

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, December 6, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, in the Colchester High School Library. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Board Directors Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Felix Anderson, Laurie Kigonya and Student Board Representative Olivia Dallamura. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz. There was a local cub scout troop in the audience, along with a district employee.

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. Approval of Contract Agreement with Colchester Education Association (CEA) Action

A contract agreement between the Colchester Education Association (CEA) and the School Board was reached on December 1, 2022. The agreement is a three-year term with a 15.75% increase in compensation which includes a 5.95% increase for year one, 4.95% in year two, and 4.85% in year three. They also agreed on an increase in the teacher hourly rate, the concept of a flex day for summer learning, the opportunity for teachers to apply for prepayment of college courses, the creation of a safety committee to develop protocols for student/family misconduct chaired by the superintendent, and updated language in several sections throughout the contract.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Colchester Education Association for the years 2022-2025. The motion passed 3-0, with Board Chair Cox and Director Anderson abstaining.

IV. FY'24 Budget Discussion Information

As the board prepares to engage in discussions for the FY'24 budget, Superintendent Amy Minor gave a district-wide overview of student enrollment. Colchester's enrollment is steady and has been projected in a recent demographic study to rise slightly over the next ten years. She went over individual school enrollment including grade level and class size. She also gave data regarding enrollment and class size in unified arts, teams, and tuition students at the middle and high schools.

Superintendent Minor presented information regarding the education tax components for the upcoming budget. She addressed a letter sent to districts from the State Tax Commissioner. The

letter indicated that there is a surplus in the state's education fund, and it would appear they will use it to lower education property taxes. However, she noted that the final amount would be dependent on other variables such as the Common Level of Appraisal and may not ultimately result in a substantial reduction in taxes. Those determining components will become available to districts in the next few weeks. Superintendent Minor also shared the first draft of the baseline budget which shows a 7.28% increase over the current year; this increase is mostly driven by inflation.

Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli gave an overview of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. As covered in previous meetings, the funds have been broken up into three phases covering March 2020 to September 2024. The funds can be used on specific expenditures including staffing, food service offerings, health supplies, instructional materials and programming, transportation, and technology. Ms. Carmolli provided financial breakdowns of each phase to explain the amount of funds allotted, how much has been used, and in what categories. She went into more detail about the current ESSER funded positions within the district and provided a timeline to add these positions into future budgets in order to keep them once the ESSER funding ends.

Superintendent Minor provided a list of long-term staffing needs that was developed in collaboration with building principals and administrators at Central Office. Using that list, Superintendent Minor presented a brief overview of the FY'24 preliminary budget requests. First and foremost, it was recommended to maintain the current level of staffing and programming throughout the district. Second, it was recommended to move the ESSER funded positions into the budget. Superintendent Minor stated she will bring back specific costs associated with each role and options for cost-sharing or blended funding at the next meeting.

V. First Reading of Animal Dissection Policy: G4 Action

This policy was assessed as part of the CSD policy review process. This policy impacts science classrooms at CMS and CHS and both buildings have practices in place should a family or a student choose to not participate in a classroom dissection. There were no recommended changes

Director Longo moved to approve the first reading of the Animal Dissection Policy: G4. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. First Reading of Mascots and Branding Policy: NEW Action

The Agency of Education issued a model policy on nondiscriminatory mascots and school branding as required by Act 152 of 2022. As part of this policy, school boards must review the district's school branding to ensure compliance with the policy. Prior to the meeting, the district's diversity, equity, and inclusion coordinator and the District Leadership Team reviewed each school's current mascot and branding and confirmed that the district is in compliance with the proposed policy.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the first reading of the Mascots and Branding Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Information on PCB Testing in Schools Information

Vermont's PCB testing program was created in Act 74 of 2021. This act requires all Vermont schools to test for PCBs in school indoor air. Colchester Schools are scheduled to be tested next

year, however, several other schools in the state have already been tested and as a result of that process, the state has launched a PCB task force. Superintendent Minor is a member of the task force and provided an update on their work so far. She is anticipating the state to release further guidance in the coming weeks.

VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda	Action
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The board reviewed the following Consent Agenda. There were no licensed professionals listed, so no action was required by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: December 6, 2022

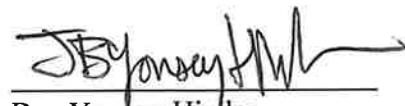
Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Board Approval Required						
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information

IX.	Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 15, 2022	Action
<p><i>Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 15, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.</i></p>		
X.	Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2022	Action
<p><i>Director Anderson moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on November 18, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.</i></p>		
XI.	Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: November 29, 2022	Action
<p><i>Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on November 29, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.</i></p>		
XII.	Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports	Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder of the upcoming 38th Annual Colchester Winter Carnival on February 3, 4, 5. 		
XIII.	Future Agenda Items	Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY24 Budget Development • Continuation of policy review • Announced Tuition 		
XIV.	Executive Session to Discuss Negotiations	Action
<p><i>Director Anderson moved to enter executive session at 9:08 p.m. to discuss negotiations. The motion passed unanimously.</i></p>		
XV.	Adjournment	
<p><i>Director Anderson moved to exit executive session and adjourn at 10:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.</i></p>		

Recorder:

 Gabrielle Brooks
 Recording Secretary

Board Clerk: -


 Ben Yousey-Hindes
 Board Clerk