

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, November 15, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, in the Colchester High School Library. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Board Directors Ben Yousey-Hindes, Felix Anderson, Laurie Kigonya and Student Board Representative Olivia Dallamura. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Business and Operations Manager George Trieb, Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz. There were nine members in the audience including two district employees and several representatives from the Town of Colchester.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Lindsey Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Colchester Recreation Center Presentation Information

Town Manager Aaron Frank started by thanking the district for continued support and partnership with the parks department to create and foster youth opportunities. Colchester Parks and Recreation Director Glen Cuttitta provided an overview of a proposed recreation center. Mr. Cuttitta explained the project's history and their work so far including community surveys, purchasing land for the center, and formulating a planning commission to identify the best use of the property. Through public input, it was determined that the top priorities were an indoor pool, exercise rooms, and equipment, as well as community meeting spaces. Mr. Cuttitta then showed several renderings of what the proposed center would look like and how it would be situated on the Hazlett parcel, located directly across from Laker Lane.

The board asked a series of questions about how the center would positively impact students, how it's being funded, and the timeline moving forward. Mr. Cuttitta stated that gym space is at a premium in the town and there are often multiple groups needing space at the same time. Student Board Member Olivia Dallamura echoed this statement and said with the demand for space, many high school sports teams end up practicing late into the evening. She thanked the Town for identifying this as a need and for working toward a solution. Mr. Cuttitta and Mr. Frank stated this recreation center is a top priority for the town and they are working to finalize a cost estimate, funding package, and ballot language for it to be placed on the 2023 Town Meeting Day ballot. Town officials welcomed a letter of support from the School Board should they be inclined to provide one.

IV. FY'24 Budget Timeline and Discussion	Information
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Superintendent Amy Minor gave an overview of the FY'24 budget presentations and discussions planned for the next three months. She shared the communication timeline which encompasses a robust online and print distribution plan. Given the likelihood that there will continue to be a high percentage of early voting, the district is planning to accelerate the communication plan to ensure budget information is available to voters before they cast their ballot.

Business and Operations Manager, George Trieb, gave an overview of the state's education fund and how the tax is calculated. He went over who is responsible for funding, the timeline, key definitions, the process, and the important components on the local level. He also provided the board with the core budget assumptions for FY'24.

V. Second and Final Reading of Student Activity Account Policy: E4	Action
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There were no changes since the first reading.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the second and final reading of the Student Activity Account Policy: E4. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Third and Final Reading of Video Surveillance Policy: E6	Action
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This policy was updated since the second reading with some minor language changes. Changes were reviewed by the district's attorney and are in alignment with the Vermont School Board Association's model policy.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the third and final reading of the Video Surveillance Policy: E6. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda	Action
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The following Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA**Board Meeting Date: November 15, 2022**

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Hannah	Mavin	New Hire	Speech Language Pathologist	1.0	UMS, PPS, MBS	Request to Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Board Approval Required										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Support Staff	Michelle	DeVarney	Leave of Absence	Speech Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Request for Leave of Absence (03/08/23-03/17/23)		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	Teresa	Clark	New Hire	Special Ed Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of hire	Gail Stone	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Shauna	Rooney	Termination	Paraeducator	32.5	UMS	Notice of termination			

Director Anderson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as provided. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 1, 2022 Action

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 1, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports Information

- The board will have a retreat to discuss facilities on November 29 at 5:30 pm.

X. Future Agenda Items Information

- FY24 budget discussion
- Presentation on early release days
- Presentation on PCB testing
- Continuation of policy review

XI. Executive Session to Discuss Negotiations Action

Director Anderson moved to enter executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss negotiations. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

Director Anderson moved to exit executive session and adjourn at 8:44 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Meghan Baule
Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk