

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

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

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, in the Colchester High School Library. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Board Directors Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, Felix Anderson, and Student Board Representative Olivia Dallamura. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, Colchester High School Principal Andrew Conforti, CHS Teacher Sean MacArdle, CHS Teacher Carrie Dixon, and CHS Teacher Keren Turner. There were two teachers in the audience.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Lindsey Cox called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Approval of CHS Andros Trip

Action

CHS Teacher, Sean MacArdle, provided the board with a detailed presentation for a proposed trip to Andros with a group of 11th and 12th grade students. The primary goal of the trip is to help students develop their research and field investigation skills in an authentic setting and deepen their understanding of, and appreciation for, environmental conservation and a culture different from their own. Students participating would earn a 0.5 elective credit upon completion of the course and their individual research project. Several highlights will include lodging in a field station, excursions on land visiting tide pools and pirate caves, excursions on sea exploring reefs and blue holes, and educational lectures each evening. Mr. MacArdle also discussed the application process for students wanting to participate on the trip and options for fundraising to ensure anyone could attend.

Director Yousey-Hindes sought clarification on the application process, specifically if this trip is open to all 11th and 12th grade students then how does the selection process work in a mindful manner without bias. Mr. MacArdle explained the application must include a detailed plan of the student's proposed research project on an individual topic of their choosing related to Bahamian culture and natural environment, and written references from teachers or community members on behalf of the student. This type of intensive application process means the students that do apply are committed to do the work required of earning course credit. If more students apply to participate than there are spots available, Mr. MacArdle will utilize a group of multiple teachers to select 12 students who will work well cohesively for the trip and bring their own unique views to this experience.

Student Board Representative, Olivia Dallamura, inquired about the trip's agenda given that each student is conducting research on individual topics. Mr. MacArdle clarified that International Field

Studies (IFS), who run and organize the program, work to customize the trip based on all the research topics provided ahead of time from the applications. IFS will also adjust as needed with the group based on the weather once they are down on the island; picking which days are better suited to be on the boat versus on land, and completely tailoring the experience to the needs of the students.

Director Anderson moved to approve the CHS Andros Trip as presented. The motion passed unanimously

IV. Approval of CHS Ecuador Trip

Action

CHS Teachers, Carrie Dixon and Keren Turner, provided the board with a detailed presentation for a proposed trip to Ecuador with interested Spanish IV and Spanish V students. Their primary goal of the trip is to help students gain an understanding and respect for cultures and lands other than their own, practice being exemplary global citizens, and to encourage students to utilize a higher-level of thinking and communication skills with the language they have studied for numerous years. Several highlights will include walking tours through national parks and forests, visiting multiple cultural museums, and various classes on cultural practices such as dancing and cooking. They also discussed the application process and fundraising opportunities available to students to ensure anyone who is interested could attend.

Superintendent Minor had a few questions regarding the selection of students to participate given size of the rosters for Spanish IV and Spanish V versus the limit of 14 students. More specifically, Superintendent Minor asked why not make the trip available only to Spanish V, and how will the teachers manage discussions and lessons related to the trip in the Spanish IV class when a majority of the class will not be participating. Ms. Dixon explained how before COVID these types of trips took place every other year and they are hoping to get back to a similar schedule. By including both Spanish IV and Spanish V, it would ensure that these students have an opportunity to travel before they graduate. Both Ms. Dixon and Ms. Turner believe that although the size limit for this trip will not allow all their interested students to participate, there are other options such as the Andros trip and the New York City trip which are also available to them. The discussions and lessons taking place in class would not focus solely on the experiences taking place in Ecuador. However, the material would be additional preparation for those travelling.

The Board requested that Ms. Dixon and Ms. Turner consider the possibility of making this a yearly trip, as this would create more opportunities for students to participate.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the CHS Ecuador Trip as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. First Reading of Video Surveillance Policy: E6

Action

This policy has been in place since 2009 when exterior cameras were first installed at Colchester High School. Since then, cameras have been installed in various district buildings: both interior and exterior of buildings, on buses, and in district vans. The purpose of this policy is to help promote safety and security in the buildings. There were changes to the descriptive language regarding the updated systems currently in place. The board asked some clarifying questions about procedures regarding our video surveillance policy.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the First Reading of Video Surveillance Policy: E6. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The following Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Kaitlyn	Walz	New Hire	Science Teacher (One Yr .20 FTE		CHS	Notice of Hire	Kara Lenorovitz (LOA)	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

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	Tanya	Paquette	New Hire	Food Service Worker	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Nilima	Abrams	New Hire	Paraeducator	16	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Richard	Lund	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Cheyenne	Shoemaker	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Myla	Jacobs	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Notice of Hire	George Conklin	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Caroline	Chagnon	New Hire	Autism Interventionist	35	UMS	Notice of Hire	Nicole DeOrsey	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Sophia	Meimaris	New Hire	Paraeducator	15	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Emma	Gervais	New Hire	Paraeducator	15	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Siniremera	Adela	Resignation	Custodian	40	CHS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Zachary	Young	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Lorrie	Ploof	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of Hire	Zachary Young	Yes	Yes

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

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 16, 2022 Action

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 16, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports Information

- Superintendent Minor presented a slideshow of Facilities Projects completed over the summer. This presentation included: the new press box at CHS, the interior of the CAP building, CMS Music Room, CMS Weight Room, CMS Roof, MBS Main Lobby floor, MBS Main Lobby bathroom, Preschool Offices, PPS Main Hallway floor, and PPS Sidewalks.
- Superintendent Minor selected dates with the School Board Members to tour PPS, UMS, and CMS when school is not in session.

IX. Future Agenda Items Information

- Year End Financial Report
- Second Reading Video Surveillance Policy
- Policy Review Plan for 22-23

X. Executive Session to Discuss Negotiations Action

Director Longo moved to enter executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss negotiations and a personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Anderson moved to exit executive session at 8:59 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.


XI. Adjournment

Director Longo moved to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:


Gabrielle Brooks
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk