

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, February 15, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 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 Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz. 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. FY'23 Budget Overview

Information

Administrators from Central Office provided another overview of the proposed FY'23 school budget including enrollment data, current programming, services, and offerings for students, areas the district is looking to grow, and the impacts of COVID-19 on facilities and learning. They highlighted that this budget is estimated to decrease taxes by .0537%. Details on the budget have been covered at length at meetings in December 2021 and January 2022. Information is also available at www.csdvt.org/budget. Residents can vote early at the Town Clerk's office or in person at Colchester High School on Tuesday, March 1 between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm.

IV. ESSER III Presentation

Information

Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Gwen Carmolli gave a presentation on the planning process that is occurring for Federal ESSER III funds which are designated for continued support for recovery from the pandemic. The district has from March 2022 through September 2024 to spend approximately 2.3 million dollars allocated to the district. The funds must be spent through an approved recovery plan that addresses academics, social-emotional learning, and engagement. She went over the community input process from various stakeholder groups, ways that the district has distributed information about ESSER funds to the community, and how the district used data to develop its recovery plan. She highlighted assessment scores from standardized testing in reading and math as one of the data points being used to determine where the district is targeting its resources. Director of Student Support Services, Carrie Lutz, gave an overview of a new screening tool that is being used at the K-8 grade level this year to assess students' skills and abilities in the area of social-emotional learning.

One requirement of the funds is that 20% must go towards intervention. Ms. Carmolli went over the itemized list of how the district plans to spend that percentage which includes some staffing

positions such as a speech-language pathologist, a reading teacher, and a social-emotional learning coordinator, as well as increased summer programming, tutoring services, and offering after-school transportation.

The board shared some of their suggestions for the funding. Director Cox emphasized the value of alternative programs and interventions for students that fall within the MTSS framework. Director Laurie Kigonya would like to look for ways to support students who would benefit from afterschool programs but have barriers such as transportation or responsibilities at home. Director Yousey-Hindes would like to expand the district's outdoor classrooms and learning to make it more accessible to a wider range of students and believes it may help with engagement. Student Representative Gloria Kigonya shared that there is an opportunity to improve how students can directly communicate with teachers and administrators. She stated that students are talking about their needs but there is a disconnect with communicating those needs to adults to make decisions. She offered the idea of creating a survey for students to identify things within the parameters allowed by the funding that would be beneficial to them. Director Longo requested more information regarding the ongoing costs of any programs or services that are created using ESSER funds, acknowledging that if they were to continue beyond the ESSER timeline, they would need to be supported by the district.

Ms. Carmolli and the other administrators will continue reviewing feedback and will submit the plan for approval this spring.

V. First Reading of Special Education Policy: G2

Action

This will be a new policy. It is now a requirement of the Federal Agency of Education to have a policy like this in place as part of the yearly assurances the district agrees to when receiving federal funds. This policy was drafted by the Vermont School Boards Association in conjunction with legal counsel from the Vermont Agency of Education.

Director Cox moved to approve the first reading of the Special Education Policy: G2. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The following Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: February 15, 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	Kathleen	Kelly	Resignation	School Nurse	1.0	UMS	Request to End Employment effective June 30, 2022			
Teacher	Thomas	Jacobs	Resignation	Title I Math Teacher	1.0	MBS	Request to End Employment effective June 30, 2022			

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

Support Staff	Carmel	Quinn	Leave of Absence	Special Education Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Request Leave of Absence April 11-29, 2022			Yes
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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	Simeon	Munanga	Resignation	Custodian	40	CHS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Jennifer	Gomo	Resignation	Behavior Interventionist	35	MBS	Notice of Resignation	Peter Taylor	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Isabella	Sances	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35	MBS	Notice of Hire	Derek Sanderson	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Gail	Messier	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Abigail	Adams	New Hire	Food Service Worker	20	UMS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Robert	Wheel	New Hire	Special Education Driver	20	DW	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes

Director Kigonya moved to approve the Consent Agenda for February 15, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 1, 2022 **Action**

Director Cox moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 1, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: February 8, 2022 **Action**

The board discussed proper procedures for entering and exiting executive session when holding back-to-back student hearings.

Director Cox moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on February 8, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- None

X. Future Agenda Items **Informational**

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


XI. Adjournment

Director Longo moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Nic Longo
Board Clerk