

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Remote Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2020
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Governor Scott signed H.681 into law, making temporary changes to Vermont's Open Meeting Law. Part of those changes allow school districts to hold school board meetings remotely with no designated meeting location. LCATV provided coverage through a live stream and citizens were provided online and telephone options to participate in the meeting. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, Curt Taylor, and Nic Longo; Student Board Member Mitch Gadapee; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli; and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Citizen Participation

A letter was submitted to the board by Colchester resident and CHS basketball coach, Justin Bisonnette. The letter was in regard to paying coaches and activity leaders for the spring sports and activity season which was canceled by the overseeing body of the Vermont Principal's Association. In the letter, Mr. Bisonnette outlined the reasons for his support and encouraged for the board to pay the district's coaches and activity leaders even though the season was unable to take place. Following the reading of the letter, the board engaged in a short discussion but ultimately decided to wait to have a formal discussion until later in the meeting since it is on the agenda as item X.

III. COVID-19 School Closure Status Update

Informational

Director of Curriculum Gwen Carmolli provided the board with an update on learning happening in the district. She stated they have evolved since remote learning started and although it will never replace in-person learning, she has been hearing supportive and appreciative comments from community members, families, and educators.

Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz stated her team is working on plans for the summer. The district normally runs five summer programs in the month of July and she is fielding a lot of questions about the programs. They are waiting for further guidance from the Agency of Education before any final decisions are made on what mode of service the district will be able to offer. In the most recent guidance, the AOE mentioned that there "might" be some in person services. As a result, her team is working to design different services that will encompass some remote learning and some opportunities for small groups.

Superintendent Minor provided an update on several facets that different teams in the district are working on. The meal delivery program has officially served 73,638 meals. The Agency of Education has begun to release guidance on summer meals and the district is working on logistics to offer summer meals in a more robust way than they have traditionally given the additional need

from families. CHS has organized a Graduation Committee to brainstorm and provide feedback to administrators on potential options for the Class of 2020. They sent out a survey and were extremely pleased to have an overwhelming response from seniors. CMS has a similar committee in place to plan a celebration for the 8th-graders. The District Leadership Team is planning for the end of the year and the many components and moving parts that are now even more complex given the remote learning environment. Currently, they are finalizing plans for families to keep district-owned devices over the summer for continued learning, ways for families to retrieve personal items that were left in the buildings, and ways for families to return academic materials such as library books, text books, calculators, STEM supplies, specialized art supplies, and instruments.

Director Longo shared his appreciation for all the work that has been thus far. His family has accessed the meals and have picked up supplies at PPS during one of the drive-thru events.

IV. Approval of Consolidated Federal Programs Grant and Assurances Action

Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Gwen Carmolli, provided an overview of the official allocations for the Consolidated Federal Programs Grant. In order to apply, the district has to provide assurance that it complies with federal regulations.

Director Taylor moved to authorize the superintendent to sign the assurances for the Consolidated Federal Programs Grant for the 2020-2021 grant application, seconded by Director Longo. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

V. Quarterly Financial and Special Education Reports Informational

Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz gave the quarterly report for special education. She stated that enrollment numbers are steady. As always, they have students moving in and out of the district, and entering and exiting the special education program. Currently, out of district programs are not taking any new students during remote learning but the district has students who are in the queue to apply for alternative programming for next school year. In the district, students are receiving both special education and general education. They have done some creative programming with remote learning. Paraeducators have been assisting with meals program, direct online programming with students, and professional development.

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb reported that revenue and expenditures are tracking mostly as expected. He pointed out that this report was from March, prior to any impacts seen from COVID-19. The district has incurred costs due to the pandemic but it will also recoup money in other areas. He is working with vendors of contracts that are not being fulfilled but it is unknown what the total surplus/deficit will be. In light of the evolving financial situation, Mr. Trieb agreed to bring the board monthly financial reports moving forward.

VI. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda Action

Director Cox moved to approve the personnel consent agenda for May 19, 2020, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

Board Date: May 19, 2020

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Anne	Brabazon	New Hire	Elementary Librarian	1.0 FTE	PPS	Notice of Hire	Sandra Bochanski	Yes	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	Carol	Boutwell	End of Employment	Food Service Worker	12.75 hr	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Patricia	Morel	End of Employment	Building Nurse	35 hr	CHS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes

VII. Approval of General Meeting Minutes: May 5, 2020 **Action**

Director Taylor requested two minor edits.

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

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

None.

IX. Future Agenda Items **Informational**

- COVID-19 Update
- CSD Safety Planning
- Policies: Fraud, Truancy & Attendance

X. Executive Session to Discuss Spring Sports Contracts **Action**

The board first discussed the legality of entering executive session to discuss this agenda item. Superintendent Minor read the statute and after a discussion, the board decided they would continue this agenda item in open session.

Director Cox asked about the proration of contracts for spring sports. Business and Operations Manager George Trieb clarified that they are not contracts. Coaches and activity leaders are at-will employees and receive letters of intent. Director Cox asked when the letters were distributed. Mr. Trieb stated that the letters were prepared just as the Governor announced the two-week closure of all schools in Vermont. The district held onto the letters with the plan to send them once school resumed but the season was eventually canceled by the Vermont Principals Association. Since there was never a season, the letters were never sent out. Director Kieny confirmed that no spring practices or sports ever started.

Director Kieny asked when the board should make a decision as to paying spring coaches and activity leaders. Board Chair Mike Rogers stated the decision was essentially already made when no letters were given out and no formal agreements were made. No further action was needed unless the board felt compelled to modify or change that decision.

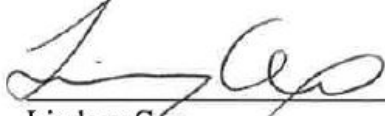
XI. Adjournment

Director Taylor moved to adjourn at 8:17 p.m., seconded by Director Cox, the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk