

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, January 16, 2018
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Directors Lincoln White, Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, and Curt Taylor; Student Board Member Robert Davis; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli; and Principals Chris Antonicci, Julie Benay, and Michele Cote.

There were no audience members.

I. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Board Chair Lincoln White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Report from Building Principals

Mallets Bay Principal Julie Benay and Union Memorial Principal Chris Antonicci shared that the K-5 buildings are currently hosting a Care for Kids Family Information Night at MBS. There is a good turn out with approximately 45 K-5 parents attending. The evening was designed to inform parents about the partnership with Prevent Child Abuse Vermont to begin teaching a consistent K-5 curriculum in all three schools.

IV. FY19 Budget Presentation

Superintendent Minor shared comparison data with other districts for current FY18 education spending per pupil. Through the comparison chart, she pointed out that Colchester continues to demonstrate that it is a low spending district. In FY18, CSD's per pupil spending was below the statewide average and was the second lowest in Chittenden County. She then showed the proposed FY19 education tax components. As stated in previous meetings, there are two major factors which are negatively impacting the proposed budget. The first is the dollar yield which was lowered several hundred dollars from last year (\$234 from what was warned and eventually a total of \$318 from what they actually used). The second factor is the common level of appraisal (CLA) which declined 3.35% from last year. She announced that the town is potentially appealing the CLA with regards to four properties. However, even if all four appeals were granted, it would amount in an approximate 1% favorable change which would not make a sizeable impact on the tax rate. Superintendent Minor and Business and Operations Manager George Trieb compared the education tax components between the current year and FY19. They pointed out that the school board and district only have control in deciding the budget increase, the other components are calculated and set by the state. The board discussed several scenarios with budget increases ranging from 3.44% to 3.98%. Superintendent Minor showed that when the proposed budget

estimate a total educational tax rate increase of approximately 10%. Superintendent Minor shared that even if the school budget had a 0% budget increase, the estimated tax rate for Colchester residents would still be a 5.5% increase because of the other educational tax components in the state funding formula.

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb went over the expenditure and revenue documents for FY19. He answered questions from the board about specific line items including special education, transportation, and healthcare premiums.

The board continued their discussion surrounding the four budget scenarios provided by Superintendent Minor. All of the scenarios included varying additions to support Colchester Middle School to increase student performance and prepare for the anticipated increase in enrollment over the next two years. Ultimately, the board will make their final decision at the next meeting and asked Superintendent Minor and Business Manager Trieb to bring two warnings for them to decide between.

V. Potential Solar Project Discussion

The board reviewed the revised proposals from Sun Common and Green Lantern. They agreed through discussion that they would only like to pursue an offsite project due to several factors including age and potential wear on the roofs and the already voiced concerns about carports. They remained undecided about how much capacity they would like to allot in an offsite array with the debate being if they should leave room for potential future projects.

VI. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for January 16, 2018.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

Board Date: January 16, 2018

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Heidi	Kelly	Leave of Absence	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	UMS	Leave of Absence 4/10/18 - 4/20/18			

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Support Staff	Anwa	Dawman	New Hire	Paraeducator-Special Education	32.5 hr	MBS	Notice of Hire	Carmel Quinn	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Lacey	Potter	End of Employment	Paraeducator-Special Education	32.5 hr	PPS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes

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

VII. Approval of Minutes: January 9, 2018

Director Taylor requested one grammatical edit to item VIII.

Director Cox moved to approve the amended minutes of January 9, 2018, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

VIII. Board/Administration Communications, Correspondence, Committee Reports

- Superintendent Amy Minor shared an update on the MBS Principal search process. Seven interviews were held over two days last week. The committee has moved one finalist forward. The position remains posted.
- As a reminder, a third board meeting has been added to the schedule and will take place on Monday, January 22nd.

IX. Possible Future Agenda Items

- Continued budget discussion and official warning
- Hour of Code at PPS Presentation
- Continued solar discussion

X. Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter


Director White moved to enter executive session at 8:40 pm to discuss a personnel matter as permitted by Vermont Statute: Title One, Section 313, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director White moved to exit executive session at 9:06 pm, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

XI. Adjournment

Director White moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m., seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Communications Specialist

Board Clerk:


Craig Kieny
Board Clerk