

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, May 2, 2023
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, in the Colchester High School Library. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, 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 and CHS Principal Andrew Conforti. There was one audience member.

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

Colchester resident and parent in the district, Stephanie Cyphers, asked several questions related to athletics. She stated that teams are regularly fundraising, and she inquired how the money was being spent. She noted that the shortage of bus drivers has impacted the ability to transport teams at the middle school which is a challenge for working families. She also shared that her middle school student was given a high school uniform to play in. She emphasized the importance of sports and stressed that it is a public school district funded by taxes, which should be used to support athletics.

III. Black Lives Matter Flag

Action

Student Board Member Olivia Dallamura read a letter from the CHS Student Justice Alliance (SJA) requesting that the Black Lives Matter flag continue to be flown at schools in the district through the end of the current school year, per the district's Flagpole Request Policy: E11. CHS Principal Andrew Conforti gave an overview presentation of the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work that the school and SJA have engaged in over the winter. There are currently 36 students in the SJA and the group visited elementary schools in the district to connect directly with their younger peers. These visits have included student-led lessons and activities on topics like the impact of microaggressions. He highlighted the conception of a new mural designed by students that represents the many different identities and elements that make up the CHS student population. He also outlined the upcoming school-wide assembly planned for next month that will celebrate the diversity at CHS. The event is being co-created with students and will have an emphasis on calling people in with student speakers, poets, and performers.

Student Board Member Olivia Dallamura shared how proud she was of the SJA, noting that the work they have done is a result of their passion and vision and it highlights the importance of student-led clubs.

Director Longo echoed how much elementary-aged children can benefit from the engagement and leadership of the SJA students. He shared that their visit led to a great conversation at home with his

elementary-aged child. He emphasized the importance of providing a comfortable space to model these conversations for the younger generation.

Director Anderson moved to raise the Black Lives Matter flag at all CSD schools until the end of this school year, June 21, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. First Reading of Equity Policy: C1

Action

This is a new policy that was recommended to be added to the district’s policy manual. The Vermont School Board Association has a model policy that they recommend and many school districts in Vermont have adopted or are in the process of adopting an equity policy. Superintendent Amy Minor shared that adopting an equity policy for CSD would solidify its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and hold the entire community accountable for this critical work to ensure students feel safe and welcome at school. The policy presented to the board was a rough draft that was created after a thorough assessment of policies in place at other districts and with input from several stakeholder groups including employee leadership teams, student groups, and the district’s attorney. Following the approval of the first reading by the school board, the district intends to engage groups of families to increase the opportunity for feedback.

The board asked several questions related to how the actions resulting from this policy would be evaluated and suggested reorganization in a few areas. There was a discussion about moving some of the commitments outlined in the draft to a procedural document and adding a section to define some of the terms used throughout the policy.

The board was unanimously in support of the concept of the policy and was grateful to the administration and stakeholders who had worked to help create this first draft.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the first reading of the Equity Policy: C1. The motion passed unanimously.

V. First Reading of Nondiscrimination Policies: C6, C7, C8

Action

C6: Nondiscrimination

C7: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender

C8: Equal Educational Opportunities

The CSD policy manual currently has three policies that speak to nondiscrimination. After completing an analysis of nondiscrimination policies across the state, reviewing the Vermont School Board Association’s model nondiscrimination policy, and consulting with the district’s attorney, it was recommended to combine these three policies into a single comprehensive policy. Director Yousey-Hindes asked to add “State of Vermont” when identifying laws and regulations that will be followed.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first reading of the Nondiscrimination Policy: C6, the Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Policy: C7, and the Equal Educational Opportunities Policy: C8. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Second and Final Reading of Policies: A1 and A2 **Action**
A1: Management of Policies
A2: Suspension of Policies

Both policies, A1 and A2, address the overarching governance of district policies. It was recommended to combine them into a single policy for consistency.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the removal of the Suspension of Policies: A2 from the CSD policy manual and to approve the second and final reading of the Management and Suspension of Policies: A1. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Second and Final Reading of Independent Educational Evaluation Policy: F25b **Action**

In March of 2022, the board adopted the Special Education Policy: G2 which outlines how the district will follow and comply with the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) Special Education Procedures and Practices Manual. The AOE's manual contains the most up-to-date regulations for an independent educational evaluation. To streamline and reduce redundancy, it was recommended to remove this policy and procedures from the district's manual.

Director Longo moved to approve the removal of the Independent Educational Evaluation Policy: F25b from the CSD policy manual. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda **Action**

The following Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

DRAFT

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: May 2, 2023

REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Martin	Burnod	New Hire	Humanities Teacher	1.0	CHS	Request to Hire	Rachel Cohen	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Hannah	Coon	New Hire	Elementary Teacher	1.0	MBS	Request to Hire	Kate Ellingson	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Tim	Lynch	Resignation	Math Teacher	1.0	CHS	Request to End Employment 6/30/23			

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
Individual	Lini	Wing	Resignation	Physical Therapist	0.3	MBS	Request to End Employment 6/30/23			

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	Cheyenne	Shoemaker	Resignation	Behavior Interventionist	35	MBS	Notice of End of Employment (4/21/23)			
Support Staff	Cameron	Roberts	Resignation	Custodian	15	CMS	Notice of End of Employment (3/16/23)			
Support Staff	Tammi	Tandy	Resignation	Tech Specialist III	40	DW	Notice of End of Employment 5/31/23			

Director Kigonya moved to approve the consent agenda as provided. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes: April 18, 2023 **Action**

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the special minutes from the meeting held on April 18, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Approval of General Meeting Minutes: April 18, 2023 **Action**

Director Anderson moved to approve the general minutes from the meeting held on April 18, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- The board will have a retreat about district facilities on June 5th beginning at 5:30 pm.

XII. Future Agenda Items **Information**

- Policy Review Cycle
- Presentations from CHS France, Andros, and New York City Trips
- Social Emotional Learning Presentation
- End-of-the-Year Purchases

XIII. Adjournment

Director Longo moved to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk