

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School - Cafeteria

Tuesday, May 20, 2014
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, in the Colchester High School Cafeteria. Those in attendance were: Board Chair, Mike Rogers; Directors: Lindsey Cox, Craig Kieny, and Lincoln White; Superintendent, Larry Waters; Business & Operations Manager, George Trieb; Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Gwen Carmolli; and Director of Special Education, Carrie Lutz; Student Member: Teremy Garen; Principals: Chris Antonicci, Julie Benay, Dawn Gruss, and Amy Minor; Assistant Principal Carolyn Millham; Absent: Director Christine Shepard and Principal James Marshall. There were 27 members of the community in attendance.

I. Call to Order

Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Mike Rogers led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizen Participation

There was no citizen participation.

Chair Mike Rogers encouraged the community to submit questions to them via e-mail at SchoolBoardQuestions@csdvt.org. All submissions will be answered on the third Tuesday of every month.

IV. Approval of Minutes: May 6, May 10, and May 13, 2014

Director Craig Kieny moved to approve the minutes of May 6, May 10, and May 13, 2014, seconded by Director Lindsey Cox. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

V. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports

To review the questions and answers submitted from the community to SchoolBoardQuestions@csdvt.org, please refer to the attached document.

At the June 3 school board meeting, Principal Benay will make a recommendation to hire a new Assistant Principal at Mallets Bay School.

Superintendent Larry Waters shared the following legislative session updates:

- H.884 – Misc. Tax Bill for FY'15 includes: Base Homestead \$0.98, Non-residential \$1.515, Base Income Rate 1.8%, and Base Education Amount \$9,285.
- H.270 – Prekindergarten Education: Parents in all school districts statewide will be entitled to enroll their three- or four-year-old children in a pre-k program for 10 hours per week, 35 weeks per year with public funding. This applies to enrollments on July 1, 2015 and after.

- H.885 - Appropriations Bill: New and unvested teachers will pay an additional 1% of their compensation to VT Teachers' Retirement Fund. Vested teachers will continue to pay 5%. In addition, school districts employing those teachers will pay an annual assessment of their insurance benefits. Also covered under this bill is a Special Education Pilot Program to encourage reduced expenditures.
- H.497 Open Meeting Law: Clarifies the definition of a meeting, procedures for electronic meetings, agenda posting, executive session requirements, new penalties and enforcement procedures.

The school board and community are reminded to review each school's calendar located on the school district's web site for a list of events.

Principal Minor announced Class Night is June 13 and Graduation is June 14. Graduation is a ticketed event; however, seating is available in the auditorium to view the event.

Principal Gruss announced the Eight Grade Dance will take place on June 6 and Eight Grade Recognition Ceremony is June 12.

VI. Hear and Discuss Recommendations for the FY'15 Budget (3rd Round)

The school board requested additional reductions to the FY' 15 budget.

Superintendent Waters presented the following reductions:

<u>Reduction Area</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Communications Position	\$53,000.00
CMS Planning Room	\$34,000.00
Co-Curricular/Athletics:	
<u>CHS:</u>	
Art Club Facilitator	\$1,685.00
GSA Facilitator	\$1,360.00
Journalism Facilitator	\$1,678.50
Service Learning Facilitator	\$2,476.00
Lacrosse – Girls' JV Coach	\$1,620.00
Wrestling – Varsity Coach	\$5,854.00
Snowboarding Club Coach	<u>\$1,620.00</u>
<u>CMS:</u>	
Ski & Board Club, Facilitator	\$1,429.00
Ski & Board Club, Co-Facilitator	<u>\$1,685.00</u>
Total Amount of Reduction	\$106,407.50

Principal Minor discussed the impacts the co-curricular reductions would have on the school and students.

Tom Bacon, a member from Support Our Schools (S.O.S), reminded the community how important it is to get out and vote. Anyone looking to join S.O.S. can sign up with Tom. He also announced that S.O.S. will be hosting a sign making party next week for the upcoming vote.

VII. Approval of the FY'15 Budget and Warnings

The school board decided to make the following modifications to the recommended reductions presented by Superintendent Waters.

<u>Reduction Area</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Communications Position	\$53,000.00
CMS Planning Room	\$34,000.00
Co-Curricular/Athletics:	
<u>CHS:</u>	
GSA Facilitator	\$1,360.00
Wrestling – Varsity Coach	<u>\$5,854.00</u>
Total Amount of Reduction	\$94,214.00

George Trieb, Business & Operations Manager, modified the warning.

Chair Mike Rogers moved, seconded by Director Lincoln White, to adopt a budget of \$35,471,154 for the support and operation of the Colchester School District for the year beginning July 1, 2014. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Chair Mike Rogers moved, seconded by Director Craig Kieny, to warn the year 2014 Annual Town School district meeting by signing the warning of said meeting. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

VIII. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

Superintendent Larry Waters presented the following Personnel Consent Agenda for May 20, 2014.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

Board Date: May 20, 2014

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Rationale	Admin Support
Support Staff	Michelle	Benedict	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5 hrs	PPS	Notice of Hire	New	Student Need	Yes
Support Staff	James	Caswell	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35.0 hrs	PPS	Notice of Hire	Chris DeMaggio		Yes
Support Staff	Renee	DeCelle	Leave of Absence	Administrative Assistant - Guidance	40.0 hrs	CHS	Approval for LOA from 8/4/2014 - 8/26/2014			Yes
Support Staff	Pamela	Keyser	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Speech	24.6 hrs	MBS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Kingsley	LaPointe	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hrs	UMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Rosemary	Lucier	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hrs	UMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Teacher	Josie	Lang	New Hire	School Nurse	1.0 FTE	MBS	Approval for hire	Tammy Frieberg		Yes
Teacher	Jessica	Murray	New Hire	504 Teacher, Long-Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	CHS	Approval for hire	Candace Condry-Bowles		Yes

Director Lindsey Cox moved, seconded by Director Craig Kieny, to approve the personnel consent agenda as provided for May 20, 2014. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

IX. Hear Future Agenda Items

- Joint Retreat with Select Board – Scheduled for June 17
- End of School Year Reports
- Superintendent’s Evaluation
- Communication Plans for Next Year
- Negotiation Meeting

X. Adjournment

Director Craig Kieny moved, seconded by Director Lincoln White, to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

Erin Dye
Reporting Secretary

Lincoln White
Board Clerk

Questions from Community:

Question 1:

While I appreciate that the budget is difficult to pass every year I would like every employee of the school district to appreciate that the household income in Vermont has been declining and continues to decline.

You don't have to look far to find evidence of this and I have provide a link to an article below that speaks to this fact. You all know about the lay offs at IBM, GE, Fair Point, General Dynamics, FAHC, etc. Not to mention the freeze on raises, reduction of benefits, elimination of bonuses, mandatory furloughs, etc. that the majority of Vermonters have had to deal with in recent years. All of these things are what the members of the community are facing. So while people love having good schools it is hard to approve budget increases every year when the majority of the money is going to salary increases.

" General education increased by 3.30% or \$622,492. The overall increase is driven by employee compensation and benefits. Direct regular instruction represents the largest increase at \$395,240. This is primarily the estimated increase in teacher's compensation. Instructional improvement is also up significantly increasing by \$156,360".

Why do you think that the community should continue to give school employees salary increases while the income for many of the people in Vermont is declining?

The school board will continue to work with the CEA on June 26 through mediation. Salaries in the Chittenden County area for teachers have ranged from 3%-4% in recent settlements. Our board continues to seek a fair settlement with the CEA based on many factors including the economy.

Question 2:

Although it's great you are having a meeting and requesting public input, only today (Monday, May 12) was I informed about the meeting on Tuesday, May 13..... Given that we, who pay the taxes, usually must work, a one day notification is not nearly enough lead time to make appropriate plans that would allow most people to even attend and provide that feedback. Thank you. Considering the budget did not pass again and that Carolyn Milheim is moving to PPS I hope that there is serious consideration to move one of the three administrators from CMS to MBS to fill her shoes. CMS does not need three administrators.

Response: The board has addressed this matter on several occasions and believe that CMS warrants 3 administrators at this time. The cost to add an assistant principal is about \$5,000 and yet the benefits it provides are significant given the recommendations from the superintendent in Spring 2011.