

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, June 17, 2025
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Board members in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, and Jennifer Fath. Administrators in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz. There were no audience members.

I. Call to Order

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. Approval of General Contractor List Based on Pre-approved Criteria Action

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb reported that five companies expressed interest in the general contractor contract for the upcoming bond-funded construction project at Porters Point School. He shared that the District conducted thorough reference checks and found all five companies to be large, high-quality, reputable, and financially sound. Each company met the established pre-qualification criteria. With Board approval, these companies will be allowed to submit detailed bids for the project.

Director Longo moved to approve the list of general contractors identified through the pre-qualification process and allow them to submit bids for the PPS project. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Second and Final Reading of CSD Policy Manual Reorganization Action

In an effort to improve accessibility and usability for all Colchester stakeholders, the District has completed a comprehensive analysis of its policy manual. As a result, a reorganization was proposed, including recategorizing and renumbering many existing policies. Superintendent Amy Minor provided a detailed overview of the current manual structure, the proposed changes, and the rationale behind the reorganization at the first reading. The goal is to create a more streamlined, user-friendly format that enhances transparency and ease of navigation. The Board had no further edits or suggestions.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the second and final reading of the CSD policy manual reorganization. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Contract Agreement with the Colchester Education Association (CEA) Action

Director Yousey-Hindes provided an overview of the recent contract negotiations with the Colchester Education Association (CEA). The current contract is set to expire on June 30, 2025, and discussions resulted in an agreement for a new two-year contract. He noted that both negotiation teams prioritized

direct, interpersonal communication rather than relying on legal counsel, which was a mutually welcomed approach. Overall, he described the process as collaborative, with a shared goal of crafting a contract that supports the recruitment and retention of educators while remaining mindful of the fiscal impact on taxpayers.

He highlighted key changes and themes in the proposed agreement, including updates to working conditions, the elimination of the cash-in-lieu health insurance benefit, embracing diversity of educators and structures of their families, and salary increases that align with FY'26 budget projections. The proposed salary increases are 5.25% in the first year and 5.15% in the second year. The CEA ratified the agreement on Monday.

Superintendent Amy Minor thanked both the School Board and the CEA for their clear communication and collaborative efforts throughout the process.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the contract agreement with the Colchester Education Association as presented. Board Chair Cox abstained due to a conflict of interest. The motion passed 4-0.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The Board reviewed the following consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: 6/17/25 **REVISED 6/17/25**

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

[illegible]

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Board Approval Required

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Director Kigonya moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Action

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes for the meeting held on June 3, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports

Information

- Superintendent Minor thanked the Board for their service during the 2024–25 school year. The Board also reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the 2025–26 school year. The next scheduled meeting is August 19; however, a July meeting may be necessary if action is required related to the Porters Point School construction project.
- Numerous year-end events took place across the District. Colchester High School's graduation was a success and went smoothly.
- Board Chair Lindsey Cox expressed appreciation to the District's administrators, faculty, and staff for their hard work throughout the year, stating that Colchester is a special and unique place because of the people who serve its students.
- Several legislative updates were shared:
 - **H.454**, the Education Transformation Bill, passed on Monday. While the bill includes several components, many details are still being finalized, with more information expected this fall.
 - **H.209** was passed, authorizing school nurses to administer nasal epinephrine.
 - **H.480**, a miscellaneous education bill, includes provisions related to virtual learning, grant funding, flexible pathways, the search process for the Secretary of Education, and a model policy regarding cell phone use in schools.

IX. Future Agenda Items

Information

- Facility Renovation/Construction Updates

X. Executive Session to Discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation

Action

Director Longo moved to enter executive session at 7:29 p.m. to discuss the superintendent's evaluation. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Fath moved to exit executive session at 8:22 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

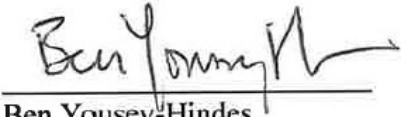
XI. Adjournment

Director Longo moved to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk