

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, February 4, 2020
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, and Curt Taylor; Student Board Member Mitch Gadapee; Superintendent Amy Minor; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli; Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz; Principals: Michele Cote, Carolyn Millham and Jordan Burke. 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

Colchester Middle School Principal Michele Cote shared that their cheer club recently placed 2nd in the large middle school classification at a competition. The club will also be performing at the next all school meeting. For the early release day students will be participating in wellness activities during the day and the staff will continue working on restorative practices for their afternoon professional development session.

Malletts Bay School Principal Jordan Burke stated the preschool had an unannounced visit from state and were pleased to receive positive feedback. For the early release day, MBS faculty will be working with other K-5 faculty on the next science unit that will be rolled out. February has lots of events planned including band and chorus performances, a food drive, an American Heart Association event and World Read Aloud Day.

Porters Point School Principal Carolyn Millham echoed the early release day science work that her faculty will be doing.

IV. School Report: Porters Point 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.

Porters Point School Principal Carolyn Millham provided an overview of the school's CIP goals. Academically, the school is focused on two areas. The first is learning targets and success criteria. She explained how teachers present both daily and long-term learning targets in student friendly

language before lessons. The targets are standards-based and provide context to help students focus on what they are learning and what their goals are. Success criteria describes how students will demonstrate their mastery of a subject, which is often shown in a rubric form. Principal Millham shared several examples of learning targets and success criteria. The second academic CIP goal at PPS focuses on science. The first standards-based science unit was implemented in 2018-2019 and the faculty is continuing to work on instruction that facilitates discussions and fosters creativity. Principal Millham highlighted three in depth and rigorous science units. She elaborated that they are highly engaging and inquiry-based, meaning students are doing the experiments and developing hypotheses about each of the unit topics. Director Cox has a student at Porters Point and echoed that he has been very engaged and excited about the curriculum. She applauded the hands-on learning experience. Board Chair Rogers aired concerns around adding more courses to the already packed school day with these types of lessons and other requirements that the district has to abide by. Director of Curriculum Gwen Carmolli stated they are monitoring the roll out and will be making adjustments as needed.

On the supports side, the school is focused on expanding social-emotional and behavioral supports through Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS). They have been using PBIS for several years now and will be continuing to expand the range of behavior and small group supports they offer. They are using a quicker screener that helps staff to better understand what instruction is needed for all students and small groups of students. One example she provided was that they were able to identify that across the building a large number of students were experiencing worry or anxiety. As a result, they added some emotional regulation and mindfulness instruction to the general guidance curriculum.

V. Quarterly Financial and Special Education Reports **Informational**

Superintendent Amy Minor presented information from the quarterly financial report. Revenue and expenditures are tracking mostly as expected. Should the current spending trend continue, the district would expect a slight surplus of \$206,289. Special Education Director Carrie Lutz gave an overview of her department's quarterly report. Special education preschool numbers are up which is typical for this time of year since the preschool offers rolling admission for students who turn 3 after the start of the school year. For upper grades, out of district placements are up and she is continuing to monitor the needs of students requiring such placements.

VI. Approval for Purchase of Chromebooks for Malletts Bay School **Action**

Superintendent Amy Minor outlined a memo from Business and Operations Manager George Trieb requesting board approval to purchase Chromebooks for Malletts Bay School. This purchase is a budgeted expenditure that occurs annually as part of the district's annual replacement plan. The district will be purchasing the Chromebooks off the State of Vermont contract.

Director Kieny moved to authorize the business and operations manager to purchase the IT equipment as requested, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

VII. FY'21 Budget Discussion **Informational**

Superintendent Amy Minor previewed the Annual Report to the Community which will be mailed to residents in a few weeks. The board then discussed the upcoming roundtable budget discussion

that will be filmed at LCATV. They went over questions and answers that would help explain the budget and the driving factors.

VIII. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

There was no Personnel Consent Agenda to present for February 4, 2020. Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz provided the board with a hiring update. There are currently 13 open paraeducator positions and 2 open interventionists positions.

IX. Approval of General Meeting Minutes: January 28, 2020 **Action**

Director Taylor moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 28, 2020, seconded by Director Kienny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

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

- Lead testing is underway. All schools will have submitted samples by next week.
- Local representative Sarita Austin toured UMS recently. She sat in on several classes to observe literacy instruction. She plans to visit CHS next week.
- Student Board Member Mitch Gadapee shared that CHS held its first ever Mental Health Awareness Week. A new group called You Matter Here sponsored the week which aims to highlights and destigmatize getting resources for mental health and the stress that often occurs within students.

XI. Future Agenda Items **Informational**

- Continued Policy Work
- Lead Testing Results
- 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

XII. Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations **Action**

Director Kienny made a motion to enter executive session at 8:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director Taylor moved to exit executive session at 9:17 p.m., seconded by Director Kienny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

XIII. Adjournment

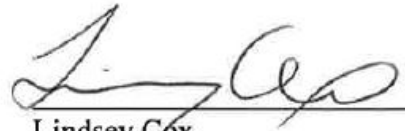
Director Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. seconded by Director Kienny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Recorder:



Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:



Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk