

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
CHS Room 114A
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, December 20, 2016
5:30 p.m. (Executive Session)
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

MINUTES (Executive Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held an Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, in CHS Room 114A. Those in attendance were: Directors: Craig Kieny, Lincoln White, and Curt Taylor; Superintendent Amy Minor.

Director White moved to enter Executive Session, seconded by Director Kieny. Director White called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. to have a discussion regarding negotiations. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Director Kieny exited the session at 6:18 and returned at 6:45. Chair Rogers entered the session at 6:45.

No decisions were made.

Director White moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by Director Kieny at 6:52 p.m. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Craig Kieny, Curt Taylor, Lindsey Cox and Lincoln White; Student Board Member Jaclyn Cline; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business & Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; Director of Curriculum & Instruction Gwen Carmolli; Principals: Chris Antonicci, Julie Benay, and Carolyn Millham. Absent: Principals Heather Baron and Michele Cote

There was one person in the audience.

I. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair Rogers led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Report from Building Principals

Principal Benay of MBS, Principal Antonicci of UMS, and Principal Millham of PPS all reported that their schools have been preparing for the upcoming SBAC exam. Their students have taken an interim English Language Arts exam using Read Works. The Principals stated they are focusing on comprehension and fluency skills, and are looking at student data to analyze the depth of rigor in

their instruction, and how that translates to test scores. So far, Principal Millham stated she's found that students who met or exceeded in the exam were able to show critical thinking skills to fully communicate and explain their answers.

IV. ELL Program and Needs

Director of Student Support, Carrie Lutz, CHS student Dorcas Lohese, and the CSD's English Language Learners teachers presented a detailed report on English Language Learners (ELL) program in our district. CSD averages about 60-70 ELL students per year. Across the district, CSD ELL students speak 21 different first languages. The top three languages are French (mostly students coming from Africa), Nepali, and Vietnamese. It was shown that students come into the district at different levels of fluency and have varying needs. Currently, there are 2 teachers for the entire K-12 district and they are assigned based on need. Director Lutz stated that they aspire to have 4 teachers and would assign them to buildings in an effort to provide a proactive structure which would include different functions, including family outreach to help with the transition. CHS Student Dorcas shared her story about coming to CSD from the Democratic Republic of Congo, three years ago. When she first arrived at CSD, she didn't speak any English. Tonight, she was able to deliver her life's story fluently in English. She said the ELL program was instrumental in teaching her, not only English but also American culture. She feels that the ELL program provided her inclusion and helped her to have an equal opportunity at the education offered to her at CSD.

V. Support Services Presentation

Director of Student Support, Carrie Lutz presented an overview of mental health and support services that are provided throughout the district. With personnel for support services (including social workers, special educators, and behavior specialists) being a significant portion of the budget, Director Lutz will begin providing monthly presentations to the board on varying topics. These presentations will provide the board, and community, with a comprehensive understanding of how these services (MTSS – B) are provided to our students across the district. In this presentation, Director Lutz focused on the wide range of non-academic barriers which can prevent students from learning. At future board meetings, Director Lutz will choose specific topics from the “barriers” list and go more in-depth.

VI. Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Superintendent Amy Minor recapped her presentation from the last meeting, indicating her prioritized needs throughout the district. She again stated that her top priority is to maintain current staffing levels, which aligns with her overall district goal to provide excellence and equity in primary instruction and student support and intervention (MTSS A and B). She went over facility needs and costs across the district, for the next ten years. With those items in mind, her ideal recommendation for the FY18 budget will be a 3.46% increase. She pointed out that the average budget increase over the past five years has been 3.51%. At a previous meeting, there was a discussion about getting down to a 2.9% increase, Superintendent Minor and Business and Operations Manager, George Trieb, stated to get to a 2.9% they would have to reduce 3 FTE's or 7 Paraeducators, as well as cut several non-programmatic items. Superintendent Minor stated she does not feel comfortable with those cuts, as they will directly impact educational opportunities for students. Superintendent Minor and Manager Trieb had also prepared the numbers to put forward a 3.25% increase, which would still include some non-programmatic reductions but would allow for maintaining the current staffing levels. The board agreed to move forward with an increase in the range of 3.25% to 3.46%. Superintendent Minor and Manager Trieb will come back at the next meeting (1/3/17) with several scenarios showing what programs and services could be included, or reduced, to get within that range.

VII. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for December 20, 2016.

Director Kieny moved to approve the personnel consent agenda for December 20, 2016, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

VIII. Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2016

Director Kieny moved to approve the minutes of December 6, 2016, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

IX. Approval of Minutes: December 13, 2016

Director White moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2016, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

X. Board/Administration Communications, Correspondence, Committee Reports

- Director White updated that negotiations with the CEA have started.
- Chair Rogers updated that negotiations for the Support Staff contract will begin on 1/3/17.

XI. Possible Future Agenda Items

- New Special Education Model, January
- Budget Expenditures Continued
- Proficiencies and Transferable Skills
- Importance of Early Childhood Education

XII. Executive Session

Director Cox moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a student matter. Seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Those attending Executive Session: Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Craig Kieny, Lincoln White, Curt Taylor and Lindsey Cox; Superintendent Amy Minor, and Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz.

No decisions or motions were made.

Director Cox moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by Director White at 9:38 p.m. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

XIII. Adjournment

Director Cox moved to adjourn at 9:38 p.m., seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

Meghan Baule
Communications Specialist

Craig Kieny
Board Clerk