

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Remote Meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 2021
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 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; Superintendent Amy Minor; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Principals: Heather Baron and Michele Cote.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Craig Kieny called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Second and Final Reading of Fiscal and Business Management Policy: E1 Action

No changes or edits were made.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the second and final reading of the Fiscal and Business Management Policy: E1. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Quarterly Financial and Special Education Reports Informational

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb gave an overview of the district's spending in the previous quarter. Revenue and expenditures are tracking mostly as expected. Should the current spending trend continue, the district would expect a surplus of \$699,635. Mr. Trieb noted that interest earning will be significantly below budget due to a reduction in rates by People's United Bank. He also pointed out that tuition will bring in approximately \$400,000 more than expected as more students attended CHS than budgeted. He also mentioned that because the district is using a new finance software called eFinance, there are some variances in several accounts, however, expenses are tracking mostly as planned.

Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz shared enrollment numbers for preschool and special education. This year, preschool enrollment is lower than a typical year due to COVID-19 mitigation measures to distance students. There is a waitlist for next year but the distancing guidelines may allow the district to enroll more students next year. Special education enrollment is slightly lower this quarter as a result of students moving, unenrolling, or transitioning back into general education. She noted that two students were moved into alternative programs and there are several more who are being evaluated for out-of-district placements, however, there are limited spots available and

long waiting lists. The special education directors in Chittenden County are in the final stages of creating an additional alternative school that will be run as a consortium which should create more placement opportunities to serve students who qualify.

V. Approval of Consolidated Federal Programs & IDEA-B Grant and Assurances **Action**

Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Gwen Carmolli, and Director of Special Education, Carrie Lutz, provided an overview of the official allocations for the Consolidated Federal Programs Grant and the IDEA-B Grant. To apply, the district must assure that it will comply with federal regulations.

Director Longo moved to authorize the superintendent to sign the attached assurances and submit the Consolidated Federal Program and IDEA-B grants by June 30, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Second and Final Reading of Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title IX Policy **Action**

This is a new policy that was created by the Vermont School Board Insurance Trust (VSBIT) in response to changes to the federal Title IX law.

Director Cox moved to approve the second and final reading of Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title IX Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. COVID-19 Update **Informational**

Superintendent Amy Minor gave an overview of the case counts in the district since the beginning of the school year. She shared that CMS will be a host site for a vaccination clinic run by the Vermont National Guard. The clinic will be open to the public but targeted to make it convenient for the new age group of 12–15-year-olds to get vaccinated. The district is anticipating guidance outlining how schools will operate in the fall to be released next week. At the next board meeting, the administrators from Central Office will go over the district’s recovery plan. The plan is being developed to meet the needs of learners as they recover from the effects of the pandemic.

Director Kieny asked how end-of-the-year events are coming along. CMS will make their formal announcement at the end of the week but they are planning an in-person ceremony outside in small groups to celebrate their 8th graders. CHS Principal, Heather Baron, shared that the graduation ceremony will look like a traditional year but the location will be outside on the football field. The event is requiring extensive logistics. There are 161 graduates, each graduate gets four tickets for family members who will be seated in a “pod” six feet from other attendees. The planning committee anticipates these pods will span the length of the field so they are bringing in professional audio to ensure the event can be heard.

VIII. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda **Action**

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA**Board Meeting Date: May 18, 2021****Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)**

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Jessica	Frank	Leave of Absence	STEM Teacher	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request Leave of Absence for 20/21 School Year			Yes
Teacher	Jessica	Frank	New Hire	Science Teacher (Grades 7/8) - One Year Only	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Bridgette	Tozzi	Leave of Absence	Music Teacher	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request Leave of Absence for 20/21 School Year			Yes
Teacher	Kathleen	Naylor	New Hire	Language Arts Teacher (Grades 7/8) - One Year Only	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to Hire	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	Amy	Silverston	End of Employment	HR Coordinator	40	CO	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Nancy	Mock	End of Employment	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Hunter	Stark	End of Employment	Behavior Interventionist - Planning Room Coordinator	35	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Danielle	Cotte	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Speech	32.5	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Faye	Graham	End of Employment	Paraeducator - SPED	32.5	CHS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes

Director Longo moved to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda for May 18, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 4, 2021 Action

Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 4, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- The CSD Art show is virtual this year and can be accessed through the district's website www.csdrv.org. Superintendent Minor congratulated all the student artists and praised the art teachers for their work to upload all the art to the site. CMS students have displayed their "street art" project along Blakely Rd to help promote the show and to bring positivity to community members.
- Director Longo shared that he and some other board members had the opportunity to judge DARE presentations by 5th graders at MBS. He said it was wonderful and the students did an excellent job. He extended his appreciation to Corporal Bressler and the teachers for inviting him to participate.

XI. Future Agenda Items Informational

- Demographics report
- COVID-19 updates and recovery planning
- Policy work
- Facilities renovation projects

XII. Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations Action

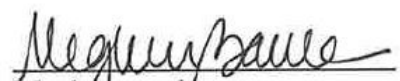
Director Cox moved to enter executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations.

Director Cox moved to exit executive session at 8:22 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.


XIII. Adjournment

Director Cox moved to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Nic Longo
Board Clerk