

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Remote Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2020
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 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; 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 7:00 p.m.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Vermont School Board Association Presentation

Informational

Susan Holson is the Director of Education Services at the Vermont School Board Association (VSBA). The VSBA recently added two Chittenden County seats on the VSBA Board. Ms. Holson provided an overview of what the board does in the hopes of attracting one of the local Colchester School Board members to fill one of the new seats. The board asked a few logistical questions about obligations of the role in terms of term-length, meeting frequency, location, and the time commitment.

IV. COVID-19 School Closure Status Update

Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor shared details of how teachers and schools celebrated their students and the accomplishment of finishing out the school year. The schools all had successful drive-thru wave events, online videos, and slideshows. She also detailed the very successful graduation weekend for the Class of 2020. Along with the intimate diploma ceremony on Saturday at Colchester High School, on Sunday evening, seniors decorated their cars and paraded from the high school to Sunset Drive-In. They were treated to an hour-long film including speeches from faculty and students, musical numbers from the chorus and band, as well as videos and photos of the senior class from the past four years. Following the film, students were surprised by a 20-minute professional firework show. Superintendent Minor expressed deep gratitude to Project Graduation who sponsored the event. She also thanked the administrators for their work on the entire weekend, as well as Colchester Police and Fire Department for their support. Board Chair Mike Rogers thanked the community and the administrative team for putting everything together in such a short amount of time. He shared that the whole weekend was unique, special, and remarkable.

Director of Curriculum Gwen Carmolli showed the board several examples of summer learning opportunities available to students. Her team has compiled various options from print to online with multiple content areas to choose from. They will be sending them out to families soon.

Superintendent Minor shared that she is expecting detailed guidance regarding the reopening of school to be released from the Agency of Education later in the week. She acknowledged that once the guidance comes out, many families and staff may want immediate plans from the district however, the leadership team will need time to review and process the guidance before any finalized plans are implemented. She committed to providing summer updates as information becomes available. She stressed the importance of keeping families and employees in the loop so they know where the district is in the decision-making process and when to expect more details. She also noted that even once the guidance is released there may be changes and adjustments made based on updated public health data. She stated that this will be the focus of the district's leadership team this summer. They plan to break up into design teams to cover the following topics: continuity of learning, health services, facilities, educational programming, and professional development for employees, students, families. Director Cox suggested one of the teams be focused on equity, using the district's contract with Rebecca Haslam.

Board Chair Rogers requested the board choose a date to hold a retreat once the guidance is out and the district's plan has started to form.

Director Kieny asked if part of the district's plan would include another closure, in the event of another outbreak. Superintendent Minor stated they will be planning for three learning scenarios: remote, in-person but modified with distancing precautions, and blended which is a combination of remote and in-person.

Director Taylor asked how the district is documenting their work as it relates to COVID-19. Specifically, he inquired if administrators are taking note of things that have worked well and things that have not so that the district could reflect on the decisions that are being made now in the event another pandemic happens. Superintendent Minor stated that all of the administrators and department heads have been keeping specific documents related to the changes that have been implemented. In many areas, the district is using this change as an opportunity to review processes and to think outside the box. There have been several new things that have added exceptional value which will be kept even after students return to in-person learning.

V. Monthly Financial Report

Informational

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb presented a report of the district's finances for the month of May. Typically, he provides financial reports quarterly but it was suggested at the last meeting that the financial report be reviewed monthly for the board to see the expenditures impact of COVID-19. At this time he did not have any substantial concerns to alert the board of.

Director Kieny asked if there has been a net reduction or increase in COVID-19 costs. Mr. Trieb stated that money is being spent on a variety of items specific to COVID-19, such as cleaning supplies and learning materials, but there are no totals on the exact figures yet. He noted that the district is also saving money in some areas, however, the majority of the budget, approximately 80%, consists of salary and benefits which is still being spent.

Director Taylor asked if Mr. Trieb was keeping track of COVID-19 related spending in case a decision is made at the state-level to provide reimbursement. Mr. Trieb stated that he is and the business managers around the state have had conversations about this and are working out the details of how to track those expenditures.

VI. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

Action

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

Board Date: June 16, 2020

REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support

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	Laura	Duval	End of Employment	Medicaid Coordinator/Receptionist	40	CO	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Lynsey	Hartshorn	New Hire	Payroll Specialist	40	CO	Notice of Hire	Brittany Langevin	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Michael	Rosenthal	End of Employment	Paraeducator - 504	32.5	CHS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes

Director Taylor moved to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda for June 16, 2020, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

VII. Approval of General Meeting Minutes: June 2, 2020 Action

Director Kieny moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 2, 2020, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

VIII. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: June 8, 2020

Director Cox moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on June 8, 2020, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

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

- The board reviewed the meeting schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. They decided to replace the general meeting that was scheduled to take place on July 21, 2020, with a board retreat.
- Superintendent Minor shared that she was asked to serve as a trustee for the Vermont Superintendent Association (VSA). She is excited to represent Colchester and to have a bigger voice in the VSA.
- Director Cox read a statement that she wrote which formally asked for the board to add an action item to the July 7, 2020 meeting to discuss raising the Black Lives Matter flag on the school campuses for the 2020-21 school year. The board agreed and it will be placed on the July 7, 2020 agenda. Director Cox's full statement is attached to this set of minutes as an appendix.

X. Future Agenda Items Informational

- COVID-19 Update and Planning

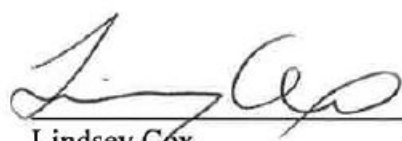
XI. Adjournment

Director Kieny moved to adjourn at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk

Colchester School Board
Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2020
Appendix

CSD School Board Director Lindsey Cox's June 16th Statement to the School Board

"On June 1st, Superintendent Minor emailed out a statement on Racial Injustice. First, I want to re-emphasize her commitment to all People of Color, as she wrote, but especially the Black members of our Colchester community. She said, "I want you to know that we see you, we hear you, and we stand beside you. We are committed to doing our part to address systemic racism, inequities and disparities that exist in our society."

As school board directors, our essential work, as outlined by the Vermont School Board Association, is to be stewards of the district vision. This includes developing and working with the superintendent to achieve the vision and monitoring progress and assuring accountability to the vision. Our vision in the Colchester School District reads: We strive to prepare each student for success in life by providing an enriching, welcoming and safe environment. As board directors, it is time to hold ourselves accountable to this vision.

For these reasons, I propose we raise the Black Lives Matter flag at our schools for the next year, as a start towards and a reminder of our commitment. According to their website, Black Lives Matter is a call to action and response to anti-Black racism. As leaders of our school community, I call on my fellow board members to take this action so there is a visible symbol on our school campuses to help our Black students and families feel safe and welcome. Then, I ask that we continue to educate ourselves and take the appropriate actions to dismantle the systemic racism that exists within our policies, our practices, and our rhetoric.

In Superintendent Minor's email, she also reminded us that, "our children are watching..." She was referencing the current events unfolding across the nation, but I would like to turn that statement on to us, as a school board. Our children are watching. How are we, as elected leaders and white people in a place of power and privilege, going to stand in solidarity and hold ourselves accountable to the vision we have been elected to uphold? Raising the Black Lives Matter flag can be our first small step."