

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, May 17, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, in the Colchester High School Library. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Board Directors Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, and Felix Anderson, and Student Board Representative Gloria Kigonya. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, Colchester Middle School Principal Michele Cote, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator Jamilah Vogel. There were no audience members.

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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. Hear CMS Presentation: New England League of Middle Schools Review Information

As the district works to continually improve schools in the district, there are times when a comprehensive assessment of a school may assist in the process. Colchester Middle School (CMS) is in the initial phases of an assessment conducted by the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS). CMS Principal Michele Cote provided background on why the school's leadership team believes the assessment is necessary, as well as the timeline and components that will be included. The assessment will look at the whole school through the lens of 18 characteristics that are categorized into three overarching components including culture and community; curriculum, instruction and assessment; and leadership and organization. A NELMS team will visit the school for three days to make observations and conduct interviews with faculty, staff, students, and families. They will combine that information with self-reflection surveys and ultimately provide the district with a final report that will include commendations and recommendations.

Board Chair Cox asked how districtwide goals will be considered in the action plan. Principal Cote stated that while the NELMS team will include recommendations in their report, the action plan resulting from the report will be created by the school's leadership team which will ensure it is aligned with district priorities. Director Anderson asked if the school will have the opportunity to re-engage with NELMS to get their feedback on the action plan. Principal Cote confirmed that and added that there are other resources available to the team as well once they get to that stage. Director Yousey-Hindes asked if the staff is prepared to receive constructive feedback. Principal Cote acknowledged that they were and that there have been several steps in the process so far including a comprehensive review and self-assessment. She stated that the staff is committed to making changes to do what is best for students and are anxious to get started.

IV. Hear DEI Coordinator Presentation: Year End Review

Information

Jamilah Vogel, the district's diversity, equity, and inclusion coordinator (DEI) gave an overview presentation of the work that the district has accomplished during her first year in the role. She provided details of different initiatives with faculty and student groups in the district including professional development planning and presentation, centering shared priorities, establishing a DEI advisory group and planning work moving forward, hosting listening forums with students of color at CMS and CHS, and helping to develop student leadership within the Social Justice Alliance at CHS group and the Identity, Diversity, Equity, and Action (IDEA) Task Force at CMS. She also highlighted the work that is outlined for the future including continued professional development, supporting curriculum work, further engaging various stakeholders, and continuing to strengthen student leadership. Student Board Representative Gloria Kigonya shared that she serves on the Social Justice Alliance and has been very involved in DEI work at CHS. She stated it has been amazing to see how many students care about creating a more inclusive school, noting that participation in the Social Justice Alliance has more than doubled since the beginning of the school year. She added that it has been validating to see resources from adults and the district being targeted toward DEI work. As a graduating senior, she shared how impactful it has been to see younger students learning how to advocate for themselves and recognizing that they do have power and the ability to form a partnership with school administration and other adults in the district.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The following Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA
Board Meeting Date: May 3, 2022

REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Jennifer	Hoenigsberg	Transfer	ELL Teacher	.50 FTE	MBS	Request to Transfer	Erika Merrell	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Nicole	Hamblet	New Hire	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	MBS	Request to Hire	Gregg Galati	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Andrew	Diemar	New Hire	6th Grade Humanities Teacher	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to Hire	Amy Kreiger	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Erica	Ouellette	New Hire	PE Teacher	1.0 FTE	UMS	Request to Hire	Kaian Richards-Wilkes	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Leslie	Drew	New Hire	Special Educator	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to Hire	Ian Parker	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Brooke	Morse	New Hire	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	UMS	Request to Hire	Courtney Thomas	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Tim	Lynch	Leave of Absence	Math Teacher	1.0 FTE	CHS	Request Leave of Absence for June 2022			
Teacher	Erin	Kirk	New Hire	Art Teacher	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to Hire	Bil Albright	Yes	Yes
Teacher	James	Price	Resignation	Social Studies Teacher	1.0 FTE	CHS	Request to End Employment 6/30/2022			
Teacher	Sarah	Carroll	New Hire	EL Teacher	1.0 FTE	UMS/PPS	Request to Hire	Jennie Hoenigsberg	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
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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	Sandra	Boyd	Resignation	Custodial Manager	40.00	DW	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Noah	Patnode	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.50	CMS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Kevin	Kennett	Termination	Paraeducator	32.50	CHS	Notice of Termination			
Support Staff	Helen	Dunn	Resignation	Behavior Interventionist	35.00	CAP	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Carrie	Napolitan	Resignation	Food Service Worker	25.00	MBS	Notice of Resignation			

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

VI. Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 3, 2022 Action

Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 3, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Superintendent Minor gave an update on the CAP renovation. The project is still on track to open in August.
- There are currently 114 kindergarteners enrolled for next fall, the district anticipates that number will continue to increase over the next few months.

VIII. Future Agenda Items Informational

- Board Meeting Calendar and Retreat Dates
- Summer Student Programs
- Kindergarten Enrollment Update
- Policy Work


IX. Adjournment

Director Anderson moved to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary


Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk