

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
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, February 7, 2017, in CHS Room 114A. Those in attendance were: Directors: Lincoln White, Craig Kieny, and Curt Taylor; Business & Operations Manager George Trieb

Director White moved to enter Executive Session, seconded by Director Kieny. Director White called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. to have a discussion regarding negotiations. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

No decisions were made.

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

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Curt Taylor, Lindsey Cox, Lincoln White and Craig Kieny; Student Board Member Jaclyn Cline; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business & Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; Principals: Heather Baron, Michele Cote, and Chris Antonicci.

There were 6 people in the audience.

I. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Board Chair Rogers led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Report from Building Principals

Principal Cote shared that CMS hosted CSD alum and 2016 World CrossFit Champion, Mat Fraser. Mat spoke to the entire school about his journey and passion for fitness. Mat's presentation kicked off a new learning block for Physical Education. For the next few weeks, students will participate in CrossFit workouts during PE with two certified CrossFit coaches. Also coming up on the calendar, both CHS and CMS will take part in the Student Youth Behavior Risk Assessment Survey. The results will help the administration to define risky behavior and assist them in planning for the future. Principal Baron also shared that Rachel Cohen, a humanities teacher at CHS, was just

awarded a Roving Scholar Fulbright Fellowship to Norway for the 2017-2018. This prestigious fellowship is only awarded to 2-3 people in the United States each year.

IV. Extended Learning Presentation

TJ Brown, a CHS senior, gave a presentation about the electric guitar he made for the new extended learning course offered at CHS. TJ gave a similar presentation to CHS faculty and students as part of the class final. The class assists students in meeting their Personalized Learning Plan as part of Act 77, and also requires that they go out into the community to further their research. There is a video which highlights the class on the district website and social media pages. After it was posted, CHS Principal Heather Baron said there was a significant increase in interest for the next semester's class. Following TJ's presentation, CSD Communications Specialist, Meghan Baule, provided some statistics and analytic information about the district's social media pages. She runs three pages for the district: Facebook, Twitter, and the Spotlight blog. Combined, they have nearly 2,000 followers. The Extended Learning video has been the best performer so far, reaching over 5,500 people on Facebook alone.

V. FY'18 School Budget Update

Superintendent Minor provided the board an update regarding the estimated educational tax rate. The town of Colchester was granted their appeal of the common level appraisal (CLA). The appeal dropped the estimated tax rate by 1%, making the new rate 4.032%. She also went over the communication plan connected to the budget. Superintendent Minor stressed that she is trying to reach as many residents as possible by giving them multiple opportunities to meet with her and other district officials to ask questions and hear the reasoning behind the budget. There are a number of budget resources available on the website, she's going on the Charlie, Ernie & Lisa show next week, she's also giving a number of presentations to faculty, PTOs, the Rotary, and different neighborhoods with the help of several community member hosts. One of the meetings will be hosted by Dick Mazza at his General Store on March 1st at 6:00pm. All are welcome to attend. The project that will reach the most residents will be the first ever "CSD Report to the Community". The report is an 8-page document which showcases the district and explains the budget and tax impact. CSD partnered with USPS to deliver the reports for only \$.08 a household. They should arrive in mailboxes in 2 weeks.

VI. Quarterly Financial Report

Business and Operations Manager, George Trieb, provided the board with the second quarter financial report. In the report, it is indicated that the district is spending slightly faster than last year. Both revenue and expenditures are within budget and should the current spending trends continue, the district can expect to finish up with a light surplus.

VII. Special Education Quarterly Report

Special Education Director, Carrie Lutz, provided the board with the special education quarterly report. She is monitoring the support staff budget and although preschool numbers are slightly elevated, overall the numbers are roughly the same and on target. She stated the team is doing a better job of absorbing and flexing when students are moving in and out of the district.

VIII. First Reading of Resignations Policy: D9

This policy was last updated in 2003, however, it is fairly consistent with the recommended policy by the Vermont School Boards Association. Superintendent Minor recommended merging the current version with some of the language in the VSBA's policy. The board also requested to add language indicating that resignations must be submitted in writing.

Director Kieny moved to approve the first reading of the Resignations Policy, seconded by Director Cox. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

IX. First Reading of Job Descriptions Policy: D3

This policy was last updated in 2003. As with the Resignations Policy, this one is also fairly consistent with the recommended policy by the VSBA. The most substantial edit will be changing the title from "Job Descriptions" to "Staffing and Job Descriptions".

Director White moved to approve the first reading of the Job Descriptions Policy, seconded by Director Taylor. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

X. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for February 7, 2017.

Director White moved to approve the personnel consent agenda for February 7, 2017, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

XI. Approval of Minutes: January 17, 2017

Director Taylor moved to approve the minutes of January 17, 2017, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

XII. Approval of Minutes: January 30, 2017

Director Cox moved to approve the minutes of January 30, 2017, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

XIII. Approval of Minutes: January 31, 2017

Director Kieny moved to approve the minutes of January 17, 2017, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

XIV. Board/Administration Communications, Correspondence, Committee Reports

- Bus Contract
- Policy committees underway: Acceptable Use and Wellness Policy

XV. Possible Future Agenda Items

- Early Education Center update, March 7 Black River Design
- Carrie's Road Show
- Policy
- 1st draft of 17-18 school calendar
- Policies for next meeting: building use, weapons, tobacco

XVI. Executive Session

Director White moved to adjourn and enter Executive Session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Director Kieny moved to exit Executive Session at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

XVII. Adjournment

Director Kieny moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

Meghan Baule
Communications Specialist

Craig Kieny
Board Clerk