

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, June 4, 2019
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, Lincoln White and Curt Taylor; Student Representative Sophia Brigante; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; and Principals Heather Baron, Michele Cote, Jordan Burke, Chris Antonicci, and Carolyn Millham. There 3 people in the audience.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. CHS Trip to France Recap Presentation

Information

CHS French Teacher, Jennifer Loiseau along with six French IV students who traveled to France shared photos and stories of their travels. They emphasized the fact that it was very impactful to visit places that they had learned about in class. Board Chair Rogers asked the students how the trip contributed to their overall education. Several of the students remarked that the experience of immersing themselves in the culture and language was unforgettable and has advanced their language skills. The students also spoke to the importance of the opportunity as a whole. Several said they would have never been able to travel to France financially without the affordability provided through fundraising, group discounts, and planning.

IV. Summer Reading Program at Colchester Middle School

Information

Colchester Middle School Library Media Specialist, Rebecca Sofferman and 7th grade student Elizabeth Shirk provided the board with an overview of the summer reading program. The program is modeled after a traditional book club and is in its third year at CMS. All students choose one book from a list of over 30 options to read over the summer. Once students return to school in August, they break into groups with faculty members and fellow students who read the same book. The groups allow students and faculty members from different grade levels to come together to discuss a book that they truly enjoyed reading. There is significant research highlighting the importance of summer reading for students. Summer reading loss has been found to be a major contributor of academic achievement gaps. Annually, our school library media specialists across the district provide families with information regarding the importance of reading and book selection over the summer months. CMS student, Elizabeth Shirk who is an avid reader, explained how students can further challenge themselves to read numerous books through a scavenger hunt.

V. Approval of Continuous Improvement Plan Submission **Action**

The Vermont Accountability Plan requires each district to develop a Continuous Improvement Plan that uses data and goals to increase achievement for all students. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli gave a presentation highlighting the district's work and requested approval to submit the plan to the Vermont Agency of Education

Director Cox moved to approve the submission of the district's Continuous Improvement Plan to the Vermont Agency of Education, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

VI. Literacy Instruction at Union Memorial School Presentation **Information**

This past school year, Union Memorial School Principal Chris Antonicci focused his faculty on increasing classroom teacher knowledge of interactive strategies to support struggling readers. They consulted with an outside expert Dr. Marjorie Lipson who is nationally and internationally known for her research in the areas of reading and literacy. Principal Antonicci's presentation informed the board on how UMS is measuring and achieving their literacy goals since starting their work. He showed the positive results they are seeing both instructionally and in their student performance data.

VII. First Reading of Donations and Scholarships Policy: E10 **Action**

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb provided the board with an overview of the current policy and a couple proposed changes. One of which is to remove "scholarships" from the title since the policy is primarily about donations. The second proposed edit was to add that donations may also be invested with minimal risk instruments such as a well diversified mutual fund portfolio. The board voiced concerns on the impact of variable markets and potential financial liability. Director White suggested that there be a second layer of oversight for the person responsible for investing the donation. Director Taylor also asked for the policy to be clear that money cannot be moved from a zero risk investment to a minimal risk. For the second reading, Manager Trieb will bring back revised language and further information on the district's current investments.

Director White moved to approve the first reading of Donations and Scholarships Policy, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

VIII. Strategic Plan Update: Vision and Mission Statements **Information**

Superintendent Amy Minor shared the current draft version of the district's new vision and mission statements. The district as solicited feedback over several months from community members, families in the district, and employees. There have been several variations of each draft to get to the current versions and Superintendent Minor asked the board to take some time to review the two statements and provide feedback at later date.

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

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for June 4, 2019.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA									
Board Date: June 4, 2019 Revised									

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)									
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Admin Support
Teacher	Natalie	Burgess	New Hire	Social Studies Teacher, One-Year Only	0.8 FTE	CHS	Request to Hire	Rachel Cohen	Yes
Teacher	Miriam	Mahar	New Hire	Alternative Education Teacher	1.0 FTE	CAP	Request to Hire	Megan Gagne	Yes
Teacher	Hannah	Terracino	New Hire	Art Teacher	1.0 FTE	MBS	Request to Hire	Katherine DeCoff	Yes

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational									
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Admin Support
Support Staff	Heidi	Amlaw	End of Employment	Food Service Worker	17.5 hr	PPS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Miranda	Axworthy	End of Employment	Paraeducator/Paraeducator-Special Education	32.5 hr	PPS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Justin	Bissonette	End of Employment	Paraeducator/Paraeducator-Special Education	17.5 hr	PPS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Nichole	Fitzgerald	End of Employment	Paraeducator/Paraeducator-Special Education	32.5 hr	UMS	Notice if End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Meagan	Holland	End of Employment	Paraeducator-Special Education	32.5 hr	CMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Francesca	Martinelli	End of Employment	Paraeducator	32.5 hr	UMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Morgan	McNall	End of Employment	Behavior Interventionist	35.0 hr	MBS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Ben	Mitchell	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	CMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Emilie	Schweikert	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	MBS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Philip	Smith	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	MBS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Pamela	Wadsworth	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	CMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Kristin	Watson	End of Employment	Paraeducator	32.5 hr	UMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Kristin	Funsten	New Hire	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	UMS	Notice of Hire	Kristin Watson	Yes
Support Staff	Brittany	Langevin	New Hire	Staff Accountant/Payroll	40.0 hr	CO	Notice of Hire	Jessica Phelan	Yes

Director Cox moved to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

X. Approval of Minutes: May 21, 2019

Action

Director Cox moved to approve the amended minutes of May 21, 2019, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion unanimously, 5-0.

XI. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports

Information

- CMS is hosting a Community Learning Event on Monday at 6:30 pm.
- The Board retreat will take place on Tuesday, June 11th at 5:30.
- The Central Office Team recently attended a leadership retreat specifically designed for central office administrators.
- Board Chair Mike Rogers and Superintendent Amy Minor presented Student Representative Sophia Brigante with a bouquet of flowers and shared some words of appreciation for her dedication this school year. This was her last meeting prior to her graduation from CHS.

XII. Possible Future Agenda Items

Information

- CHS Debate Team Resolution Presentation

XIII. Adjournment

Director Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Director white. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk