

## **COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, October 15, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

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

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, Curt Taylor and Lincoln White; Student Representative Mitch Gadapee; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz; Principals Carolyn Millham, Jordan Burke, and Assistant Principal Brooke King. There were nine 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**

Stephanie Miller, co-president of Colchester Education Association (CEA), along with nine CEA members asked the school board to write a letter to the Vermont School Board Association's (VSBA) negotiation team advocating on behalf of district employees and union members in regards to the statewide health insurance negotiations. The VSBA and Vermont NEA are currently in mediation and will move to arbitration on November 1<sup>st</sup> if they cannot reach a compromise. The Colchester School Board is not directly involved in the negotiations. The board asked some clarifying questions regarding the current status of negotiations and plans up for consideration. The board thanked them for coming to the meeting and sharing their concerns.

#### **III. Solar Project Update**

**Informational**

In February of 2018, the district entered into a contract with Green Lantern Solar to receive net metering credits. There have been several delays with the project and Sam Carlson from Green Lantern Solar provided an update to the board. After several bureaucratic hurdles, site work is now underway and Green Mountain Power is on-site putting in their power poles and conductor wire. He estimates the school district will start getting the net metering credits in mid-December of 2019. He also presented another opportunity for the district to get an additional 500KW of solar net metering which would generate an additional \$18,000 per year in electricity savings over the next 20-25 years at no cost to the district. Unlike the first project that has experienced delays, this project already has all the necessary permits and should be completed by May of 2020. The board did not make any decisions and will discuss the topic further at a future meeting.

#### **IV. Annual School Report: Malletts Bay School**

**Informational**

This year, the schools are debuting a new format for their annual reports. Their presentations to the board will focus on goals outlined in their Continuous Improvement Plans (CIP) and they will supply an accompanying fact sheet which will include information such as enrollment, demographics, and behavior and academic testing data from the 2018-2019 school year.

Malletts Bay School Principal Jordan Burke and Assistant Principal Brooke King provided an overview of the school's CIP goals. Academically, the school is focused on two areas. The first is to create consistency using best practices across classrooms and grade levels to unpack learning trajectories and success criteria. The second is to continue to implement inquiry-based NGSS science curriculum which promotes discovery. Behaviorally speaking, their CIP goals are focused around Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

New this year, every classroom engages in a morning meeting to help foster social and emotional learning within the smaller classroom community. Students and staff greet each other, participate in an activity, and share news and announcements. Also connected to PBIS, the administration and leadership team looked at the data on how they respond to low-level disruptive behavior and found some inconsistencies. After soliciting input from classroom teachers and the leadership team, they drafted a list of unified responses to promote fidelity for response to low-level disruptive behavior. Lastly, they highlighted the equity work they are engaged in with the staff through professional development. Director Kieny asked if they have been able to assess if morning meeting is having a positive impact. Principal King said so far, the feedback from teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. In unspecific terms, Board Chair Rogers asked how the administration can continue to fit more into the school day. Principal Burke stated they often prioritize specific areas and make them as efficient as possible. She remarked that it can definitely be a challenge and that time is a precious resource.

In regards to the information fact sheet, Director Kieny asked the administration to separate and compare the testing scores of students in poverty and not in poverty who met the standard to see if there are any identifying factors of their resiliency. Principal Burke stated they are doing significant work to close the gap for students experiencing poverty and she would be interested to see that data as well.

**V. First Reading of Educational Support System Policy: G7** **Action**

This policy was last reviewed in 2004 and is a recommended policy by the Vermont School Board Association. The draft version updated some terms to make them current but otherwise kept the existing language. The second page of the policy speaks to individual support teams and although an important list, it is considered procedural and was relocated from the policy into its own supplemental document.

***Director Cox moved to approve the first reading of the Educational Support System Policy: G7, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.***

**VI. Financial and Special Education Reports** **Informational**

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb presented both the year-end and quarterly financial reports. In summation, the district ended the year with an unexpected surplus of \$1,308,364. Contributing factors included additional tuition from regular and special education enrollment and higher than anticipated extraordinary special education reimbursement revenue. Special Education Director Carrie Lutz gave an overview of her department's quarterly report. She is continuing to monitor the needs of students requiring out of district placements. As a whole, enrollment of special education students is up 12 students since June of 2019.

**VII. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda**

**Action**

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for October 15, 2019.

**PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA****Board Date: October 15, 2019****REVISED****Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)**

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Kelly	Ryan	Leave of Absence	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	PPS	Request Leave of Absence from approximately 05/01/20-End of School year			

**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	Erica	Lovejoy	New Hire	Paraeducator-Special Education	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Robert	Phipps	New Hire	Custodian	40	CMS	Notice of Hire	Timothy Hayes	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Timothy	Hayes	Transfer	Custodian	40	MBS	Notice of Transfer	Martin Welsh	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Amy	Silverston	New Hire	HR Coordinator	40	CO	Notice of Hire	Erin Dye	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Austin	Bulluck	End of Employment	Technology Specialist III	40	CHS	Notice of End of Employment			yes
Support Staff	Toni	Josey	New Hire	Paraeducator-Special Education	32.5	UMS	Notice of Hire	New	yes	yes

*Director White moved to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**VIII. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: October 1, 2019, 4:30 PM Action**

*Director Taylor moved to approve the special meeting minutes for October 1, 2019, 4:30 PM seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**IX. Approval of Minutes: October 1, 2019 Action**

Director Taylor noted 3 edits.

*Director Kieny moved to approve the amended minutes for October 1, 2019 seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**X. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports Informational**

- Superintendent Amy Minor and Colchester Police Lieutenant Peter Hull attended the Statewide School Safety Conference. They participated in tabletop exercises to practice skills in a mock situation and reviewed the district's safety procedures and protocols. All are in alignment with best practices provided by the state.
- The district is still waiting for our lead testing kits from VT Department of Health. They are testing schools on a rollout basis.
- The Traffic Study should be completed by the end of the week and will be forwarded to the board for review.
- Another board work session is needed to discuss the early education center and contract negotiations. Possibly November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.

**XI. Future Agenda Items Informational**

- Continued Policy Work
- Act 173 Update
- Food Service Report
- School Reports
- Science Test Scores
- Early Education Center
  - Updated Demographic Report
  - Traffic Study Results

**XII. Executive Session**

After hearing the CEA's request during the public comment agenda item, the board agreed to go into executive session related to contract negotiations to discuss a potential response.

*Director Cox moved to enter executive session at 8:53 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a topic related to contract negotiations, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*


***Director Cox moved to exit executive session at 9:14 p.m., seconded by Directory Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.***

It was decided that Board Chair Rogers will communicate with the CEA directly regarding their decision.

**XIII. Adjournment**

***Director Cox made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.***

Recorder:

  
Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

  
Lindsey Cox  
Board Clerk