

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Remote Meeting

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

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, March 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 Directors: Craig Kieny, Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Laurie Kigonya, and Ben Yousey-Hindes; Student Board Member Julia Correll; Superintendent Amy Minor; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli; Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz; and Principals Heather Baron, Michele Cote, Jordan Burke, Chris Antonicci and Carolyn Millham.

I. Call to Order

Superintendent Minor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She welcomed two new school board members, Laurie Kigonya and Ben Yousey-Hindes.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Hear Nominations for School Board Reorganization and Approval of Newspaper of Record

Action

Nominations were held for school board chair, vice chair, and clerk, as well as the official newspaper of record.

Director Longo moved to nominate Craig Kieny as Board Chair, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director Longo moved to nominate Lindsey Cox as Vice Chair, seconded by Director Yousey-Hindes. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director Cox moved to nominate Nic Longo as Board Clerk, seconded by Director Kigonya. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director Cox moved to approve The Colchester Sun as the official newspaper for the district for legal notices, seconded by Director Longo. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

IV. First Reading of School Board Policy: B1 (Warned as item V)

Action

The district's policy manual includes 76 policies and Superintendent Amy Minor stated that the board typically looks at approximately 15 policies per year to achieve their goal of reviewing each

policy once every five years. With much focus being put on COVID-19, Superintendent Minor acknowledged that the board has been unable to review as many policies as they would in a normal year. There were four policies on this meeting’s agenda and while all have been reviewed fairly recently, Superintendent Minor noted that with two new school board members it seemed timely to resume their policy work with these board-related policies.

For this policy, B1, the board’s meeting schedule conflicts with the way the policy is currently written. There is always a school board meeting after the annual town meeting, however, it falls before any potential new members would be seated on the board. It was requested to change “annual meeting” to “election” in Section II-F.

Director Cox moved to approve the first reading of the School Board Policy: B1. The motion passed unanimously.

V. First Reading of Code of Ethics for School Board Members Policy: B2 **Action**
(Warned as item IV)

It was requested to remove a redundant sentence in Section II-E.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the first reading of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members Policy: B2. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. First Reading of Management of Policies: A1 **Action**

It was requested to add “at least” to the number of accepted readings of each policy in Section II-B.

Director Cox moved to approve the first reading of Management of Policies: A1. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. First Reading of Suspension of Policies: A2 **Action**

No changes were recommended.

Director Longo moved to approve the first reading of Suspension of Policies. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Recommendation for Teachers Contract Renewals 2021-2022 **Action**

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with a memo outlining the contracts that she recommends renewing for the FY’22 school year.

Director Longo moved to approve the recommended teacher contracts for the 2020-2021 school year. The motion passed 4-0 with Director Cox abstaining.

IX. Approval of School Calendar for 2021-2022 **Action**

Superintendent Amy Minor outlined the draft calendar for next school year. The calendar is based on the contract agreement which indicates there will be 176 student days, 8 in-service days, 1

teacher prep day, and 2 family conference days for a total of 187 days. Also included on the calendar were four early release days. Superintendent Minor stated the early release days continue to be a success for professional development. She also noted that Colchester Parks and Recreation agreed to continue to offer childcare for K-5 students.

Director Cox asked if having a regional calendar, which must have agreed upon common days with other districts, is an asset or a hindrance. Superintendent Minor stated that there are talks in Montpelier about a statewide calendar, but she was unsure if it would gain traction. She shared that the current process is very much collaborative amongst regional superintendents, but it does provide limitations. For example, districts have differing numbers of student and professional development days which can be challenging to align.

Director Cox moved to approve the four early release days in the 2021-2022 calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

X. COVID-19 Update

Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with an update on school operations impacted by COVID-19.

The district is continuing to offer voluntary COVID-19 testing to employees, substitutes, bus drivers and ACE staff. Vaccination of school staff through the state's initiative is going well. It appears all employees who want the vaccine have able to get an appointment. Board Chair Kieny asked if scheduling vaccinations or sick call-outs after receiving a dose have had any impact on school operations. Superintendent Minor stated that has not been an issue. In a recent newsletter, Superintendent Minor shared cumulative COVID-19 case data across the district. As a follow up to that newsletter, she was asked how many close contacts were identified and directed to quarantine as a result of each case. She shared that of the 26 total cases over the last seven months, 11 of those cases resulted in less than 10 close contacts; 10 cases identified between 11 and 20 close contacts; three cases identified 21-30 close contacts; one case identified 31-40 close contacts; and one case had more than 40 close contacts.

In other updates, the Agency of Education (AOE) and Vermont Department of Health (VDH) are continuing to work together to finalize guidance for spring sports but nothing has been released yet. Winter sports are continuing. There has been some local news coverage about hockey positive cases but it has not affected Colchester teams. The food service department is preparing for another meal distribution for the week of April Break. They are also planning for the summer meals program.

Superintendent Minor relayed that the state's Safe and Healthy Schools Guidance is the framework used by the district to provide in-person education to students this year. It was last updated in October and is currently being reviewed by the AOE and VDH. Superintendents are anticipating changes will be made in early April. Until the updated guidance is released, Colchester families can expect that all learners will continue with their current learning environment and schedule.

XI. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

Action

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board. Superintendent Minor noted two employees who are retiring at the end of the year, Deborah Deschamps and Darlene Mulcahy. She thanked them for the dedicated service to the district.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA**Board Meeting Date: March 16, 2021****REVISED****Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)**

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Deborah	Deschamps	End of Employment	Nurse Supervisor	1.0 FTE	CHS/DW	Request to end Employment effective June 30, 2021			Yes
Teacher	Darlene	Mulcahy	End of Employment	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	UMS	Request to end Employment effective June 30, 2021			Yes
Teacher	Amanda	Vella	New Hire	Art Teacher	1.0 FTE	CHS	Request to Hire	Anne Cummings	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Meghan	Tiernan Fisher	End of Employment	Spanish Teacher	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to end Employment effective June 30, 2021			Yes
Teacher	Miriam	Mahar	End of Employment	Alternative Education Teacher	1.0 FTE	CAP	Request to end Employment effective June 30, 2021			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	Joseph	Badger	End of Employment	Lead Custodian	40	UMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Megan	Cobaugh	Leave of Absence	Paraeducator - SPED	32.5	CMS	Request Leave of Absence for the remainder of 2020/2021 SY			Yes
Support Staff	Sandra	Boyd	New Hire	Lead Custodian	40	UMS	Notice of Hire	Joseph Badger	Yes	Yes

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

XII. Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 2, 2021 Action

The board discussed the best way to share and respond to emails from the community.

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

XIII. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2021 Action

Director Longo moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 9, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- The board reviewed their meeting schedule for the spring and summer. There will not be a second meeting in April.
- Heather Lynn from Lynn, Lynn, Blackman & Manitsky will join an upcoming meeting to go over changes to the Title IX rules.

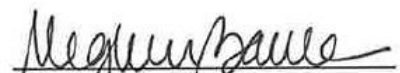
XV. Future Agenda Items Informational

- CSD Financial Audit
- Enhanced Summer School Program
- COVID-19 Updates
- Policy Work
- Kindergarten Enrollment

XVI. Adjournment

Director Cox moved to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Nic Longo
Board Clerk