

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting, Special Meeting - Retreat
Central Office Conference Room

Tuesday, November 28, 2017
4:00 p.m. (General Session)

MINUTES (Work Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, in the Central Office Conference Room. Those in attendance were: Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Lincoln White, Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, and Curt Taylor; and Superintendent Amy Minor.

There were no members of the community in attendance.

I. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. Board of Education Retreat

A. School Budget Discussion

The board discussed the future FY19 budget process and reviewed the current FY18 budget's increase, reductions, and additions. The board discussed per-pupil spending and academic performance indicators compared to other districts. The data continues to show that Colchester is a low spending district compared to others in Chittenden County and maintains competitive student academic performance. They compared staffing ratios in Colchester to the statewide averages and noted that Colchester's teacher to student and student to staff ratios are lower than the statewide average. Superintendent Minor provided a list of cost saving initiatives that have occurred over the past few years. The board asked Superintendent Minor to provide a list of potential reductions that would need to occur in order to decrease the baseline budget from an estimated 3.81% increase to 2.5% increase.

B. Negotiations

The school board debriefed the recent negotiations process for teachers and support staff. Next week, Board Chair Mike Rogers and Director Lindsey Cox will serve as negotiators for the upcoming contract negotiations with the Association of Colchester Administrators. The administrators' contract will expire on June 30, 2018, and the goal is to complete negotiations prior to that date. The board reviewed the proposal from the administrators' association and developed their proposal.

C. Open Meeting Law

Emily Simmons, the Director of Education Services for the Vermont School Boards Association, joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m. to give a presentation on Vermont Open Meeting Law. Ms. Simmons provided an updated training regarding the law and public records. The board engaged with Ms. Simmons around this topic and asked questions.

D. Potential Solar Project

The board discussed the possibility of having solar on campus. Superintendent Minor provided feedback on the solar proposals from Aegis, Green Lantern, and SunCommon. The board discussed company references from other schools, impact on students, and overall project comparisons. Superintendent Minor shared her concerns

regarding the proposals, specifically solar panels on the CHS building due to the current state of the roof. Superintendent Minor recommended holding off on a parking lot solar canopy due to aesthetics, the impact on parking lot use, and the desire to see one installed first. She identified a parking lot canopy installation scheduled to take place during the summer of 2018. The board made no decisions and is continuing to consider solar as a potential educational and cost savings initiative for the district.

E. Superintendent Initiatives

Superintendent Minor shared several priorities she's been working on over the past few months including furthering the development of school safety, evacuation, and family reunification plans; continued work with the human resources department to automate paperwork; and providing support to the CMS with recent initiatives which have been instituted this year.

Superintendent Minor also noted that the district's strategic plan expires at the end of the school year. In the spring, she plans to develop a new vision/strategic plan that will include all stakeholders.


III. Hear Possible Future Agenda Items

None.

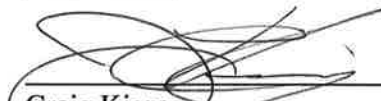
IV. Adjournment

Board Chair Rogers moved to adjourn at 8:27 p.m., seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:


Amy Minor
Superintendent of Schools

Board Clerk:


Craig Kieny
Board Clerk