

Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, September 16, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, in the Colchester High School Library Media Center. Board members in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, Jennifer Fath and Student Representative Trinity McCarthy. Administrators in attendance were Superintendent Amy Minor, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, CMS Principal Tara Sharkey and CHS Principal Andrew Conforti. There were two audience members present.

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. Citizens Participation*

None.

III. Introduction of Student School Board Member

Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor introduced Trinity McCarthy, a senior at Colchester High School, as the new student representative for the 2025-26 school year. Superintendent Minor noted that Trinity gave a powerful address at the August opening in-service. CHS Principal Andrew Conforti highlighted Trinity's impressive advocacy for students and her history of giving back to the school community, including her work mentoring elementary students..

IV. Hear Secondary Principals Report

Informational

The principals of the two secondary schools provided an informational update on academic achievement, social-emotional and wellness goals, and family engagement.

Principal Tara Sharkey shared that Colchester Middle School teachers focused on three key areas during the August inservice: strengthening and aligning the curriculum, increasing argumentation, and providing more opportunities for student agency through choice. She provided data statistics and noted that the new adaptive scheduler is helping students get better access to support during team time. Sharkey highlighted grade-level field trips that kicked off the school year, which were designed to build community, foster relationships, and reinforce school-wide norms. She also mentioned a great turnout for the open house and that about 150 students are participating in fall sports, with more expected to join clubs later in the month.

Colchester High School Principal Andrew Conforti introduced this year's school theme, "All Hands on Deck," which is reflected in their goals to increase student attendance and engagement, and to improve math and literacy skills through a focus on comprehension and argumentation. He emphasized that these efforts are data-informed and supported by various tools and resources for teachers. Principal Conforti also detailed the school's more direct approach to school and personal safety, which includes specific trainings and consistent communication with families and students. He gave an overview of the

Trusted Adult Model, a program piloted in the spring that led to a substantial increase in attendance for at-risk students. He also touched on the new policy prohibiting cell phone use during class, noting that faculty and students have generally received it well, and a positive difference in engagement is already being observed. Principal Conforti concluded by mentioning the excitement for the inaugural CHS Hall of Fame Class induction, which will honor six alumni during homecoming in early October. Student Representative Trinity McCarthy added that there is a lot of excitement at the school, especially among the senior class who are looking forward to traditions they have been waiting for.

V. Facilities and Bid Process Update

Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor announced that a 9-hole disc golf course is now officially operational at Colchester High School. The Physical Education Department played a crucial role in bringing the course to life and is excited to use it with students this fall. Superintendent Minor noted that the course is also a great asset to the community, but reminded everyone that alcohol, drugs, and tobacco are prohibited on school grounds, which includes the disc golf course.

Minor also provided an update on the Porters Point School (PPS) construction project. She noted that five general contractor bids are expected and are due at the Central Office on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. Minor reviewed the legal requirements for accepting bids, and a special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025, to review them and confirm an agreement. While the focus for the past eight months has been on PPS, she stated that Black River Design has now officially started the plan designs for the Union Memorial School (UMS) project. The architects will work with UMS staff to make design choices and layout decisions as they prepare to break ground in 2026.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

CONSENT AGENDA										
Board Meeting Date: 9/16/25 REVISED										
<i>Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)</i>										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	Hours/Wk	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
<i>Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Board Approval Required</i>										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	Hours/Wk	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
<i>Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational</i>										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	Hours/Wk	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Support Staff	Jessica	Randall	New Hire	Paraeducator	14.0	MBS	Notice of Hire			
Support Staff	Judith	Bourgault	Resignation	Lunch/Recess Duty Supervisor	15	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Christina	Bleau	New Hire	Food Service	26	CMS	Notice of Hire			
Support Staff	Patricia	Rich	New Hire	Lunch/Recess Duty Supervisor	15	MBS	Notice of Hire	Judith Bourgault	Yes	Yes

No action was required by the board.

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes **Action**

Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 2, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- A special meeting will be held on September 18th to review bids from construction companies.
- A board retreat is scheduled for September 30th.

IX. Future Agenda Items **Informational**

- School Reports
- Policy Work
- Facility Renovation Updates

X. Proposed Executive Session to Discuss a Student Matter **Action**

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session to discuss a student matter at 8:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

Director Yousey Hindes moved to exit executive session and adjourn at 8:34 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk