

## COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Library

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

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at the Colchester High School Library. Those in attendance were: Board Chair, Dirk Reith, Directors: Steve Cormier, Dick Pecor 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: Christ Antonicci, Julie Benay, Dawn Gruss, Jim Marshall, and Amy Minor. There were 25 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: September 6, 2011**

Director Dick Pecor moved to approve the minutes for September 6, 2011, seconded by Director Steve Cormier. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Citizen Participation**

There was no citizen participation.

#### **V. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports**

Superintendent Larry Waters reviewed the work of the Vision Plan and the process which is being followed. The document merges ideas and visions of the community and those of the district. Principal Amy Minor recognized Emily Berry, the new student board member. Principal Minor is pleased and honored to have Emily represent the student body. Emily is excited and eager to begin her work.

#### **VI. Colchester Middle School Improvement Plan**

Principal Dawn Gruss reviewed CMS' improvement plan to increase student performance. CMS was identified under the accountability of requirements of NCLB. Principal Gruss has collaborated with Central Office as well as Ken Remsen, School Improvement Coordinator from the Vermont Department of Education, to develop this plan. Principal Gruss is responsible for implementing the plan. A discussion followed including administrator and board members.

## **VII. Hear and Act on Second Reading of Wellness Policy**

Superintendent Waters reviewed the changes made to the Wellness Policy and Guidelines as recommended by the board.

Chairman Dirk Reith conveyed his experience at the CHS cafeteria. Chairman Reith felt the presentation and quality of the “hotline” lunch was not up to par. After speaking to students, both the salad and sandwich bar are favorable options for the students; however, the service on these lines is slow which impacts student decisions.

Director Steve Cormier experienced both the CMS and CHS lunch experiences while speaking to students and gathering their thoughts and ideas. He noticed many students are eating Subway at CHS.

Director Paul Smith recognized that students have complete control regarding what they eat at school. He is unsure of how the district would ensure the students eat nutritiously. He is also concerned about the fact that each student is required to take a fruit/vegetable.

Student Board Member Emily Berry shared her experience of bringing her own lunch because she has limited time to eat. She also feels the food from the hotline is undesirable. She believes “a la carte” is a good option for students to grab a quick snack. She would like to see healthier options available.

Principal Amy Minor addressed that seniors are the only students who have open campus options and are allowed to go to Subway. Additionally, students who receive Free and Reduced Lunch generally opt for the breakfast sandwiches made in “a la carte.” Principal Minor hopes those students would not suffer from changes to the “a la carte” system. Principal Minor, as well as other cafeteria monitors, are cognizant of the fruit being thrown away and have collected pieces before this occurs.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning Policy guidelines. This discussion involved student, community, administrator and board members.

The board felt no changes were needed to the Wellness Policy. Superintendent Waters will modify the Policy guidelines based on board recommendations.

Director Paul Smith moved to send the Wellness Policy to a third reading, seconded by Chairman Dirk Reith. Motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. District Technology Committee**

Superintendent Larry Waters reviewed the establishment of the technology committee. The membership will consist of administrators, teachers, board members, central office, technology staff and community members. The goal of the district is to “drive learning through technology.” Additionally, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Gwen Carmolli spoke of the upcoming Common Core and its explicit use of computers and technology.

**IX. End of Year Financial Report for FY'11**

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb reviewed the End of Year Financial Report for FY'11. In regards to tuition, this number continues to grow and each year the district achieves it. The Special Education budget had extraordinary costs which were noted. On the expenditure side, Business and Operations Manager Trieb noted support staff not being 100% filled as well as a decreased need for substitutes. Transportation costs have remained steady over the past several years. The transportation contract is up for renewal at the end of FY'12.

**X. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda**

Superintendent Waters presented the following consent agenda:

**PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board Date: September 20, 2011**

<b>Board Date</b>	<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>FTE/Hours</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Agenda Information</b>	<b>Person Replacing</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Admin Support</b>
09/20/11	Support Staff	Deb	Churchill	End of Employment	Paraeducator-SPED	32.5 hrs	PPS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
09/20/11	Support Staff	Kristina	Cole	Leave of Absence	Network Administrator	40.0 hrs	DW	LOA - Requesting 6 - 8 weeks from September 16			Yes
09/20/11	Support Staff	Amanda	Dooley	New Hire	Cafeteria Monitor	12.5 hrs	CMS	Notice of Hire	Danielle Collins		Yes
09/20/11	Support Staff	Robert	Fredette	End of Employment	Paraeducator-SPED	32.5 hrs	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
09/20/11	Support Staff	Dale	Lyman	New Hire	Paraeducator-ASL	16.25 hrs	MBS	Notice of Hire	New Position - Student Need		Yes
09/20/11	Support Staff	Deb	Maddalena	New Hire	Computer Lab Monitor	32.5 hrs	CMS	Notice of Hire	Heather Matthews		Yes
09/20/11	Support Staff	Nancy	Sykes-Slattery	New Hire	Paraeducator-SPED	32.5 hrs	CHS	Notice of Hire	Chris Davis-Fardleman		Yes
09/20/11	Support Staff	Jonathan	Wilson	New Hire	Paraeducator-SPED	32.5 hrs	CHS	Notice of Hire	Daniel Knox		Yes
09/20/11	Teacher	Lynn	Spencer	New Hire	SLP - EEE - Temp Assignment	6.0 hrs	MBS	Approval for hire	New Position - Student Need		Yes

Director Steve Cormier moved to approve the personnel consent agenda for September 20, 2011, seconded by Director Dick Pecor. Motion passed unanimously.

**XI. Possible Future Agenda Items**

- Vision Strategic Plan Overview
- Restraint and Seclusion Policy (New from DOE)
- Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS)
- Common Core Standards
- FY' 13 Budget Process
- Wellness Policy

**XII. Executive Session: Discuss Negotiations**

Chairman Dirk Reith moved, seconded by Director Dick Pecor to adjourn general session and move to executive session at 9:19 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Dick Pecor moved, seconded by Director Paul Smith to exit executive session at 9:41 p.m.

Director Dick Pecor moved, seconded by Director Paul Smith to approve the administration's recommendation regarding support staff salaries. Motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Director Paul Smith moved, seconded by Director Dick Pecor to adjourn at 9:42 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

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Rachel Howes

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Paul Smith  
Board Clerk