

Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, October 6, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, in the Colchester High School Library Media Center. Board Directors in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, Jennifer Fath, and Student Representative Jack LaChance. Administrators and employees in attendance were Superintendent Amy Minor, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmoli, and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz. 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. Hear Update on Medicaid Billing Change

Informational

District Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz provided an overview of the Medicaid billing changes that began on October 1, 2026, affecting all schools in Vermont, and noted elements that remain the same. The new unified system combines school-based health services and Medicaid administrative claims and expands the list of reimbursable services. While local impacts in CSD vary in staff time, responsibilities, and funding, the services provided to students and the care they receive are not being impacted. Superintendent Minor said this has been a significant lift for the district's sole Medicaid clerk to learn the new system and train providers and impacted staff. She and Ms. Lutz also noted that the Agency of Education recently advised districts that they may see a decrease in reimbursement or revenue, but the State has not provided a formula to forecast estimates. Ms. Lutz stated that Medicaid revenue is applied to the next year's budget, so the current school year will not be impacted and they are closely monitoring billing and financial reporting now that the new changes are in place.

IV. Hear Update on Act 170

Informational

Cooperative Educational Service Area (CESA)

All the CESA chairs in the state are now meeting monthly. Additionally, the three Chittenden County CESA chairs are also meeting monthly and are currently discussing the possibility of combining into one county-wide CESA. The chairs also met with the Champlain Valley Educator Development Center (CVEDC) to see if they are interested in collaborating with the CESAs.

Merger Study Committee

The Merger Study Group that Colchester was assigned to met for the first time on September 30, 2026. The committee has five members representing Alburgh School District, Champlain Islands Unified Union School District, Colchester School District, Milton Town School District, and South Hero School

District. Board Chair Lindsey Cox is Colchester's representative and she shared highlights of the group's first meeting, including meeting with their assigned facilitator, discussing committee roles and norms, electing a chair, and reviewing the committee's overall charge. Committee members were asked to bring back to the local boards one item: opinions on proportional representation for each district. She said members on the committee from districts representing the Islands requested expanding the committee so additional representatives could participate in discussions at the table but noted it would not alter district voting percentages. Director Cox asked the board to consider representation options so she could bring their feedback to the next meeting. The Merger Committee will also be generating an FAQ and discussion asset mapping to get a better understanding of what the districts currently offer.

V. First Reading of School Board Policies

Action

F8: Firearms

F9: Weapons

H11: Facility Usage and Rental

These three policies were brought up for review because the wooded property owned by Hazeletts Company that borders Colchester High School and is used by the school and the community recently changed its policy to formally allow a controlled employee hunting program on its private property. Hunting has always been prohibited on school district property and, in light of changes to the neighboring Hazeletts property, administrators recommended adding specific language to all three policies stating that.

The board discussed the procedures for Hazeletts' employee hunting program and other Colchester properties near schools that may allow hunting.

Director Yousey-Hindes expressed gratitude to Hazeletts for the decades-long history of being exceptional neighbors to the high school. He appreciated their collaboration with the district's administrators in balancing this hunting program, which benefits their employees, with the interests and safety of those in the school district.

Although unrelated to the hunting prohibition paragraph, administrators also recommended adding language connected to the District's Cardiac Emergency Response Plan, since the policy is up for revisions.

Director Longo moved to approve first readings of policies: F8: Firearms, F9: Weapons, and F11: Facility Usage and Rental. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA										
Board Meeting Date 10/6/2026 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
Teacher	Carol	McNair	Retirement	Alternative Ed. Teacher	1.0	CMS	Request to end employment-end of 26/27 school year			
<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
Co-Curricular	Chris	Richard	New Hire	Varsity Baseball Coach	Coach	CHS	Notice of Hire	Thomas Perry		
Support Staff	Lillian	Gonyo	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Christina	Bleau	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Eric	Green	New Hire	Custodian	40	DW	Notice of Hire			
Support Staff	Blake	Companion	New Hire	Maintenance	40	DW	Notice of Hire	Mark McDuff		
Support Staff	Shana	Carlson	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Notice of Resignation			

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

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Action

Director Kigonya moved to approve the September 15, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports

Informational

- Construction Update:
 - The oldest wing at PPS is being demolished to make way for a full-sized bus loop and parking lot. There was a significant amount of rot found in the sections of the building that is being renovated, forcing them to replace framing and sheetrock as needed.
 - At UMS, they are installing underground electrical conduit, and they have poured concrete for the basement floor. The first steel beams have been placed.
- The Board will have a work session on October 12th at 5:30 p.m. at Central Office.

IX. Future Agenda Items

Informational

- FY'28 Budget Timeline
- Policy and Board Work Plan
- CSD VTCAP Results Presentation
- School Reports
- Quarterly Financial Report
- CSD Food Service Report

X. Adjournment

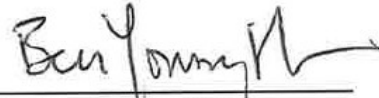
Director Yousey-Hindes moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:



Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:



Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk