

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Remote Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 2021
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. 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 School 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; Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz; and Principals: Carolyn Millham and Chris Antonicci.

I. Call to Order

Board Vice Chair Craig Kieny called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. FY22 Budget: Community Q&A

Informational

With no town meeting this year due to COVID-19, this agenda item was reserved for community members to email or call in with questions or comments.

Tom Wieland emailed the board asking why the 2021 Annual Report to the Community did not include statewide assessment scores. He voiced concern about some of the district's scores found on the Agency of Education's website, specifically 8th grade math scores in 2018. Superintendent Minor responded that there was no data to include in this year's report because the state canceled standardized assessment tests last spring due to COVID. She noted that the scores he referenced in his email have actually been a big priority for both administrators and the school board. In response to several data trends, including the test results he cited, the district added staffing at the middle school to decrease class size and changed the math curriculum. Gwen Carmolli, the district's director of curriculum and assessment, noted that the middle school had been working hard on pacing their instruction so they could cover as much of the content as possible but then COVID-19 hit last spring. The shift to remote learning significantly impacted that work. Ms. Carmolli shared that administrators and teachers are very much preparing for and looking forward to renewing their focus on curriculum and academics as the district looks to shift to the recovery phase of the pandemic. She voiced appreciation to the community member who raised the question and assured that they are working very hard to address score results. Director Cox added that standardized tests are just one data point used to track the learning that happening in schools and often do not show the whole picture. Board Chair Rogers implored the future board to put more focus on the immediate needs at the middle school.

Superintendent Minor also gave a brief update on the district's continuing efforts to inform the community about the budget components. She attended three PTO meetings and hosted two voluntary employee meetings to share budget information. The Annual Report to the Community was successfully mailed to all residences in the town. Two videos in the district's Your Vote Matters series have been produced and posted with a third coming next week. She thanked Student Board Member, Julia Correll, for her excellent work in making the second video.

IV. COVID-19 Update

Informational

Superintendent Minor shared that she is waiting on written guidance from the Agency of Education and the Department of Health which updates the provisions related to music instruction, rehearsal and performance. Once that guidance is distributed, administrators and music teachers will take time to thoroughly review the document with a goal of having it implemented after students return from February break. Over the break, she also anticipates receiving details from the state detailing what must be in the district's recovery plan. Administrators in the district have already begun work on the three areas that will be covered in the plan including academic achievement, engagement and truancy, and social-emotional learning, mental health and school supports. One of the action steps in the district's plan that they are working on currently is expanding the existing summer school format. They are currently assessing needs, potential staffing, capacity, and identifying eligibility.

V. Quarterly Financial and Special Education Reports

Informational

Business and Operations Manager, George Trieb, presented the financial report for the second quarter. He noted that this year's spending over the first two quarters is very similar to last year. Both revenue and expenditures are tracking mostly as expected. He stated that should the current spending trend continue, the district would expect a slight surplus of \$135,747.

Director of Student Support Services, Carrie Lutz, presented the quarterly report for special education. She is continuing to monitor staffing and pointed out that they have successfully hired several support personnel positions but have not filled them all. Enrollment in special education is about the same as the last report but there have been a slight increase.

VI. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

Action

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA
Board Meeting Date: February 16, 2021

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
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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	Michael	Brown	End of Employment	Behavior Interventionist	35	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Brittany	Cresta	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of Hire	open position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Candace	Frazier	End of Employment	Autism Interventionist	35	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Emma	Hoppe	End of Employment	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Joy	Eidsheim	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	UMS	Notice of Hire	open position	Yes	Yes

Director Longo moved to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda for February 16, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 2, 2021 Action

Director Taylor moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 2, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Regional superintendents are almost finished determining the required common days for next school year and the calendar will come to the board for review next month.
- The district is completing its planning to potentially shift any additional snow days this winter to remote learning.
- Colchester High School Director of Support Services, Jean Shea, was recently announced as this year's Kidsafe Collaborative Outstanding Professional.
- School Board Chair Mike Rogers and Director Curt Taylor were honored for their years of service on the board. Both will be moving on at the end of their term and the board will be welcoming two new directors following the Town Meeting Day Election.

IX. Future Agenda Items Informational

- Plans to Support Struggling Learners
- COVID-19 Updates
- Policy Work
- Updated Demographic Study

X. Executive Session to Discuss Negotiations Action

Director Cox moved to enter executive session to discuss negotiations at 7:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Taylor moved to exit executive session at 8:44 p.m., seconded by Board Chair Rogers. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

Director Taylor moved to adjourn at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Board Chair Rogers. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:


Meghan Baue
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk