

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Remote Meeting

Tuesday, December 1, 2020
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 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 School Board Member Julia Correll; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli; Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz; and Principals: Heather Baron and Chris Antonicci.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Approval for Purchase of Chromebooks and Laptops

Action

Business and Operations Manager, George Trieb requested board approval to purchase Chromebooks for MBS and laptops for CHS. This purchase is a budgeted expenditure that occurs annually as part of the district's annual replacement plan. Mr. Trieb explained that they are placing the order earlier than normal due to significant delays receiving devices from vendors. The district will be purchasing off the State of the Vermont contract.

Director Kieny moved to authorize the business and operations manager to purchase the IT equipment as requested, seconded by Director Longo. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

IV. COVID-19 Update

Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor gave a brief update on COVID-19 impacts throughout the district.

She updated the board on the November testing phase of the State's school employee surveillance testing. CSD conducted 277 tests and had zero positive results. In total, the state tested 9,389 school employees and a total of 21 tests came back positive. Registration opened today for the district's December testing phase which is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8. She also updated the board on the University of Vermont's serostudy that is being conducted in Colchester. They are scheduling families and employees for an initial finger-stick collection appointment on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout December. The district was only responsible for notifying families and employees of the survey with information on how to sign up. Now that the enrollment period has ended, Dr. Ben Lee and Dr. Sean Bullis, have taken over all communication with the participants.

Last week the Governor suspended school winter sports indefinitely. Superintendent Minor stated that she is anticipating an update at this Friday's press conference. She spoke directly with Jay Nichols, the executive director of the Vermont Principals Association (VPA) and he is willing to come to the next board meeting if members are interested. Director Cox voiced that it would help to have him or someone from the VPA speak about the process that the VPA is using to make their decisions.

Staffing was a concern many superintendents shared before the Thanksgiving holiday. Superintendent Minor was pleased to confirm they had a very small number of employees who are in quarantine following the holiday break. She thanked the district's employees, families, and students for making sacrifices last week. She validated that those sacrifices will ultimately keep school open for in-person learning.

V. Budget Discussion

Informational

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb went over the FY'22 baseline budget draft with the board. The baseline draft takes everything that is in place currently and rolls it forward based on the assumption list provided at the last meeting. If everything stays as is with no additions, reductions or changes, the FY'22 budget would be a 4.99% increase on the expense side. The board discussed some specific line items such as compensation, benefits, technology, and transportation.

Superintendent Minor is working with the administrators in the district to determine each school's needs and will present her findings at the next meeting. She noted that some of the needs may be based on physical distancing standards due to COVID. If the current standards stay in place next year and the board wishes to increase in-person learning days for grades 6-12, they will have to add a significant number of FTEs. She stated that she is hoping to get some guidance from the Agency of Education soon, however, she recognized that no one can truly forecast where we will be as a community next fall. Regardless, the board will have to make some decisions based on their best guess to move forward with the budget process.

VI. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

Action

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA
Board Meeting Date: December 1, 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	Robert	Hamlin	New Hire	Special Educator - One Year Only	.62 FTE	MBS	Notice of Hire	One Year Only - new position	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	Cheryl	Moore	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Resigning Paraeducator position			Yes
Co-Curricular	Jeffrey	Davis	New Hire	JV Boys Basketball Coach		CHS	Notice of Hire	James Roach	Yes	Yes

Director Cox moved to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda for December 1, 2020, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

VII. Approval of General Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2020 Action

Director Taylor requested some minor edits.

Director Taylor moved to approve the amended minutes from the meeting held on November 17, 2020, seconded by Director Longo. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

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

- The district was notified that the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be postponed. They are hoping to issue it in the Fall of 2021. They cited having consistent access to students across the country as a result of COVID-19.

IX. Future Agenda Items Informational

- COVID-19 Updates
- FY'22 Budget Discussion
- Policy Work

X. Executive Session to Discuss Negotiations Action

Director Cox moved to enter executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss negotiations, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

XI. Adjournment

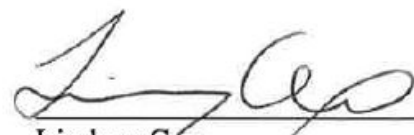
Director Taylor moved to exit executive session and adjourn at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:



Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:



Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk