

## COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, September 7, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, in the Colchester High School Library. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Craig Kieny, Directors Lindsey Cox, Laurie Kigonya, Ben Yousey-Hindes, and Student Board Member Gloria Kigonya. Director Nic Longo attended virtually. District administrators in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Business and Operations Manager George Trieb, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, and Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli. District Nursing Supervisor Lindsey Campion and local physician, Dr. Rebecca Coleman, were also in attendance. There was one audience member.

#### **I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Chair Craig Kieny called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **II. Citizen Participation**

None.

#### **III. COVID-19 Update**

#### **Information**

Superintendent Amy Minor gave an update on district operations since the opening of schools on August 25. In that time, she has visited nearly every classroom in the district and shared some of her observations with the board. She then went over the critical components of the mitigation measures in place to keep both the school community and the greater community safe and healthy. Those layered safety measures include staying home when sick or sending students home when they present with symptoms while at school, mask-wearing when indoors, surveillance testing, and contact tracing. She stated that regional superintendents are anticipating an announcement from the Governor and Secretary of Education that will extend the universal masking requirement for schools. The district's nursing supervisors are preparing to launch the district's voluntary surveillance testing program for all employees and students at the end of the month. The program has required a tremendous amount of operational planning and training. The district also has two more vaccine clinics scheduled in September that are open to eligible students and community members.

Superintendent Minor gave an overview of the COVID-19 cases in the district since school opened. There have been four cases at the middle school, two at the high school, and one at Malletts Bay School. Using guidance and support from the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), the district worked to contact trace and provide quarantine guidance to approximately 170 close contacts. VDH has no evidence that any of the district's cases resulted in school transmission.

Dr. Rebecca Coleman was invited to share her expertise with the board and answer any questions they had. She took the opportunity to share her agreement with the American Academy of Pediatrics and other agencies that stress the importance of mask-wearing to reduce transmission. Director

Yousey-Hindes stated the board has received some criticism of the mask mandate, citing a concern that masking may hinder speech and language development in children and the way they process and learn to understand facial expressions. Dr. Coleman stated that children start to recognize emotion as early as two months. Even while wearing her mask in the office, young children recognize and respond to her. She also refuted any concerns about wearing a mask for prolonged periods, pointing out that many occupations, such as surgeons, regularly wear masks for extended periods.

When speaking about the Delta Variant, Dr. Coleman confirmed that she is seeing an increase in cases in children, some with symptoms and some without. She shared optimism that a child vaccine will be available by the end of the year. Superintendent Minor stated that she has heard concerns from parents that the Vermont Department of Health does not require vaccinated individuals to quarantine after an exposure. Dr. Coleman stated that the vaccine works, however, like all vaccines, it is not perfect and there is still a risk of getting infected. Vaccinated individuals experience far less severe symptoms and are less likely to transmit the virus than the unvaccinated.

#### **IV. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda**

**Action**

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board. This district has several positions that are still open and Superintendent Minor encouraged community members looking for employment to visit [www.csdvt.org/jobs](http://www.csdvt.org/jobs).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Meeting Date: September 7, 2021

**Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator), Board Approval Required**

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Anne	Campbell	Transfer	Reading Teacher	1.0 FTE	PPS	Request to Hire	Taylor Houston	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	Emily	Ryan	Leave of Absence	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Request leave of Absence 21/22 School Year			

**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	Alexandria	St. Peter	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	UMS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Victorie	Crowley	Resignation	Sp Ed Para	32.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	George	Conklin	New Hire	Sp Ed Para	32.5	CMS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Denise	Jaques	Resignation	Sp Ed Para	32.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	AnnCarol	Moffett	New Hire	Sp Ed Para	32.5	CHS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Mary	Galente	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	CHS	Notice of Hire	Kaitlin Hodge	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Jeremy	LaRoche	Transfer	Paraeducator 504	32.5	CHS	Notice of Transfer		Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Nicole	Loring	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	UMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Kathleen	Matthews	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Diane	Graziano	New Hire	Food Service Worker	15	PPS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Emily	Kopacz	New Hire	Cross Country Coach		CMS	Notice of Hire	Jim Olson	Yes	Yes

*Director Cox moved to approve the Consent Agenda for September 7, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.*

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 17, 2021 Action**

One correction was noted.

*Director Longo moved to approve the amended minutes from the meeting held on August 17, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.*

**VI. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: August 31, 2021 Action**

*Director Cox moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 31, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

- Open Houses are starting to happen at the schools. CHS is hosting theirs virtually later in the week.

**VIII. Future Agenda Items Informational**

- Year-end Financial Report
- Summer School Outcomes Presentation
- Food Service Presentation
- Policy work

**IX. Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations and Potential Real Estate Opportunity Action**

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session at 7:39 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations and a potential real estate opportunity. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Director Cox moved to exit executive session at 8:47 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*


**X. Adjournment**

*Director Cox moved to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Recorder:

  
Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

  
~~Nic Longo~~ Lindsey Cox  
Board Clerk