

# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

September 5, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Board members in attendance were Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, Felix Anderson, and Student Representative Phoebe Richardson. Board Chair Lindsey Cox joined the meeting at 7:19 p.m. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Business and Operations Manager George Trieb, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, CHS Principal Andrew Conforti, CMS Principal Michele Cote, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator Jamilah Vogel, and several students and faculty members from the CHS Social Justice Alliance.

### I. Call to Order

Board Vice Chair Nic Longo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. CHS Principal Andrew Conforti introduced the new student board member as Pheobe Richardson and praised her application for the school year appointment. She was described as an enthusiastic, well-rounded, and highly involved student who encompasses all the characteristics of a Laker. Superintendent Amy Minor praised Pheobe for a remarkable speech to all employees at the district's opening in-service event. Ms. Richardson shared that she is excited to have this opportunity to have an impact on the community.

### II. Citizen Participation

None.

### III. Second and Final Reading of Equity Policy: C1

Action

This agenda item was moved to item VII.

### IV. Year-End Financial Report

Information

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb provided an overview of the total budget and actual revenue and expense figures for the fiscal year 2023. The district ended the year with a \$162,745 deficit. Both revenue and expenditures were over budget which came close to offsetting each other. Mr. Trieb stated that while he would prefer to have a slight surplus rather than a deficit to end the year, overall, the district did well in managing the budget. The board asked some clarifying questions about specific line items.

### V. Fourth and Final Reading of Fundraising Policy: H4

Action

No additional changes were recommended.

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the fourth and final reading of the Fundraising Policy: H4. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

**VI. Second and Final Reading of School Crisis Prevention and Response Policy: E3 Action**

No additional changes were recommended.

*Director Anderson moved to approve the second and final reading of the School Crisis Prevention and Response Policy: E3. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

Board Chair Lindsey Cox joined the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

**VII. Second and Final Reading of Equity Policy: C1 (moved from item III) Action**

This policy was drafted with extensive feedback and input from students, employees, families, and external experts. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator Jamilah Vogel expressed pride for the process and the engagement of students in creating this policy, many of whom were in the audience. Director Anderson asked if there would be correlating procedures. Ms. Vogel shared that this policy would serve as a guiding document and a collective districtwide commitment to uphold the values articulated within each school's action plan. Superintendent Minor agreed that the school's action plans act in the same way procedures would. The members of the board expressed appreciation for the support of the Colchester community while drafting this exemplary policy which upholds the values and commitment of the district to provide a learning environment that is safe, inclusive, and welcoming for students.

*Director Longo moved to approve the second and final reading of the Equity Policy: C1. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**VIII. Second and Final Reading of School Search and Seizure Policy: F4 Action**

No changes were recommended.

*Director Kigonya moved to approve the second and final reading of the School Search and Seizure Policy: F4. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**IX. Second and Final Readings of Student Attendance: F30 and Truancy: F30b Policies Action**

No changes were recommended.

*Director Anderson moved to approve the removal of the Truancy Policy: F30b from the policy manual and approve the second and final reading of the Student Attendance Policy: F30. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**X. Approval of Consent Agenda Action**

The following consent agenda was reviewed by the board.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board Meeting Date: September 5, 2023**

REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Guinevere	Fredriksen	New Hire	Long-term Sub - Science (8/25 - TBD)	1.0	CHS	Request to Hire	Conor O'Loughlin	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										
Support Staff	Brittany	Cresta	Transfer	Behavior Interventionist	35.0	PPS	Notice of Transfer (was para at PPS)	Kendra Simpson	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Kevin	Kane	Transfer	Lead Custodian	40.0	PPS	Notice of Transfer (was custodian at PPS)	Steve Alger	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Doncarlos	Davis	New Hire	Food Service Worker	27.5	CMS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Aubrie	Stenta	New Hire	Guidance Registrar	40.0	CMS	Notice of Hire	Claire Ross	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Deborah	Rabideau	New Hire	Homebound Tutor	10.0	CHS	Notice of Hire	Tim Berger	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Susan	Amestoy	New Hire	Virtual Tutor	10.0	CMS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Courtney	Thibault	Resignation	Behavior Interventionist	35.0	MBS	Notice of Resignation		Yes	Yes

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the consent agenda as provided. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

**XI. Approval of Meeting Minutes Action**

- August 15, 2023 (General)
- August 28, 2023 (Special)

*Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the meetings held on August 15, 2023 and August 28, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.*

**XII. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports Information**

- Principal Michele Cote shared an update on events at the middle school including the Cougar Community Night Open House, the up-and-coming parent group PACT that has been established, sporting try-outs and the support of student-athletes to participate at multiple skill levels, and some excellent professional development that was provided to faculty before students returned regarding cellphone use in adolescents.
- Superintendent Amy Minor thanked the maintenance and custodial teams for their work over the summer to get buildings ready to open.

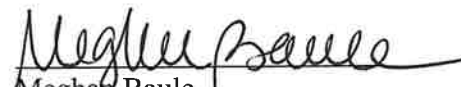
**XIII. Future Agenda Items Information**

- Policy Review Cycle
- School Reports

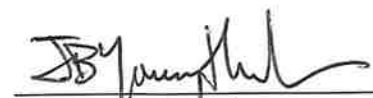
**XIV. Adjournment**

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Recorder:

  
Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

  
Ben Yousey-Hindes  
Board Clerk