

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 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 Board Member Mitch Gadapee; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz; Principals Heather Baron and Michele Cote. There was one audience member.

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

Colchester High School Principal Heather Baron shared that the school is gearing up for the 13th annual gingerbread community service project which starts next week. Teachers will spend some time during their next faculty meeting to write individual notes and cards to every student in the school. They did this last year and it was very well received by students. Winter sports are starting up and the combined chorus and band winter concert is Friday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Colchester Middle School Principal Michele Cote shared that their winter band concert is December 12th and the chorus concert will take place the following week on the 19th. Both start at 7 p.m. in the CHS Performing Arts Center. During Wednesday's early release day, the school will do different activities for their 2nd annual Kindness Counts event. One of the more popular activities is creating wreaths to give to various centers and organizations throughout the town.

Both principals shared that they are looking forward to the professional development that will take place after the students dismiss early on Wednesday. At both schools, their faculty and support staff will participate in joint trainings which is a nice opportunity to have the whole staff together. At CMS, they are focusing on restorative practice training and at CHS they are continuing their work with Rebecca Haslam from Seed the Way.

IV. VHV Apprenticeship Program Presentation

Informational

VHV is a full mechanical construction contractor based in Winooski. Company President Dick Wilcox along with Pamela Lambiase from their human resources department explained that most of the equipment they work with supports the mechanical needs of commercial and industrial properties. They came to present to the school board because they continue to struggle finding

skilled trades craftsmen to work in their industry. Their goal as a company is to collaborate with school districts to help expose students to the mechanical industry for future employment. Once employed, the company will provide training programs to allow employees to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the mechanical trades. Ms. Lambiase gave an overview of the robust apprenticeship program offered through VHV. Directory Kieny asked if their hiring issues were specific to Chittenden County and Mr. Wilcox stated that it is everywhere and other companies are also struggling, not just theirs. Student Representative Mitch Gadapee asked what the company's next steps would be following this presentation. Mr. Wilcox stated that they would like the opportunity to speak directly with students. The administrators then brainstormed ways to make that happen such as attending AT, job and career fairs, or setting up a booth in the lobby during lunch.

V. Act 173 Update

Informational

Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz gave an update on Act 173, which will change special education funding from a reimbursement model to a census-based model in all districts throughout Vermont. The main purpose of this statute is to enhance the effectiveness, availability, and equity of service. The switch will allow for more flexibility in how funds are used. Ms. Lutz gave an update on the implementation of the statute since it has been delayed at the state level. The purpose of the delay is to provide the State Board of Education time to change the State Special Education Regulations. This delay is also allowing the Agency of Education time to support districts as they implement programmatic shifts. Director Taylor asked if more delays were anticipated, she responded that it is definitely possible.

VI. FY'21 Budget Presentation and Discussion

Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with another summary of enrollment numbers, class sizes, and projections for next school year. She explained the process that she and the other central office administrators went through with school principals to understand what their building needs are. Ms. Minor then gave an overview of the district's top eight needs, tiered into three priority levels: A, B, and C.

The top priority would be to maintain current staffing levels. Other priority A items included 2 FTEs for reading teachers in grades k - 2 (one for each K-2 school), .5 FTE for an English language teacher at CMS, and an instructional leadership position for grades 6-12. The Priority B column included 1 FTE for a special educator at CMS. The Priority C column included .2 FTE to add to the current Arabic teacher, 1 FTE for a technology coordinator in the Performing Arts Center, and 1 FTE for a districtwide transportation coordinator.

Next, she provided an extensive list of facility needs. Items included things such as bathroom renovations, security upgrades, furniture needs, and additional paving. All of the items outlined were provided by Ms. Minor in a concise overview format; she committed to explaining each in more detail at a future meeting. Student Representative Mitch Gadapee spoke in agreement for any renovations that may happen at the middle school. As a tuition student, he pointed out that students from the Islands are now choosing which district to attend for 7th grade and it would go a long way if the facilities were modernized. Director White asked for the administrators to look for opportunities where the high school could add computer science into the curriculum or course offerings.

VII. First Reading of Custodial, Joint Custodial and Non-custodial Parental Rights and Responsibilities Policy: F6A **Action**

This policy was last adopted by the school board in 2004 and was brought before the board as part of the policy review cycle. The district attorney reviewed the policy prior to the meeting and did not recommend any changes. Director Taylor and Kieny requested several language changes throughout the document. None of the proposed changes will alter the intent or actions of the policy.

Director Kieny moved to approve the first reading of the Custodial, Joint Custodial and Non-custodial Parental Rights and Responsibilities Policy: F6A, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

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

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for December 3, 2019.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA**Board Date: December 3, 2019****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
Support Staff	Sheryl	Asper	End of Employment	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Chelcy	Branon	End of Employment	Paraeducator - SPED	32.5	CMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Milan	Marak	New Hire	Drama Coach		CMS	Notice of Hire		Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Katharine	Bilodeau	End of Employment	Behavior Interventionist	37.5	UMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Lara	Breeding	End of Employment	Paraeducator	32.5	UMS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes	Yes

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

IX. Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2019 (Work Session) Action

Director Taylor requested to clarify the type of community feedback that the board will be collecting regarding the early education facility improvements.

Director Taylor moved to approve the amended minutes for the work session held on November 19, 2019, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

X. Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2019 (General Session) Action

Two minor corrections were noted.

Director Kienny moved to approve the amended minutes from the general session held on November 19, 2019, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

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

- Superintendent Minor praised Union Memorial School and Porters Point School for their recent “VTPBIS Exemplar School” status from the Vermont Agency of Education. Both schools were recognized during the Annual Vermont PBIS Leadership Forum. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Support which improves the social culture and the behavioral climate of classrooms and schools which ultimately leads to enhanced academic performance.

XII. Future Agenda Items Informational

- Continued Policy Work
- PPS School Report
- FY’21 Budget Discussions
- Science Test Scores
- Early Education Center

XIII. Executive Session (Added Item) Action

Director Taylor made a motion to enter executive session at 9:04 p.m. to discuss real estate, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Director Taylor made a motion to exit executive session at 9:16 p.m., seconded by Board Chair Rogers. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

XIV. Adjournment


Director White made a motion to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. seconded by Director Kienny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:



Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:



Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk