

# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 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; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli; and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz. 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. Approval of FY'21 Budget and Warnings

### Action

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with another summary of enrollment numbers and projections for next school year. Enrollment is currently strong and steady. She reviewed the FY'21 education tax components which are set at the state level but affect the estimated tax increase for Colchester residents.

At previous board meetings, Superintendent Minor presented the district's top priorities for the 2020-21 school year along with the rationale and the estimated tax impact. Based on previous board discussions, Superintendent Minor brought two scenarios for the board's consideration. Balancing student needs with financial impacts, the board showed support for adding the recommended 2 FTEs for reading teachers in grades K-2, .5 FTE for an English language teacher at Colchester Middle School, and 1 FTE for a special educator at Colchester Middle School. When combined with other cost drivers, it makes up a budget of \$44,626,828 which is a 4.78% increase that translates to a 3.10% estimated tax increase and a 2.99% increase in per pupil spending.

The board asked several questions regarding the recommended positions and the rationale that was presented at previous meetings. Director White asked what a typical day would look like for those reading teachers and what the benefits would be. Curriculum Director Gwen Carmolli explained that they would primarily focus on working with small groups of students with focused instruction and support. The addition of these teachers would allow the district to offer reading support to kindergarteners; current staffing only allows work with first and second graders. As the district works to incrementally build a proactive support model for reading, adding support for kindergarteners would be a big step in the right direction. The goal is early intervention and research says the best time is to reach students is prior to grade 4. Director Taylor asked if teachers and staff agree with the data showing that students are struggling and behind reading level. Curriculum

Director Gwen Carmolli said absolutely. She added that with the current staffing the district cannot meet the needs of all students in grades K-2.

Director Taylor noted that these additions do not solely make up the estimated tax increase – it is actually small portion of it. The majority of the increase is driven by other cost factors such as transportation, salaries and benefits.

In regards to communication, the board agreed to film a round-table discussion at LCATV, possibly February 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Report to the Community will be mailed to residents in the middle of February and the district will create and post videos to the website and social media.

*Director Taylor moved to adopt a budget of \$44,626,828 for the support and operation of the Colchester School District for the year beginning July 1, 2020, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

*Director Cox moved to warn the year 2020 Annual Town School District meeting by signing the warning for said meeting, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**IV. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda**

**Action**

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for January 28, 2020.

**PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA****Board Date: January 28, 2020****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	Deborah	Kalamasz	End of Employment	Speech and Language Pathologist	40	PPS	Request to end Employment effective June 30, 2020			Yes
Teacher	William	McClintock	End of Employment	Mathematics Teacher	40	CHS	Request to end Employment effective June 30, 2020			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	Dorothea	Alter	End of Employment	Paraeducator-Special Education	32.5	MBS	Notice of End of Employment		Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Rebecca	Fink	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	UMS	Notice of Hire	Lara Breeding	Yes	Yes

*Director Cox moved to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda for January 28, 2020, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**V. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2020 (6:00 p.m.)** **Action**

*Director Taylor moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on January 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**VI. Approval of General Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2020 (7:00 p.m.)** **Action**

*Director Cox moved to approve the minutes from the general meeting held on January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**VII. Executive Session to Discuss Teacher Negotiations and the Support Staff Contract in Reference to a Letter Sent to the Board from the CEA** **Action**

*Director Cox made a motion to enter executive session at 7:39 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a student matter as well as teacher negotiations and the support staff contract in reference to a letter sent to the board, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

Director Cox left executive session at 8:00 p.m.

*Director Taylor moved to exit executive session at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

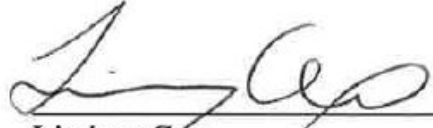
**VIII. Adjournment**

*Director Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

Recorder:

  
Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

  
Lindsey Cox  
Board Clerk