



# Colchester School District

## Communications Plan...



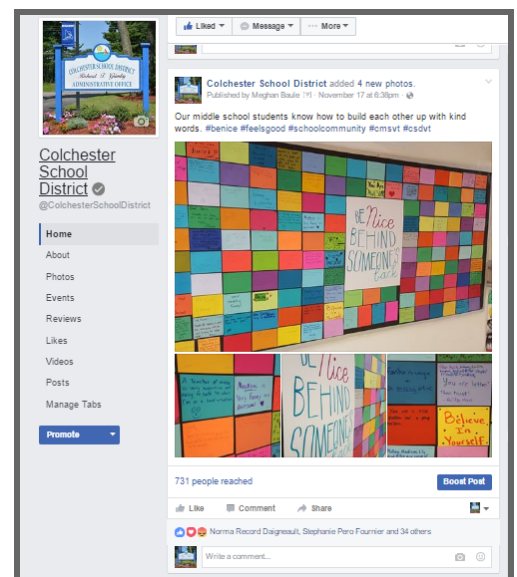
There are two main prongs to our approach. The first is to better communicate with the residents of Colchester by showing them what we're doing in our daily school life. The driving force behind this strategy is to demonstrate why our townspeople should continue to support our incredible district. We have amazing staff and students; they deserve to be highlighted to the whole community!

We encourage you to continue to invite Meghan into your workspace and classrooms when you're doing something unique, fun, educational, inspiring, or something you think the community would appreciate.

The second approach of the plan is to increase communication within the district; both, school to school, and central office to schools. This goes back to the goal of continuing to increase our unity as a district.

Step one of that plan is already in motion via this newsletter! I want to make sure we can easily connect with each other to share goals and information.

Last but not least, if you didn't already know, the district has active Facebook and Twitter pages. Social media (along with the Spotlight and Front Porch Forum), will be our main channel of communication to the community.



In addition to the district pages, I have my own Twitter page in which I document my travels to the different schools. I encourage you to follow us on any of those platforms to see what's happening in other parts of the district.

We hope you can assist us in rallying community excitement and support by promoting these pages to parents and other members of the town. (You'll find links to all the sites listed below, or on our website.)

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## Facilities

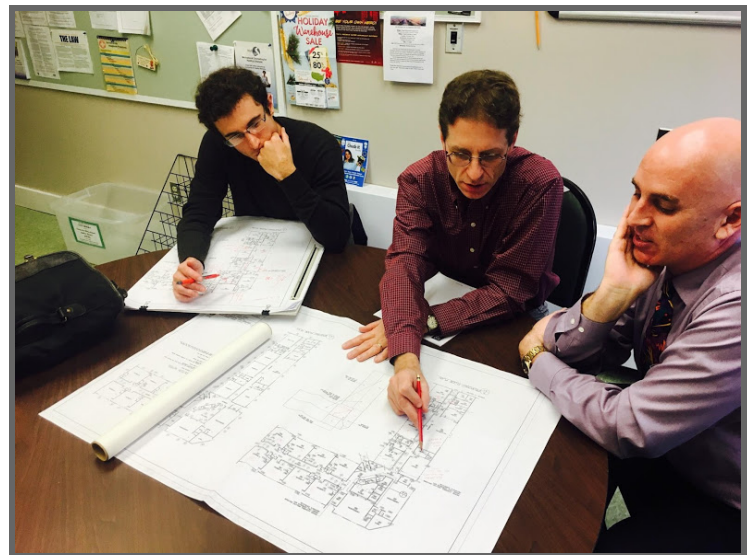
During two school board retreats this summer, George Trieb and I spoke with the board regarding the needs of our facilities district wide. As you can imagine, if we forecast the next fifteen years there are several significant projects the community will need to consider. Items such as: bleachers at CMS, gym floor and boilers at MBS, bathroom/septic at PPS and UMS, cafeteria at CHS, roofs, replacing floor tiles, HVAC concerns at multiple buildings, and more. The simple fact is, our school buildings are aging. This is a key factor that both the school board and the community must begin to consider as we continue to plan long term.



Last year, the district launched a committee to develop a PreK-1 Early Education Center. The School Board would like to thank that committee for their hard work and commitment to the process. I recently delivered a presentation to the School Board regarding my desire to develop a plan to address the needs of our PreK through Grade 2 students. The School Board and I do not believe moving Grade 2 to MBS and having a PreK-1 building will best meet the learning needs of our district. Our intention is to develop a long term plan to address both the **facilities** and **educational needs** of our PreK to Grade 2 learning community.

In a few months, CSD will launch a “NEW” community based committee that will analyze the benefits and challenges of the following building options. The first would be to **build a new facility** that would encompass Preschool to Grade 2. The second option would be to **renovate** PPS & UMS to become Preschool to Grade 2 buildings.

Please be aware that we have NO preference towards either option at this time. I believe we need to fully research both opportunities. As it happens, that research began last week when our architect started to evaluate the properties at UMS and PPS. I look forward to providing you an update on our progress in a few months.



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## VEHI Resources

Just a friendly reminder regarding available VEHI resources. If you visit their [website](#), you can find many other systems of support, including: plan brochures, prescription lists, covered preventive care, and FAQs.

VEHI Videos:

[“Cost-sharing Overview”](#)

[“VEHI Platinum and Gold Plans”](#)

[“VEHI Gold CDHP & Silver CDHP”](#)

Feel free to call Blue Cross Blue Shield at [800-247-2583](tel:800-247-2583) for a historical explanation of your benefits, which you can then compare to the new plans.

You can also email any questions to [VEHI2018@vsbit.org](mailto:VEHI2018@vsbit.org).

## District Promotion

In closing, I encourage you to assist us in promoting the district. **Do you have a Twitter or a Blog?** Check out the employee directory to ensure that it is linked there. If not, just put in a **HELP** ticket!

Please help us to publicize all of the great things happening across the district and consider following some of our communication platforms:



[District Facebook](#)



[Amy's Twitter](#)



[District Twitter](#)



[Spotlight](#)

Finally, we are constantly adding new content to the district website and I encourage you to check it out. Most recently, we've added a **Superintendent page**; which is located on the district site, under the **“About”** section. I'm excited to have included some inspiring **TED Talks** on the page, I especially love Yassmin Abdel-Magied's video - [take a look!](#)

Best,

*Amy Minor*