

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Remote Meeting

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

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 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, and Curt Taylor; Superintendent Amy Minor; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli; Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz; and Principal Chris Antonicci.

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. Approval of Paving Project at UMS

Action

Union Memorial School currently has 56 parking spaces. While there is ample parking for staff, when there is an event or multiple guests visiting the school, cars often overflow onto 2A and Middle Road creating unsafe conditions. Additionally, with the request for families to transport their students to allow for more physical distancing on the bus for those who rely on it, they anticipate more vehicle traffic. This vehicle traffic will also take longer to process because of individual student health checks. The proposed project would allow for 17 additional parking spaces to be created on the west side of the school between UMS and Claussen's Greenhouse.

Director Kieny moved to approve the Business and Operations Manager to select All Seasons Excavating to complete the paving project at UMS, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

IV. Review of Updated 2020-2021 School Calendar

Informational

Governor Scott signed an Executive Order to delay the start of school until Tuesday, September 8th. In a typical year, CSD students end the year with 176 student days, this change will mean ending the year with 168 student days. Superintendent Minor shared that the district is waiting on further direction from the State as to what that means for the school calendar in June and whether the district will be required to lengthen the school year to make up the days. It is also possible the district will look at scheduled recess days to potentially convert them to learning days.

Superintendent Minor noted that regional districts are required to have a certain number of common days, so any changes to those regionally agreed-upon days would have to be approved by a larger group.

With the Governor's delay of the start of the school year for students, Superintendent Minor explained how the district will use the additional time with district faculty and staff. Employees will receive education and training regarding the new COVID-19 safety precautions. They will also go over the learning models that could be experienced this year including what their work expectations will be related to their individual role within each learning model. Teachers will also have collaborative time with their school buildings and colleagues. Director Kieny verified that the number of working days for teachers is the same and that nothing will need to be negotiated. Superintendent Minor stated there is a grid in the union agreement that outlines how their days are utilized. Administrators will be working with the local unions regarding that.

Board Chair Rogers shared his hope that the lost student days would not be added on in June. He cited concerns of weather, secondary students seeking jobs and summer work, and a perceived general loss of attention and focus towards academics at the end of the year.

Director Cox asked for the leadership team to explore moving some of the school recess days that land on Mondays and Fridays to Wednesdays so the students scheduled to attend on those days would not miss out on their in-person day.

V. Approval of the Reopening Colchester Schools Plan

Action

Superintendent Minor along with Director of Curriculum Gwen Carmolli and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz guided the board through the details of the district's reopening plan. The plan was created with input from administrators, teachers, support staff, and families and follows guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), and the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE). Superintendent Minor acknowledged the pandemic conditions which have led to the need to operate school differently. She recognized that many CSD families have suffered from the pandemic and the school's need to abruptly shift to emergency remote learning this past spring. She stated that ultimately, the district wants all students to be back in the building learning in person, but that they are balancing that with health and safety guidance from the CDC, VDH, and AOE. The guidance from those agencies has evolved and will continue to change based on updated science and data. Subsequently, the district's reopening plan includes various scenarios that could be implemented at any time based on shifts in that guidance.

Their presentation gave a fairly detailed outline of the layered safety measures that will be put in place, including mandated masks for employees and students, regular hand washing, physical distancing whenever possible, health screenings, regular cleaning, enhanced arrival and departure procedures, cohorting student groups, and restrictions on visitors, volunteers, field trips, and outside use of school buildings.

They then transitioned to an overview of the four learning models that the district is preparing for. The first is full-time virtual schooling. This is an optional choice that families can choose. For students in K-8, virtual schooling will be staffed by a small team of CSD teachers. For those in grades 9-12, virtual schooling will be facilitated by the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC).

The second learning model is the alternative to virtual schooling, in-person instruction. To start the school year, Colchester, along with 15 other districts in Northwest Vermont, is opening in a hybrid model. The hybrid learning model divides enrolled students into two groups. One group attends school on Monday and Tuesday while the other group learns remotely. On Thursday and Friday, the

groups switch and the first group learns remotely and the second group attends in person. All students will learn remotely on Wednesday. The hybrid model reduces the number of students in the building at a time to allow for the physical distancing recommendation of 6 feet outlined in the AOE guidance. While they noted that remote learning does not compare to the benefits of in-person learning, the hybrid model will be a great improvement over the emergency remote learning that happened in the spring. Along with several summer months of planning and preparation which will improve how remote learning is delivered, students will also have two days of in-person learning to help facilitate the learning that happens on the home days.

The third learning scenario is traditional schooling in the sense that all students are offered the opportunity to return to in-person instruction five days a week. The fourth and final learning scenario being planned for is district-wide fully remote learning. This would happen in the event of a substantial community outbreak or if the State moved all schools or the region into Step 1.

The administrators also provided information about unified arts, preschool, and special services.

Throughout the presentation, the board asked some clarifying questions regarding the health and safety protocols and the learning models. Board Chair Rogers asked several questions specifically about the hybrid learning model and voiced his opposition and disagreement with the model. He supports bringing all students back full time.

Director Taylor moved to approve the CSD Reopening Plan, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed 3-1, with Board Chair Mike Rogers voting against.

VI. Approval of Draft School Board COVID-19 Procedures Action

In the decision-making guidance put forth by the Agency of Education, it states that school boards should describe the parameters for instructional dispositions through policy or to delegate authority to the superintendents through administrative procedures. The board reviewed a draft copy of such procedures. Director Cox suggested one edit for clarity.

Director Cox moved to approve the draft COVID-19 School Board Procedures, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

VII. Results of CSD Lead Testing Informational

The district is beginning to receive the results of the water that was tested for lead last year by the Vermont Department of Health (VDH). To date, the VDH has released results for two school buildings, CHS and CMS. All taps sampled at CHS were below the threshold for 4 parts per billion (ppb). All but one tap at CMS was below the threshold. The tap found to be above 4ppb required immediate action which has already been completed by the district's maintenance department. This district will communicate the results of the testing with employees and families.

VIII. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda Action

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA**Board Meeting Date: August 4, 2020****REVISED****Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)**

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Anita	Dayvie	New Hire	Physical Education Teacher, Long Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	CHS	Notice of Hire	Courtney Boetsma	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	Amy	Latulippe	Transfer	Medicaid Coord/Receptionist	40	CO	Notice of Transfer	Laura Duval	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Derek	Roy	New Hire	Technology Specialist I	40	CHS	Notice of Hire	Jeremie Paquette	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Robert	Phipps	End of Employment	Custodian	40	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Roy	Bishop	Leave of Absence	Paraeducator	32.5	CHS	Request Leave of Absence of the 2020/2021 SY			
Support Staff	Mary	Barnes	End of Employment	Paraeducator-Library	14	UMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes

Director Cox moved to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda for August 4, 2020, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

IX. Approval of General Meeting Minutes: July 7, 2020 Action

Director Taylor moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on July 7, 2020, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

X. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: July 29, 2020 Action

Director Cox moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on July 29, 2020, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

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

- Superintendent Minor shared photos of the completed solar array in Newbury and the solar array currently under construction in West Vernon. The district has starting to see credits on their electricity expenditure as a result of the completed solar array.

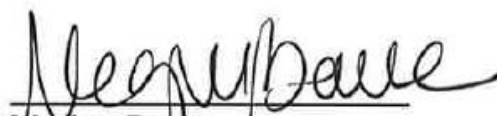
XII. Future Agenda Items Informational

- Reopening Update and Planning
- Calendar


XIII. Adjournment

Director Taylor moved to adjourn at 9:01 p.m., seconded by Director Kienny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk