

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, November 19, 2019
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, and Curt Taylor; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz; Principals Heather Baron, Michele Cote and Chris Antonicci. There were no audience members.

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. Report from Building Principals

Informational

Union Memorial School Principal Chris Antonicci shared that his school community hosted the 9th annual Chilly Champ Fun Run. They will be working on some special plans for next year's 10th anniversary. They are wrapping up the first trimester and teachers are looking forward to meeting with families at next week's conferences.

Colchester Middle School Principal Michele Cote shared that they are focusing on teaching students the district's Essential Expectations (EEs) and they are currently working on the "learn" EE. Students are understanding what it means to participate, not just in class but in life. Assistant Principal Dovid Yagoda is also working with students to train them on restorative practices.

Colchester High School Principal Heather Baron gave a nod to the Colchester Theatre Company who had record turnout to their fall musical. She also noted that CHS will host the VT State Board of Education meeting the following day.

IV. Decision on Second Solar Project

Action

Sam Carlson with Green Lantern Solar provided an update on the Newbury solar project that the district has already agreed to. Construction is underway and they expect the array will deliver net metering credits before the end of the year. He then provided some additional information on another solar opportunity. This second site would be a 500 KW solar array located in Vernon and is proposed to be operational no later than July of 2020. The agreement for the Vernon array is identical to the Newbury agreement. The board was pleased with the estimated cost savings this second array would provide and agreed to move forward.

Director Cox moved to approve the Net Metering Agreement with Green Lantern Group as provided, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

V. Annual School Report: Colchester High 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.

Colchester High School Principal Heather Baron provided an overview of the school's CIP goals. Academically, the school is focused on two areas. The first is proficiency-based learning which Principal Baron has presented about proficiencies at prior board meetings. She shared how they have worked hard to integrate a philosophy of proficiency-based learning and the impact it has had on instruction and assessment at the classroom level. For this year specifically, they are looking at the big picture of a student's entire CHS career from grade 9 through graduation. With several committees and sessions of intentionally focused professional development, they are refining a tracking system to help calibrate when and how proficiencies are assessed. The board engaged Principal Baron in an extensive discussion about proficiencies and how they are implemented at the school. Director Lindsey Cox asked about the connection between proficiencies and credits and how they impact graduation requirements through the Education Quality Standards (EQS). Principal Baron explained that all of the courses at CHS are proficiency-based and therefore are linked to graduation requirements, which in turn meets the intent of the EQS. Director Cox also asked how much of a student's grade is proficiency-based. Principal Baron explained that on a CHS report card there are two scores, one is an academic grade which reflects the student's mastery of the subject area. The second is a learning disposition grade which reflects the students learning habits such as participation, timeliness, etc. Board Chair Mike Rogers inquired how much flexibility the school has with students who are advanced and potentially assessing beyond the course's pre-determined proficiencies. Principal Baron highlighted the various opportunities that students have to extend their learning such as the Laker Learning Lab, dual enrollment with local colleges, and advanced placement courses. Director Cox pointed out that in addition to students who are high achieving or display high readiness, a proficiency-based learning system is also good for students who may be struggling and need additional support or opportunities outside of the traditional classroom.

The second academic CIP goal at CHS focuses on classroom instruction. The school has a professional development committee that consists of ten teacher leaders and they have determined four pillars that make up the school's framework for instruction. This year, they are aligning the faculty's professional development to mirror what students are going through, including developing their own personalized learning plans.

On the supports side, the school is focused on improving the mental health and wellness of students. This is their second year working with Jolle van Lent through her *Fostering Resilience, Creating Trauma-Responsive School Communities* series. They are also continuing to work with Centerpoint through the Checkpoint and Changes programs and have added a family partnership model.

Equity continues to be another focus of the school's CIP. On the four scheduled early release days, the faculty is working with Rebecca Haslam of Seed the Way to lead equity literacy conversations with faculty. The administrative team recently attended two Courageous Conversations conferences.

The final goal highlighted in the school's CIP is continuing to foster a strong and connected school community. CHS has a tremendous amount of pride and they want to build on that foundation. Last school year, they developed six core beliefs for the school community and this year, they are celebrating peer-nominated student and faculty Lakers of the Month who embody those core values.

VI. FY'21 Budget Presentation and Discussion **Informational**

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with a summary of enrollment numbers, class sizes, and projections for next school year. Carrie Lutz, the Director of Student Support Services, provided the board with a special education overview including anticipated expenditures and reimbursement figures. Business and Operations Manager George Trieb provided the board with baseline budget numbers as a follow up to the assumptions he provided at the last meeting. At the next meeting the team will bring school and facility requests.

VII. Second and Final Reading of Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect: F10 **Action**

No additional edits were requested.

Director Taylor moved to approve the second and final reading of the Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect Policy: F10, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

VIII. Second and Final Reading of Annual School Report Policy: H6 **Action**

No additional edits were requested.

Director Cox moved to approve the second and final reading of the Annual School Report Policy: H6, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

IX. Second and Final Reading of Board Relations with School Employees Policy: C5 **Action**

No additional edits were requested.

Director Taylor moved to approve the second and final reading of the Board Relations with School Employees Policy: C5 seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

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

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for November 19, 2019.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA
Board Date: November 19, 2019

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)									
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Admin Support
Teacher	Megan	Cobaugh	New Hire	7/8 Social Studies, Long Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to Hire	Marc Gagne	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	Laura	Duval	New Hire	Medicaid Coordinator/Receptionist	40	CO	Notice of Hire	Alyson Hevey	Yes
Support Staff	Nadezhda	Donnell	End of Employment	Autism Interventionsit	35	PPS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Joan	Kagan	End of Employment	Paraeducator - SPED	32.5	MBS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Ben	Mitchell	End of Employment	Paraeducator - SPED	32.5	CMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes
Support Staff	Dev	Nagel	End of Employment	Paraeducator - SPED	32.5	CMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes

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

XI. Approval of Minutes: November 5, 2019 (Work Session) Action

Director Taylor moved to approve the minutes for the work session held on November 5, 2019, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

XII. Approval of Minutes: November 5, 2019 (General Session) Action

Director Kieny moved to approve the minutes from the general session held on November 5, 2019, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

XIII. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports Informational

- The Vermont State Board of Education is holding their meeting here at CHS on Wednesday.
- Director Taylor asked about lead testing. Superintendent Minor advised we have not been placed on the schedule yet and are still awaiting notification from the state.

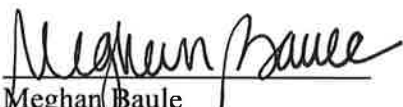
XIV. Future Agenda Items Informational

- Continued Policy Work
- Act 173 Update
- School Reports
- FY'21 Budget Discussions
- Science Test Scores
- Early Education Center
 - Updated Demographic Report
 - Traffic Study Results


XV. Adjournment

Director Cox made a motion to adjourn at 8:49 p.m. seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk