

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 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, Business and Operations Manager George Trieb, Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, CHS Principal Andrew Conforti and CHS Assistant Principal Chad DeMagistris. There were about a dozen students and several faculty members in the audience to present items on the agenda to the school board.

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. Student Presentation: Trip to France

Information

Several students taking advanced-level French as a world language course at CHS recently traveled to France over April Break. They shared photos and stories of their trip with the school board and expanded on how this unique experience allowed them to be immersed in the language and culture that they have been studying for years.

IV. Student Presentation: Trip to Andros

Information

A long-standing tradition at CHS, a group of students and faculty traveled to Andros over April Break to develop their research and field investigation skills in an authentic setting. The students shared how the experiential learning during this trip helped deepen their understanding and appreciation of environmental conservation and a culture different from their own.

V. Second Reading of Fundraising Policy: H4

Action

This policy was last reviewed in 2001. The board previously reviewed the current version of this policy and at this meeting they discussed the recommended edits. Administrators are in the process of developing a detailed set of procedures that will also accompany the policy. CHS Principal Andrew Conforti, CHS Assistant Principal Chad DeMagistris, and CHS Director of Athletics and Activities Mark Ellingson provided an overview of how athletics are funded at the high school and the crucial role that booster groups and team fundraising play in supporting the various cocurriculars at the high school.

The board asked some clarifying questions about the platforms used to electronically raise funds and how the money is then distributed and utilized by teams. They also asked if there are designated booster groups to support the middle school, which there are not. CHS Principal Conforti commented on how generous and supportive the Colchester community is for helping fund cocurriculars at the school. He stated that the school will review the impact that numerous, and often simultaneous, fundraising initiatives can impact the community. Board Chair Cox requested additional information about the baseline or minimum required costs for cocurriculars that are currently being funded outside of the voter budget to help the board gain some foundational knowledge for both this policy and the next budget cycle.

This policy will come back for an additional review as further edits are drafted.

Director Anderson moved to approve the second reading of the Fundraising Policy: H4. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. First Reading of School Relations with Attorneys and the Courts in Child Custody Cases Policy: H8 Action

This policy was last reviewed in 2019. It has served the district well and is frequently used by administrators. There were no recommended changes.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first reading of the School Relations with Attorneys and the Courts in Child Custody Cases Policy: H8. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Second and Final 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 address 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 Longo moved to approve the removal of the Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Policy: C7 and the Equal Educational Opportunities Policy: C8 from the CSD Policy Manual and to approve the second and final reading of the Nondiscrimination Policy: C3. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda Action

The following Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: May 16, 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	Nicole	Montana	New Hire	School Psychologist	1.0	CMS	Request to Hire	New Position Eleanor Devereux	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Arianna	Marks	New Hire	Elementary Teacher	1.0	MBS	Request to Hire	(James Bean)	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Erika	Merrill	Leave of Absence	ELL Teacher	0.6	MBS	Request LOA (~November – mid December 2023)			
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	Michael	Schmidt	New Hire	Behavior Specialist	1.0	MBS	Request to Hire	Lily Baker	Yes	Yes

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational										
Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Handbook	Laura	Sexton	New Hire	Accounts Payable Bookkeeper	40	CO	Notice of Hire	Kim Newton	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Gail	Messier	Resignation	Paraeducator - SpEd	1.0	MBS	Notice of Resignation (5/26/23)			
Support Staff	Linda	Schick	Resignation	Paraeducator - Speech	1.0	UMS	Notice of Resignation (6/30/23)			
Support Staff	Claire	Ross	New Hire	School Registrar	1.0	CMS	Notice of Hire	Kirsten Patch	Yes	Yes
Handbook	Charles	Rowse	New Hire	Facilities Director	1.0	DW	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Donna	Marcotte	Resignation	Food Service Worker	37.5	CHS	Notice of Resignation (6/30/23)			
Support Staff	Olivia	Coon	Resignation	Behavior Interventionist	35	MBS	Notice of Resignation (5/26/23)			
Support Staff	Michelle	Ziter	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	UMS	Notice of Resignation (6/30/23)			

Support Staff	Jaileen	Morel-Kunhardt	Resignation	Autism Interventionist	32.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation (6/30/23)
Support Staff	Carmel	Quinn	Leave of Absence	Paraeducator - SpEd	32.5	MBS	Request LOA (week prior to winter break, February break & April break)
Support Staff	Daniel	Ralston	Resignation	Behavior Interventionist	35	MBS	Notice of Resignation (6/30/23)
Support Staff	Sarah	Wight	Resignation	Paraeducator - SpEd	32.5	EEE	Notice of Resignation (6/30/23)

Board Chair Cox requested to table this motion so the board could discuss a related personnel request in the executive session scheduled for later in the meeting.

IX. Approval of General Meeting Minutes: May 2, 2023 Action

Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 2, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports Information

- The board will have a retreat about district facilities on June 5th beginning at 5:30 pm.
- CHS and the town's first responders are hosting a mock crash for 11th and 12th graders on Friday, May 19th in a campaign to remind them to make good choices headed into prom and graduation season. The community was notified that there will be a large presence of emergency personnel at the campus for the event.

XI. Future Agenda Items Information

- Policy Review Cycle
- Social Emotional Learning Presentation
- New York City Music Trip Presentation
- Assurances

XII. Executive Session to Discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation Action

Director Anderson moved to enter executive session at 8:26 p.m. to discuss the superintendent's evaluation and personnel request on the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.


Director Kigonya moved to exit executive session at 9:33 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the consent agenda except for the requested leave of absence, which was denied. The motion passed unanimously.

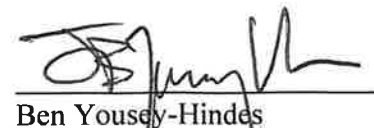
XIII. Adjournment

Director Anderson moved to adjourn at 9:34 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk