/07/12	Support Staff	Joseph	Badger	Transfer	Custodian	40 hrs	CHS	Notice of Transfer	Fay Pelletier	Fay went to Lead	Yes
02/07/12	Support Staff	Nicole	George	Leave of Absence	Paraeducator	32.5	UMS	Approval for Leave of Absence Est. 3/23/2012 - end of year			Yes

Director Dick Pecor moved to approve the personnel consent agenda for February 7, 2012, seconded by Chairman Dirk Reith. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Possible Future Agenda Items

- Tax Rate & Income Tax Sensitivity
- NECAP Results in Reading/Math – Fall 2011
- Harassment Policies
- Action Plans K-12
- New Approach to Drug Policy Violations
- Andros Field Trip for 2013
- Regional Calendar Review

XIII. Adjournment

Director Steve Cormier moved, seconded by Director Christine Shepard, to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

Rachel Howes
Reporting Secretary

Paul Smith
Board Clerk