

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, December 20, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, in the Colchester High School Library. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Board Directors Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Felix Anderson, Laurie Kigonya, and Student Board Representative Olivia Dallamura. District administrators in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, Director of Instructional Support Services Jean Shea, and Principals Carolyn Millham, Chris Antonicci, Jordan Burke, Michele Cote, and Andrew Conforti. There were four CSD employees in the audience.

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. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Approval of Contract Agreement with Colchester Education Association (CEA) Support Staff Unit

Action

A contract agreement between the Colchester Education Association (CEA) Support Staff Unit and the School Board has been reached. The agreement is a three-year term with a continuation of the side letter from 2021-22 to add \$2/hour to all support staff personnel, a 5.95% increase in year two, and a 5.55% increase in year three. They also agreed on the addition of two paid holidays, the offering of dental insurance at all levels and an increase in life insurance, updates to the statewide health care language, the creation of a safety committee to develop protocols for student/family misconduct chaired by the superintendent, and updated language in several sections throughout the contract.

Director Anderson moved to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Colchester Education Association Support Staff Unit for the years 2022-2025. The motion passed 4-0, with Board Chair Cox abstaining.

IV. Approval for Purchase of Classroom Audio Amplification Systems

Action

In May of 2022, the board approved the purchase of amplification systems for all classrooms in CMS and CHS. This agenda item sought to gain approval to complete the project by purchasing systems for each classroom in MBS, PPS, and UMS. Carrie Lutz, director of student support services, explained that audio amplification systems increase the access of all learners, including those with auditory or attention challenges. They allow students to hear more clearly throughout the classroom and reduce the amount of repetition and missed instruction. The entire cost will be covered using two federal special education grants.

Director Longo moved to authorize the Director of Student Support Services to finalize the purchase and grant paperwork to purchase the audio amplification systems from Phonak for a cost of \$66,872.45. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval for Purchase of HVAC System for the Performing Arts Center **Action**

The district sought approval from the board for the installation of air conditioning in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) and the adjoining music room at CHS. The PAC is a space that is used by every CSD school, the town, and various community groups for large events. The age and efficiency of the current HVAC system makes it a challenge to regulate airflow and temperature when the PAC is filled. The district received two RFPs and it was recommended to go with the lowest bidder who could also complete the work in the desired timeframe. This project would be funded through the capital reserve account and should be completed by the end of June 2023.

Director Kigonya moved to authorize the Business and Operations Manager to finalize the bid process for the Performing Arts Center HVAC system. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. FY'24 Budget Discussion **Information**

Superintendent Amy Minor summarized enrollment numbers that were presented at the last board meeting and repeated the overarching budget goal is to increase achievement and engagement for all students. Connected to that goal, administrators requested to maintain all staffing and programming districtwide and potentially add time or positions in a few areas that are showing increased student need. At the previous meeting, the board asked to hear more about the district administrator's long-term staffing requests and the rationale for those positions. Some of the positions are already in place but funded through Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds and the hope would be to eventually transition those positions to the voter budget before the grant ends. Administrators gave a presentation that outlined the various job duties, explained the data that demonstrates student needs, and shared staff and student testimonials in support of the positions. These positions included math interventionists, a school counselor, a district psychologist, increased Target Graduation support, a Performing Arts Center technician, and teachers for reading, English learning, and fourth-grade. Superintendent Minor explained that the district is still waiting for several tax components from the state before they can provide estimated cost impacts of the positions discussed in the presentation. They have categorized the positions into three levels of priorities and will have estimates for what each would cost at the next meeting. The board asked several clarifying questions to the Central Office administrators, building principals, and staff members in attendance at the meeting.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda **Action**

The board reviewed the following Consent Agenda. There were no licensed professionals listed, so no action was required by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: December 20, 2022

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

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	Trevor	Sohnen	Resignation	Spec. Ed Para	32.5	CMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Aubrey	Stenta	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	UMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Pamela	Lash	Transfer	Behavior Interventionist	33.5	CMS	Notice of Transfer	Caitlin Briggs	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Jensen	Radner	Resignation	Behavior Interventionist	35	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Anna	Thomson	New Hire	ELL Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Notice of Hire	Pamela Lash	yes	Yes
Support Staff	Holly	Gingras	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of Resignation			

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 6, 2022 **Action**

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 6, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- The annual Colchester Winter Carnival is February 3, 4, 5
- The Town Selectboard approved adding a ballot to fund construction for the Colchester Recreation Center. The board will review the financials of the center and decide at a future meeting if they would like to write a letter of support to the community.
- Town Meeting will be held in person in the CHS PAC on Monday, March 2.

X. Future Agenda Items **Information**

- FY24 Budget Development
- Continuation of policy review
- Announced Tuition for 2023-24

XI. Executive Session to Discuss a Student Matter **Action**

Board Chair Lindsey Cox requested a motion to add an executive session to discuss a student matter.


Director Anderson moved to enter executive session to discuss a student matter at 9:04 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Kigonya moved to exit executive session at 9:20 p.m.

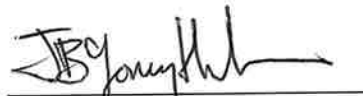
XII. Adjournment

Director Anderson moved to adjourn at 9:21 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk: -


Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk