

# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, January 4, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, in the Colchester High School Library. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Craig Kieny, Directors Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Laurie Kigonya, Ben Yousey-Hindes, and student representative Gloria Kigonya. District administrators in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz and Business and Operations Manager George Treib. There were no audience members.

### I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Craig Kieny called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### II. Citizen Participation

None.

### III. Approval of Colchester School District Announced Tuition Rates

Action

Each year, districts are required by law to announce their anticipated tuition for students attending Colchester Schools from other districts that do not have a high school or middle school. The majority of tuition students attending CSD are from the Grand Isle Supervisory Union and the town of Georgia.

*Director Cox moved to approve the announced tuition rate for FY 2023 at \$13,500 for elementary grades (k-6) and \$18,250 for secondary grades (7-12). The motion passed unanimously.*

### IV. FY'23 Budget Discussion

Information

Business and Operations Manager George Treib presented the estimated FY'23 education tax components known to this point. The components are set by the state and impact the tax rate for the proposed budget. Superintendent Amy Minor then presented three options for the budget. Each option presented included various additional positions and their corresponding cost impacts. The rationale for these positions was described in detail at the December 21, 2021 meeting. Several of the recommended positions would be funded using grant and ESSER money.

The first option showed what the impacts would be with no added positions. It would result in a 3.73% budget increase, an estimated 1.21% decrease in taxes, and a 4.65% increase in per pupil spending. The second option would add a reading teacher, an elementary speech language pathologist, and an social emotional learning coordinator. These positions would be funded through grants and would result in the same percentages as the first option - a 3.73% budget increase, an estimated 1.21% decrease in taxes, and a 4.65% increase in per pupil spending. The final option would add the three positions outlined in the second option and as well as a director of instructional

supports. This would result in a 4.00% budget increase, an estimated 1.04% decrease in taxes, and a 4.83% increase in per pupil spending.

At the request of the board at the last meeting, Superintendent Minor ended her presentation with an overview of the organizational structure of the district and assigned responsibilities.

Director Cox asked some clarifying questions about using ESSER III funds to pay for the proposed additional positions. Superintendent Amy Minor stated the district is being allotted approximately 2 million dollars for ESSER III and 20% of those funds must be used for intervention and learning loss, which is what the additional positions are specifically targeting. She assured the board that there will be a significant amount of funds left over that have yet to be allocated.

The board discussed the rarity that all three options will result in a tax rate decrease. Board Chair Kieny pointed out that the tax decrease will not appear on the ballot. Superintendent Minor concurred and stated the ballot language is set by statute and only includes the dollar amount of the budget and the percentage increase in per pupil spending. She highlighted the importance of the district's communication plan that will inform the community of the rationale for the added positions, and the estimated tax decrease.

The board discussed the timeline for making a final decision. They agreed that they feel comfortable warning the budget at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Several members expressed support for the last option given the outlined necessity of the positions and that it would still result in an estimated decrease in taxes. To help with the decision making at the next meeting, Director Yousey-Hindes requested a recap on ACT 173 and the subsequent new demands that are being placed on administrators. Director Cox also asked for an overview on the needs of the English Learning Program.

**V. Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Action**

The following Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: January 4, 2022

REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support

Teacher	Abigale	Stannard	Resignation	Special Education Teacher	1.0 CHS	CHS	Request to Resign Effective Immediately			
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Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Board Approval Required										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support

Support Staff	Gaston	Cahungu	New Hire	Custodian	40	UMS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
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Support Staff	Katie	Gallichon	Resignation	Behavior Interventionist	32.5	CMS	Notice of Resignation			
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*Director Cox moved to approve the Consent Agenda for January 4, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.*

**VI. Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 21, 2021 Action**

*Director Longo moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 21, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

- Superintendent Minor acknowledged changes in the quarantine and isolation guidance that occurred over winter break and thanked the employees who worked through the holiday recess to process cases and communicate the changes. She anticipates more changes and updates to COVID operating procedures in the coming weeks.

**VIII. Future Agenda Items Informational**

- FY'23 Budget
- Citizens Participation Discussion
- Facilities Information
- Policy Work

**IX. Executive Session to Discuss a Real Estate Opportunity and Personnel Matter Action**

*Director Cox moved to enter executive session to discuss a real estate opportunity and a personnel matter at 8:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

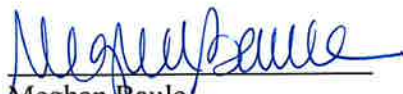
*Director L. Kigonya moved to exit executive session at 8:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Director Cox moved to approve the personnel request as presented. The motion passed 4-1, with Director Yousey-Hindes voting against.*

**X. Adjournment**

*Director Longo moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Recorder:



Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:



Nic Longo  
Board Clerk