

# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, January 7, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 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; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz; Principals: Chris Antonicci, Michele Cote, and Heather Baron. 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**

Principal Heather Baron stated that CHS is wrapping up the first semester and midterms start next week. Course registration for next school year is beginning and they will start to build the schedule soon. Winter activities and sports are in full swing and she invited and encouraged anyone to come to a game, performance, or competition.

Principal Michele Cote shared that all students at CMS will soon be taking the interim SBAC assessments. She also shared that the school is starting to reach out to families in the Islands to set up shadows for potential incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

UMS Principal Chris Antonicci was pleased with the online turnout for sing along which was live-streamed. He also shared that their music teacher, Martie Mutz, has two CHS alumni shadowing her from Clarkson University. The students are enrolled in the music education program there. He shared that he was their principal when they attended UMS and it is great to have them back. Lastly, he invited community members to the UMS Musical, *On with the Snow!* on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the CHS Performing Arts Center.

### IV. FY'21 Budget Presentation and Discussion

**Informational**

Using the priority lists discussed in previous FY'21 budget discussions, Superintendent Amy Minor showed the board several scenarios with varying levels of additions to illustrate how those additions would impact the budget and what the subsequent estimated tax increase would be. The goal of this discussion was for the board to make a determination on what percentage increase they would be comfortable with putting forth to the residents of Colchester.

They looked at four scenarios ranging from no additions which would result in a 3.92% budget increase and an estimated tax increase of 2.25%, to the addition of 2.5 FTEs which would result in a 4.51% budget increase and an estimated tax increase of 2.98%.

Director White confirmed that the number required on the ballot is the estimated increase in per pupil spending. That percentage ranges from 2.15% to 2.87% based on the scenarios provided.

Director Taylor stressed that these numbers are only projections. Business and Operations Manager George Trieb concurred, stating that they are a best guess based on the educational tax components provided by the state.

Director Kieny reviewed the priority list that was discussed at the last meeting. The list includes elementary reading teachers, a middle school special educator, instructional coaching at the secondary grade levels, and a part time English language teacher. Based on the four budget scenarios provided, he asked for clarification on which FTEs would be placed in each scenario. Superintendent Minor stated that the administration has had many rich discussions about student needs throughout the district and they are still determining what should be addressed first. She explained that prior to making a firm decision, she wanted to get feedback from the board on a number that they believed the community would support. Superintendent Minor stated it has been difficult to rank the priorities in order of importance since they are all such critical needs.

Director Cox echoed Director Kieny's request for more clarity around the specifics of the FTEs in each scenario. Superintendent Minor stated that once the board makes it clear how many positions they would consider adding, she will work with the other administrators to develop a final list of budget recommendations. The board will hear those recommendations at the next meeting, prior to warning the budget.

The board members each shared that they were comfortable with the scenario that would add 2.5 FTEs resulting in an estimated tax increase of 2.98%.

Board Chair Rogers stated that for many years the board has been extremely fiscally conservative and as a result, there are now critical needs that must be met.

**V. Approval of Colchester School District Announced Tuition Rates Action**

Each year, districts are required by law to announce their anticipated tuition for students attending Colchester schools from other districts that do not have a high school or middle school. The majority of tuition students attending CSD are from the Grand Isle Supervisory Union and the town of Georgia.

*Director Taylor moved to approve the announced tuition rate for FY 2021 at \$14,100 for elementary grades (k-6) and \$16,400 for secondary grades (7-12), seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

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

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for January 7, 2020. Gwen Carmolli, director of curriculum, noted one correction prior to the vote.

**PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA****Board Date: January 7, 2020****REVISED****Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)**

<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>FTE/Hours</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Agenda Information</b>	<b>Person Replacing</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Admin Support</b>
Teacher	Taylor	Houston	New Hire	Reading Teacher	.54 FTE	Multiple	Notice of Hire		Yes	Yes
Teacher	Amanda	Barone	New Hire	Grade 2 Elementary, Long Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	PPS	Request to Hire	Kelly Ryan	Yes	Yes

**Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), *Informational***

<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>FTE/Hours</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Agenda Information</b>	<b>Person Replacing</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Admin Support</b>
Support Staff	Sophie	Gregg	End of Employment	Paraeducator-Bus	15	MBS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Jason	Singh	Transfer	Technology Specialist III	37.5	CHS	Notice of Transfer	Kathy Couillard	Yes	Yes

*Director Kieny moved to approve the revised Personnel Consent Agenda for January 7, 2020, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**VII. Approval of Minutes: December 17, 2019 Action**

*Director Kieny moved to approve the minutes from the general session held on December 17, 2019, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**VIII. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: December 20, 2019 Action**

*Director Taylor moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on December 20, 2019, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

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

- The power is on at the Newbury solar site. The district's second solar sight is still on target to break ground in April.

**X. Future Agenda Items Informational**

- Continued Policy Work
- PPS School Report
- FY'21 Budget Discussions
- Early Education Center

**XI. Executive Session to Discuss Superintendent's Contract Action**

*Director Cox made a motion to enter executive session at 7:58 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the superintendent's contract, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*


**XII. Adjournment**

*Director Kieny made a motion to exit executive session and adjourn at 8:26 p.m. seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

Recorder:

  
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Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

  
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Lindsey Cox  
Board Clerk