

## **COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, January 9, 2018  
5:00 p.m. (Executive Session)  
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

### **MINUTES**

#### **I. Executive Session: ACA Negotiations and a Student Hearing**

Executive session prior to the meeting was canceled.

#### **(General Session)**

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, and Curt Taylor; Student Board Member Robert Davis; Superintendent Amy Minor; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli; and Principals Heather Baron and Michele Cote.

There were two audience members as well as Sam Carlson from Green Lantern Solar.

#### **II. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **III. Citizen Participation**

None.

#### **IV. Report from Building Principals**

CMS Principal Michele Cote shared that they held an open parent meeting last night. It was attended by 13 people who came with questions for the administration. They were able to have an open dialogue which was well received and the school will be scheduling another event in the spring.

CHS Principal Heather Baron shared that they are just about to wrap up the first semester, many students are presenting different projects and exams will start next week. The administration is starting to build the schedule and course selection for the 2018-19 school year. Finally, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade open house takes place on Thursday.

#### **V. Green Lantern Solar Presentation**

Sam Carlson from Green Lantern Solar provided the board with a brief presentation about their business. They work primarily with schools and towns doing small scale (1-4 acres) solar arrays in which CSD would receive net metering credits at no upfront or continuing cost to the district. The district would be required to enter into a legal contract. He left a sample agreement for the board to review and presented an updated proposal that included several options for how the district could add solar. In addition to solar on the CSD Campus, Mr. Carlson also shared a description of several offsite arrays that are currently in the permitting phase.

Director Kieny asked about the amount of time district employees would need to commit. Mr. Carlson stated the Business and Operations Manager would first contact the power company to get data about CSD's usage which Green Lantern would then analyze. He stated then the district would need to determine how much of their electricity expenditures they would want to offset; the proposal was written for 90%. From there, the district and Green Lantern would need to come to an agreement on a contract. Lastly, either on a monthly or annual basis, the district and Green Lantern would need to go over the credits paid for and received to make sure they accurately reflect the agreed upon contract. Ultimately he estimated it would be several hours of time for the Business and Operations Manager as well as some time from CSD attorneys to review the contract.

#### **VI. Approval of Announced Tuition for FY'19**

Each year, districts are required by law to announce their anticipated tuition for students attending Colchester schools from other districts that do not have a high school or middle school. Most tuition students attending CSD are from the Grand Isle Supervisory Union.

*Director Taylor moved to approve announced tuition rate for FY'2019 as \$13,330 for elementary grades (k-6) and \$15,200 for secondary grades (7-12), seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

#### **VII. Approval of Contract Agreement with the Association of Colchester Administrators**

A contract agreement has been reached between the Association of Colchester Administrators (ACA) and the School Board. The ACA ratified the contract agreement on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. The agreement is a three-year deal with salary increases as follows:

- 2018-2019: 2.6% increase for Tier 3 (all other ACA administrators); 3% increase for Tier 2 (CHS Director of Student Support Services, CMS Assistant Principal (10 month), CMS Director of Student Support Services, and PPS Principal); and a 5% increase for Tier 1 (CHS Principal and MBS Assistant Principal) to make these two positions more in line with equivalent positions regionally.
- Year Two: 2.9% increase for all ACA administrators.
- Year Three: 2.9% increase for all ACA administrators.
- Longevity: Added year 13 as a longevity payment.

As already agreed upon, healthcare terms are the same as the teachers and support staff unions which includes the district covering 80% of premiums for the Gold CDHP plan and administrators covering 20% with a dollar equivalent option for the other plans. An HRA will be offered in a \$400/\$800/\$800 split, with employees paying the first and last dollar of the HRA contributes.

*Director Kieny moved to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Association of Colchester Administrators for the years 2018-2021 as outlined, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

#### **VIII. FY19 Budget Discussion**

Superintendent Minor presented the board with four budget scenarios including different additions and reductions. Stemming off the presentation at the last meeting about the need to increase student performance at the middle school and the anticipated increased enrollment as the current 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes prepare to advance into CMS, all of the budget scenarios included additions to improve achievement and outcomes for students at the middle school. After some

discussion about the potential benefits of specific FTEs and how they would be used, the board requested to see more in depth numbers for several scenarios at the next meeting.

Superintendent Minor also highlighted two major components which are negatively impacting the proposed budget; the dollar yield which was lowered by \$234, and the common level of appraisal which declined 3.35% from last year. Both numbers are fixed, set by the State, and make a sizeable impact in the education formula that determines the tax rate. Superintendent Minor shared that with those two components, even if the board were to decide to level fund the budget, meaning to not spend a cent beyond what was spent in the current year, the district would need to cut 1.3 million dollars and the tax rate would be a 5.1% increase. The board asked several questions regarding the tax rate components.

A discussion took place between board members and administrators about budget challenges across the state. Director Kieny asked if the board should decide on a budget they think will pass by the voters or a budget they think the district needs. The board ultimately asked Superintendent Minor to bring back several budget scenarios that include adding staffing at CMS to address student performance and incoming class size issues.

#### **IX. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda**

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for January 9, 2018.

# PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

Board Date: January 9, 2018

## Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support

## Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Co-Curricular	Allison	Talis	New Hire	Drama Director		CHS	Notice of Hire	Tim Barden	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Patricia	Desranleau	New Hire	Paraeducator-Special Education	32.5 hr	PPS	Notice of Hire	Colleen Charnley	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Carleen	Landry	End of Employment	Food Service Worker	30.0 hr	MBS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Emily	McFadden	Leave of Absence	Behavior Interventionist	40.0 hr	MBS	Leave of Absence 1/3/2018 - End of Year			

*Director Kienny moved to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed, 4-0.*

**X. Approval of Minutes: December 19, 2017**

*Director Cox moved to approve the minutes of December 19, 2017, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

**XI. Board/Administration Communications, Correspondence, Committee Reports**

- Superintendent Amy Minor shared an update on the MBS Principal search process. The first day of interviews occurred earlier today and will continue on Thursday.
- As a reminder, in addition to the meeting on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, a third board meeting has been added to the schedule and will take place on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.


**XII. Possible Future Agenda Items**

- Continued Budget Discussion
- Continued solar discussion
- Early Education Presentation
- Hour of Code at PPS


**XIII. Adjournment**

*Director Taylor moved to adjourn at 9:08 p.m., seconded by Director Kienny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

Recorder:

  
Meghan Baule  
Communications Specialist

Board Clerk:

  
Craig Kienny  
Board Clerk