



Colchester School District

Colchester Board of Education, PO Box 27, Colchester, Vermont 05446
Phone: (802) 264-5999 ● www.csdvt.org ● Fax: (802) 863-4774

The following was read aloud at the August 18, 2020 school board meeting.

Dear Colchester Community,

Thank you for taking time to share your perspective regarding the Colchester School District flying the Black Lives Matter flag. Our school board and administrative leadership team unanimously support this action as a symbol of our commitment to providing an anti-racist education and continued conversation and action.

We have decided to fly a Black Lives Matter flag at each building in the district to ensure our Black students and families feel welcome and safe.

The Board made its decision after consideration of the opinions and research of individual board members, a number of students, the community, and district staff. That decision is based on its support and belief that the words “Black Lives Matter” acknowledges the reality of discrimination black people face and our accountability, as people in positions of power, to change that. The Board has not had any discussion or taken an official position on the Black Lives Matter organization’s political goals or composition. We made our decision based on the belief that the flag is symbolic of the need to move toward greater equity and inclusion.

As an educational organization, Colchester School District believes that every moment can be an occasion for teaching and learning. Below are the words of our students regarding what this action means to them. We hope you will take the time to read, reflect, and come back with more questions.

Thank you again for your engagement with us in this important matter,

The Colchester School Board

Excerpt from Student Letter of Support:

“We have experienced and witnessed students of color not feeling welcome in our schools. The symbolism of raising the Black Lives Matter flag would make us feel like the work of welcoming all students into Colchester is a top priority for the district...Thank you for considering this bold action. It is not a political statement. It is recognition that there is still a lot of work to be done and we are ready to join together with our community to make Colchester School District’s vision of equity for all students a reality.” ~ *Letter of support signed by 70+ students and alumni*

Mike Rogers
Board Chair

Craig Kieny
Board Vice Chair

Lindsey Cox
Board Clerk

Curt Taylor
Member

Nic Longo
Member