

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, March 17, 2020
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, Curt Taylor and Nic Longo; Student Board Member Mitch Gadapee attended via phone; 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 called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Minor requested to add an action agenda item after item IV to address the recent school closure due to COVID-19.

Director Cox moved to authorize COVID-19 as an additional actionable agenda item in between items 4 and 5 of this agenda, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Report from Building Principals

Informational

In response to the recent guidance from the Center of Disease Control regarding the number of people gathering, building principals were asked to not attend. No information was reported.

IV. Hear Nominations for School Board Reorganization and Approval of Newspaper of Record

Action

Nominations were held for school board chair, vice chair, and clerk, as well the official newspaper of record.

Director Cox moved to nominate Michael Rogers as Board Chair, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director Cox moved to nominate Craig Kieny as Vice Chair, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director Taylor moved to nominate Lindsey Cox as Board Clerk, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director Cox moved to approve The Colchester Sun as the official newspaper for the district for legal notices, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

V. Update on Emergency School Closure due to COVID-19 Action

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with an update to the action that the district leadership team has taken in response to the order from the Governor Scott for all schools in Vermont to close amid the COVID-19 pandemic. She reviewed the following components in the district's COVID-19 plan and [Governor Scott's directive](#). She emphasized that this is a rapidly evolving situation and the district's response plan is changing as information is updated from the Vermont Department of Health, The Agency of Education, and Governor Scott. During this time, Governor Scotts directs all schools to remain operational for administrators, teachers, and staff to sustain essential services and to plan and implement continuity of education through remote learning. In his press conferences, the Governor made it very clear that all school employees will continue to get paid during the dismissal period. As a result of the Governor's directive, the board made an official motion to solidify their intention regarding salaries and benefits.

Board Chair Rogers moved to authorize the continuation of salaries and benefits for all CSD employees during the dismissal period, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Superintendent Minor provided information regarding the district's plan for meal delivery which is starting on Wednesday. Building principals and classroom teachers are developing maintenance of learning plans for students. Director of Student Support Services, Carrie Lutz is waiting on further guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education regarding the requirements for Special Education during school closure. Beginning on Monday, March 23, buildings will be closed to the community. All building use and after school activities have been canceled. The spring sports season has been postponed by the Vermont Principal's Association until further notice. The district will continue to place updates on our website on the COVID-19 page.

Director Cox urged that as the administrators finalize the work plan for employees moving forward that they use telecommunications whenever possible. While the board understands that work needs to continue, especially the planning for the 2020-2021 school year, Director Cox emphasized that people should stay at home whenever possible and for employees to be flexible. Director Kieny echoed Director Cox's statement. Student Board Member Mitch Gadapee expressed his great faith in building leadership and stated students he has spoken with have felt incredibly supported and cared for. He applauded the efforts of the district leadership.

VI. Approval for Purchase of Chromebooks for CMS and Laptops for CHS Action

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb requested board approval to purchase Chromebooks for CMS and Laptops for CHS. 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 Cox moved to approve the authorize the business and operations manager to purchase the IT equipment as requested, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

VII. Approval of Recommendation for Teacher Contract Renewals 2020-2021 **Action**

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with a memo outlining the contracts that she recommends to renew for the FY'21 school year.

Director Cox moved to approve the recommended teacher contracts for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

VIII. Approval of School Calendar for 2020-2021 **Action**

Superintendent Amy Minor outlined the draft calendar for next school year. The calendar is based on the contract agreement which indicates there will be 176 student days, 8 in-service days, 1 teacher prep day, and 2 family conference days for a total of 187 days. Also included on the calendar were four early release days. Superintendent Minor stated the early release days continue to be a success for professional development. She also noted that Colchester Parks and Recreation agreed to continue to offer childcare for K-8 students.

The board agreed to the four early release days. Director Cox asked to consider moving the December early release day from the 2nd to the 9th to reduce the disruption for families since they will have just returned from November break.

Director Kieny moved to approve the four early release days in the 2020-2021 calendar as presented, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

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

The following agenda was presented to the school board.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA**Board Date: March 17, 2020****Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)**

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Amy	Contesti	New Hire	Alternative Education Teacher	1.0 FTE	CMS	Notice of Hire	One Year Only, open Position (Perry Nunn)	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Elizabeth	Clapp	New Hire	EL Teacher	.50 FTE	CMS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Carolyn	Robinson	FTE Decrease	Spanish Teacher	.8 FTE	CHS	Request Permanent Reduction in FTE			Yes

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	Alison	O'Brien	End of Employment	Paraeducator - ELL	32.5 hr	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Hilarie	Jones	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Sped	32.5 hr	PPS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Jeremie	Paquette	End of Employment	Technology Specialist 1	40	CHS	End Employment effective May 31, 2020			Yes
Support Staff	Jacy	Hagy	End of Employment	Behavior Interventionist	35	UMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes

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

X. Approval of General Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2020 Action

Director Cox moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 3, 2020, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

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

Cox request for additional guidance regarding open meeting law given the COVID19 environment. Board members are currently receiving a lot of information via email and she would like guidance as to how they can respond to the emails without violating the law (1 V.S.A. § 312).

XII. Future Agenda Items Informational

- Lead Testing Results
- Rachel Cohen, Rowland Fellow
- CSD Safety Planning
- MBS/CHS Bathroom Renovation Project
- Policies: Fraud, Truancy & Attendance
- Future Facilities Needs Presentation


XIII. Adjournment

Director Cox made a motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. seconded by Director Kienny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk