

# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Remote Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. Governor Scott signed H.681 into law which makes 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 Craig Kieny, Directors: 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;

### I. Call to Order

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

### II. Citizen Participation

Colchester resident, Genna Barnaby, called into the meeting to share several action items that she would like the school board to consider. She asked the board to end the use of COVID-19 mitigation strategies recommended by the Agency of Education and the Centers for Disease Control. She asked the board to uphold individuals' rights to medical and religious exemptions. She asked the board to publicize the curriculum for all grades on the school's website, to ensure that political discussions are balanced, to end Critical Race Theory and Common Core curriculum, and to end Common Core standardized testing. She asked the board to notify the district of any guest speakers in classrooms. She asked the board to end using CSD schools as community vaccination clinic locations and to disclose any monetary amount given to the district for the clinic's use of the building. Lastly, she asked to grant a portion of the American Rescue Plan 2021 funds allocated to the district to the caregivers of students. She thanked the board for their dedication to making the schools within the district an excellent place for children to receive education and for employees to work in.

### III. Discussion: Tax Anticipation Note

### Information

To start the next fiscal year, the district typically needs to borrow funds from a lending institution until revenue arrives from the state. Approving a tax anticipation note is an action item that the board considers each year. Business and Operations Manager George Trieb explained that the district's unanticipated surplus should cover the expected expenditures that occur over the summer and the district is not expected to need to acquire additional funds before the state revenue arrives. Director Longo asked how much surplus there is and how much the district is saving by not using a tax anticipation note. Mr. Trieb stated the surplus will be approximately \$1.5 million and the district will save between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in interest fees by not using a note.

**IV. Second and Final Reading of Policies E2: Grant Funding, E8: Prevention of Conflict of Interest, and G2: Title I Comparability** **Action**

At the advice of the Vermont School Board Association, the district is working to consolidate policies that have overlapping topics to make the policy manual more comprehensive and easier to navigate. In the case of these three policies, it was determined that policies G2: Title I Comparability and E8: Prevention of Conflict of Interest would be removed as stand-alone policies. Instead, the content from those policies would be relocated into policy E2: Grant Funding.

*Director Longo moved to approve the second and final reading of policy E2: Grant Funding, and to eliminate policies E8: Title I Comparability Policy and G2: Prevention of Conflict of Interest. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board. The consent agenda also included a residency waiver request for a middle school student.

DRAFT

**CONSENT AGENDA**  
**Board Meeting Date: June 15, 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	Daniel	Leonard	New Hire	Middle School Music Teacher - One Year Only	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to Hire	Bridgette Tozzi	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Robert	Hamlin	End of Employment	Special Education Teacher, One-Year Only	1.0 FTE	MBS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Teacher	David	Mitchell	End of Employment	Science Teacher, One-Year Only	1.0 FTE	CHS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Teacher	Caitlin	Bellavance	Transfer	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	PPS	Notice of Transfer	Dawn Bissonnette	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Ryan	Strobel	End of Employment	Special Education Teacher	1.0 FTE	CHS	Request to end Employment effective June 30, 2021			Yes
Teacher	Emily	McKelvey	End of Employment	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	MBS	Request to end Employment effective June 30, 2021			Yes
Teacher	Heather	Fischer	New Hire	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	MBS	Notice of Hire	Emily McKelvey		Yes
Teacher	Amanda	Barone	New Hire	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	MBS	Notice of Hire	Caitlin Bellavance		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	Patrick	Ducharme	End of Employment	Custodian	40	CHS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Isabel	Sanchez	End of Employment	Paraeducator- ELL	32.5	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Megan	Cobaugh	End of Employment	Paraeducator- SPED	32.5	CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Hope	Renadette	Transfer	Bookkeeper	40	CHS	Notice of Transfer	Heidi Echo		Yes
Support Staff	Phyllis	Golodetz	Transfer	Attendance Secretary	40	CHS	Notice of Transfer	Hope Renadette		Yes

**Residency Waiver Requests**

First Name	Last Name	Building	School District	Admin Support
Erica	Frost	CMS	Grand Isle School District	Yes

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the student tuition waiver request for June 15, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.*

**VI. Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 1, 2021 Action**

*Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 1, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.*

**VII. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports Informational**

- The district collected bids for bathroom renovations at two schools in early 2020, just before things were shut down as a result of COVID-19. The bids were recently resubmitted and are now significantly higher than expected. The project is not urgent and the district decided to put it on hold for a year to see if there is a change in pricing.
- The board will hold a special meeting on 6/22 at 7:00 pm to discuss the BLM flag. This meeting will be in-person at the CHS Library.
- The board reviewed a draft version of rules for citizen's participation at meetings. They all agreed with the list and requested to post them on the school board website where the agendas and other information are stored.

**VIII. Future Agenda Items Informational**

- There will be no school board meetings in July. The first official school board meeting of the 2021-222 school year will be August 3, 2021.

**IX. Executive Session to Discuss Superintendent's Evaluation Action**

*Director Longo moved to enter executive session at 7:41 p.m. to conduct the superintendent's evaluation.*

*Director Kingonya moved to exit executive session at 8:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

**X. Adjournment**

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

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Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

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Nic Longo  
Board Clerk