

Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, August 18, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, in the Colchester High School Library Media Center. Board Directors in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Laurie Kigonya, and Jennifer Fath. Board Director Ben Yousey-Hindes attended the meeting virtually. Administrators and employees in attendance were Superintendent Amy Minor, Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmoli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz. Representative Doug Bishop was in attendance in the audience.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Lindsey Cox called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizens Participation*

None.

III. Approval of Maintenance Truck Purchase

Action

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb requested approval from the board for the purchase of a Maintenance Truck back in April. The board approved the purchase of a new 2026 maintenance truck for \$46,673, but ultimately there was not one available. Mr. Trieb explained that a 2027 model is now available, but at a higher cost of \$52,459. Due to the price difference, it requires new board approval.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the purchase of a new maintenance truck as recommended and to authorize the Chief Financial and Operations Officer to execute the necessary documents. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Hear Update: School Construction at PPS and UMS

Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with construction updates for both PPS and UMS. These updates included both photos and videos of the sites.

V. Hear Update: Cooperative Educational Service Area (CESA)

Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor provided an update on the first two CESA meetings held this summer for our region. She reminded the board that Colchester is part of the Chittenden Central CESA, which includes Burlington, Essex Westford, Grand Isle, South Burlington, Winooski, and Colchester. Superintendent Minor explained the CESA group is working through the preliminary set up and focusing on learning the needs and requirements between the state and our region in order to make the CESA successful.

The board asked clarifying questions regarding funding, types of services provided to schools, and meeting information for the public with the understanding it is still early in the process of establishing the CESA and there may not be answers to all questions. Superintendent Minor stated the CESA is its

own entity and will have its own budget separate from the school districts. There is some funding from the state to get started and the CESA group is looking into how to access those funds. Superintendent Minor also explained that before the CESA selects which services to provide, they must first run a needs assessment across the shared districts to figure out what the demands are and where they can save the most money for the districts. She stated that the monthly meetings will be held at South Burlington High School going forward and they are warned with access for the public to sit in and listen. Superintendent Minor will provide updates after every meeting with the School Board.

Superintendent Minor also provided the board with an update regarding the upcoming Merger Study Committee. Colchester is currently grouped with Milton and Grand Isle for the merger study. This committee will require one of the board members to act as a representative.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA**Board Meeting Date 8/18/2026 REVISED*****Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)***

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	Hours/Wk	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Hannah	Worden	New Hire	Special Education Teacher	1.0	CHS	Request to Hire One Year Only	Nicole Deorsey	Yes	Yes

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

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	Hours/Wk	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Support Staff	Priscilla	Hammond	Leave of Absence (intermittent)	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Request for intermittent unpaid leave during the 26/27 school year			

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	Hours/Wk	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Support Staff	Erin	Allard	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Lillian	Gonyo	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Elliot Cross		
Support Staff	Kristen	Abare	New Hire	Food Service Worker	17.5	CHS	Notice of Hire	Gillian Dukette		
Support Staff	Caitlin	Beauvais	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Notice of Hire	Irene Shagam		
Support Staff	Diane	McCarthy	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Wanda Sachs		
Co-Curricular	Brian	Wood	New Hire	Assistant Coach - Girls Varsity Soccer	Coach	CHS	Notice of Hire	Nicole Deorsey		
Support Staff	Lila	Ottinger	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Sherrie Hiller		
Co-Curricular	Jared	Begnoche	New Hire	Varsity Golf Coach	Coach	CHS	Notice of Hire	Jamie Rozzi		
Support Staff	Andrea	Santiago	New Hire	Admin Asst I	40	MBS	Notice of Hire	Charlton Whitney		

Director Longo moved to approve the consent agenda as provided. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes **Action**

Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2026 special meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Teachers are back starting this week with Professional Development and the schools are prepping for the first day of school next week

IX. Future Agenda Items **Informational**

- Introduction of the Student Board Member: Jack LaChance
- Principal Reports
- Policy and Board Work Plan

X. Proposed Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations, and Personnel/Student Matters **Action**

Director Fath moved to enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations, personnel and student matters at 8:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

Director Kigonya moved to exit executive session at 8:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Kigonya moved to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Gabrielle Brooks
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk