

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Special Meeting
Lake Champlain Cable Access TV Studio

Thursday, January 22, 2015
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

MEETING MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2015, at the Lake Champlain Cable Access TV Studio. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors Lindsey Cox, Lincoln White; Superintendent Larry Waters; and Communications Specialist Dick Pecor.

I. Call to Order

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

II. LCATV Presentation and Discussion on the FY'16 Budget

Superintendent Larry Waters provided a brief presentation of the FY'16 budget.

Communications Specialist Dick Pecor led the discussion with the following questions:

- How does the student-to-teacher ratio in Colchester compare to other districts/SU? What have we done to address declining enrollment?
- The line item for teacher contracts increased by 3.3%. Does this mean that all teachers received an increase of that amount?
- If this budget does not pass at the March 3 vote, what does the school board plan to do? Where will the cuts be made?
- Why does the district look to cut sports and other after school programs first?
- Does the district pay for teacher's pension?
- What are some of the recent mandates from the state that are unfunded?
- Can you give any other examples of responsibilities that Vermont school districts assume today that are above and beyond reading, writing and arithmetic? (e.g., nutrition, social/family, etc.)
- Can the district ignore or choose not to follow mandates that are coming from the state?
- If this budget is approved, how much will my taxes go up?
- If the budget did not go up and you level funded, would taxes still go up?
- How does Colchester compare to other districts in Chittenden County and Vermont with spending for students?
- What are some of the ways in which Colchester Schools are trying to conserve or even saving valuable taxpayer dollars now and in the future?

III. Closing Comments

- Register to Vote
- Encourage others to Vote
- Contact us with questions
- March 3 – Town Meeting Day

IV. Adjournment

Director Lincoln White moved, seconded by Director Lindsey Cox, to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

Erin Dye
Reporting Secretary

Lincoln White
Board Clerk