



Colchester School District

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Happy February, CSD Employees!

In the world of a superintendent, January and February are probably the busiest months of the entire school year as we finalize the budget and embark on our budget communications plan. Immediately following the final decision and warning from the school board at the end of January, we hit the ground running. The board has continued their discussions at school board meetings, I've given presentations to different community groups, shared information with school employees and families through PTA meetings, we recorded a round-table discussion at LCATV, posted information on our website and social media accounts, filmed the Your Vote Matters video series, and the CSD Annual Report to the Community will be hitting mailboxes this week!

Each year, we mail a copy of this report to every residential home in town. It showcases some of the highlights from last year and includes budget information for Town Meeting Day. By far, our two most popular forms of communication are the Annual Report and our Your Vote Matters Video series.

As employees, we want you to have this information as well. Here are some links to catch up on what we've been communicating to taxpayers:

- [Your Vote Matters 2020: Episode 1](#)
- [Your Vote Matters 2020: Episode 2](#)
- Your Vote Matters 2020: Episode 3 (Will be posted on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and our [website](#) on Monday 2/24)
- [2020 Annual Report to the Community PDF](#)



As you have seen over the past four years, I am a fierce advocate of our district and I am extremely pleased with the growth our district has experienced since 2016. Colchester has a strong and stable enrollment and as a result, we have added classroom teachers, social workers, and we have continued to add staffing to our English Learner program. We have continued to invest in our facilities by renovating roofs, improving the security at

Amy Minor
Superintendent
of Schools

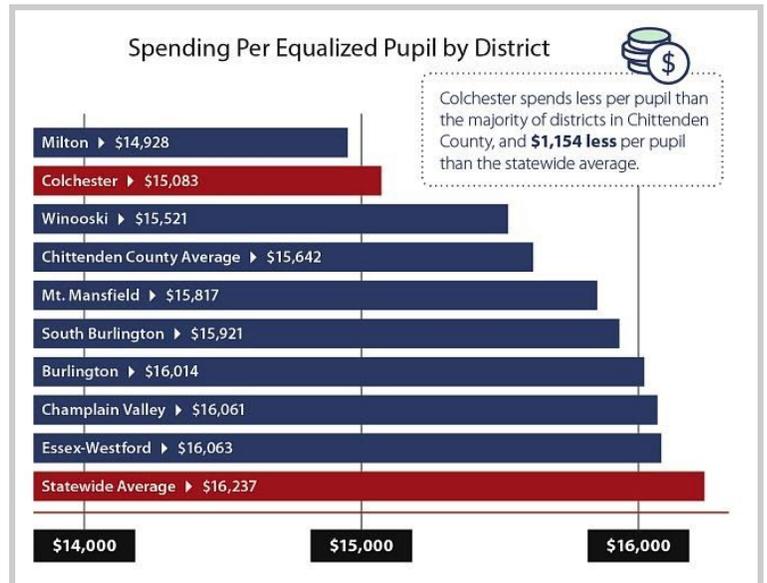
George Trieb
Business & Operations
Manager

Carrie Lutz
Director of Student
Support Services

Gwendolyn Carmolli
Director of Curriculum
& Instruction

each of our buildings, renovating the CHS ala carte and lunch lines, purchasing new kitchen equipment, investing in solar energy, and securing funding for elementary science materials.

Even with the budget additions over the past three years, Colchester remains a low spending district when compared to other Chittenden County districts and is below the statewide average when comparing per-pupil spending. It is imperative that we **maintain the current level of services and programs** for the students in Colchester so this year we proposed **no budget reductions**. As you can imagine, prioritizing the district's needs is one of the most difficult tasks for your district-wide leadership team. We are trying to meet with the needs of the district while being fiscally responsible with the dollars the Colchester community has provided us with.



The FY21 budget includes four additions:

- 1.0 FTE Reading Teacher at Porters Point School
- 1.0 FTE Reading Teacher at Union Memorial School
- 0.5 FTE English Learning Teacher at Colchester Middle School
- 1.0 FTE Special Educator at Colchester Middle School



I encourage you to watch, promote and share the Your Vote Matters video series (links available on the first page), produced by our very own Meghan Baule. The final video will be out just before February break and was produced by this year's student representative on the CSD School Board, Mitch Gadapee. He is an Islands student so he didn't go to Colchester for grades K-8. To prepare for the video, he visited each of the elementary schools (camera in hand!) to ensure he was able to capture the full journey of a Colchester student. If you see Mitch, please congratulate him on a job well done. We cannot wait for you to see what he captured.

CHS Senior, Madison LaQuerre led the school board in a round-table discussion that was filmed at LCATV last week. It will be airing on Channel 16 throughout the next few weeks or can be [viewed online via LCATV](#). She did a great job guiding our school board members through some with some complicated topics. This show provides the community with another opportunity to learn more about the FY21 school budget, especially for those who do not access the internet often.



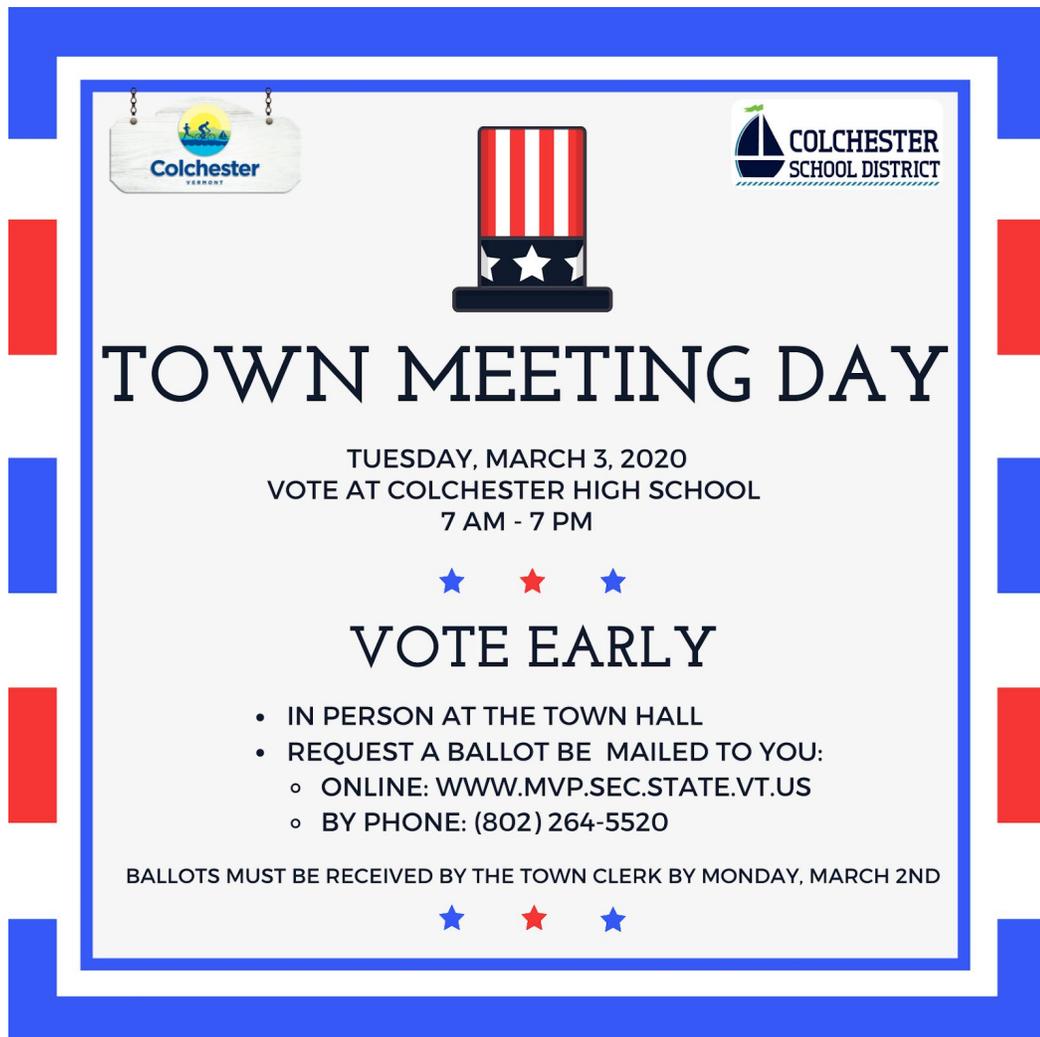
The Colchester Town meeting is on Monday, March 2nd at Colchester High School and I encourage you to attend if you are a Colchester resident. There is a free community dinner at 5:30 p.m. and then presentations by myself and then town officials. About 37% of our employees are also Colchester residents. I encourage you to attend and share information about our schools and the budget with your neighbors.

The FY21 budget is a 2.99% increase in our per-pupil spending over last year, and the estimated tax increase to taxpayers is 3.1%. The official ballot language is set by state statute and reads:

"Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$44,626,828, which is the amount the school board has deemed necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that the proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,533.30 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.99% higher than spending for the current year."

If you have any questions about the FY21 school budget, please feel free to check out the resource links that we have provided. No matter what town you live in, make sure you vote early or on Town Meeting Day on Tuesday, March 3rd from 7am - 7pm. Your vote matters!

Sincerely,
Amy Minor, Superintendent of Schools



Colchester
VERMONT

COLCHESTER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

TOWN MEETING DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020
VOTE AT COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
7 AM - 7 PM

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VOTE EARLY

- IN PERSON AT THE TOWN HALL
- REQUEST A BALLOT BE MAILED TO YOU:
 - ONLINE: WWW.MVP.SEC.STATE.VT.US
 - BY PHONE: (802) 264-5520

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE TOWN CLERK BY MONDAY, MARCH 2ND

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