

# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, February 18, 2014  
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

## MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were: Board Chair: Mike Rogers, Directors: Craig Kieny and Lincoln White; Superintendent, Larry Waters; Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Gwen Carmolli; and Director of Special Education, Carrie Lutz; Principals: Chris Antonicci, Julie Benay, Dawn Gruss; Absent: Directors Lindsey Cox and Christine Shepard; Student Member: Teremy Garen; Business & Operations Manager, George Trieb; Principal, James Marshall. There were nine members of the community in attendance.

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

Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Mike Rogers led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. Citizen Participation**

None.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes: February 4, 2014 & February 11, 2014**

*Director Craig Kieny moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2014, and February 11, 2014, seconded by Director Lincoln White. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.*

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

On the third Tuesday of each month, the school board will review the top questions and themes submitted to them via e-mail at [SchoolBoardQuestions@csdvt.org](mailto:SchoolBoardQuestions@csdvt.org). To view community questions and answers, please refer to the attached document.

### **VI. Hear FY'15 Budget Video Presentation**

The school board and community viewed a video featuring information on the budget and Act 68.

### **VII. Hear New England Common Assessment (NECAP) Results 2013-2014**

In October 2013, students in grades 3 through 8, and grade 11 were administered the NECAP in reading, math, and writing.

Gwen Carmolli, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, provided the board and community with an overview of student performance at each level. Overall, Colchester School District scored above state average, but dropped in performance at some grade levels from last year.

**VIII. Approval of CHS School Choice Caps**

*Director Lincoln White moved, seconded by Director Craig Kieny, to accept the administration's recommendation for school choice caps (30 students transferring out and 30 students transferring in). Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.*

**IX. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda**

Superintendent Larry Waters presented the following Personnel Consent Agenda for February 18, 2014.

**PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board Date: February 18, 2014**

<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>
Support Staff	Thomas	Boyd	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Math Lab	24.0 hrs	CHS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes

*Director Lincoln White moved, seconded by Director Craig Kieny, to approve the personnel consent agenda as provided for February 18, 2014. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.*

**X. Future Agenda Items**

- Medicaid Allocations 2014-2015
- Purchasing More Cloud Storage
- Health Policy
- PPS Principal Search Candidates
- School Reports 2013-2014
- Teacher Contract Renewal Recommendations
- Administrator Contract Renewals
- Reductions in Staff

**XI. Adjournment**

*Director Craig Kieny moved, seconded by Director Mike Rogers, to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.*

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

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Erin Dye  
Reporting Secretary

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Lincoln White  
Board Clerk

## **Board Questions for Meeting from Community**

### **Mr. Wilson:**

Questions:

1. “How can you submit budget increase after budget increase given the declining enrollment and the economic climate that we have experienced in recent years?”

Response:

FTE's & Enrollments: We have made reductions to our FTE's in all schools over the past 8 years as enrollments declined. Currently, our enrollments are increasing at the K-2 level and we have added teachers to our Kind. classrooms. In addition, our EEE program (early educ. programs-required) has substantially increased, or doubled, over the past several years which prompted more early ed. teachers being hired. Again, required programs. Sp. Ed. needs have increased as well with more students eligible and the severity of the students requiring more support at all levels. Again, these are entitlement programs making it mandatory to provide services. It is notable that in many cases we have shifted resources and funding to offset the increases to the voter budget. Example: Behavior specialist funding is from .50 Guidance position and Medicaid dollars.

Education costs in VT are high in comparison to other states. It is important to note that CSD per pupil spending is below the statewide average and well below other district in Chittenden County.

2. “Will you alter the budget request to phase in the computer request over 3 years, hold the line on teacher increases, and reduce positions in total until the student teacher ratio is at least 15.”

Response:

The computer device program is a “phase-in” program over the next several years. We are starting with grades 7-9 and plan to expand each year after. Student/Teacher ratios are based on all teachers in schools to all students. This means that art, music, p. ed., nurse, school counselors, etc. are counted. These are required positions. The core classroom teachers have anywhere from 18 to 25 students in their classrooms. What teachers would you recommend removing and how will you respond to the requirements under state law to provide the program?

### **Mr. Breen:**

Question:

1. “Why are the people of Colchester continually subjected to these increases for people that are doing the same job for 187 days out of the year?? “

Response: Not sure how to answer this one.