

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Cafeteria

Tuesday, August 15, 2023
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, in the Colchester High School Cafeteria. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya and Felix Anderson. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Business and Operations Manager George Trieb, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, Director of Curriculum Gwendolyn Carmolli, UMS Principal Chris Antonicci, and Student Engagement Clinician Chelsea Lareau. There were no audience members.

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. Presentation of CSD Policy Adoption & Review Cycle

Information

Superintendent Amy Minor provided an overview of the school board's responsibility as it pertains to policy governance. The review cycle intends to ensure each policy comes before the board for review approximately once every five years. During the review process, the board considers model policies from the Vermont School Board Association (VSBA), regional and state benchmark policies, the equity policy audit analysis, and input from applicable review teams.

IV. First Readings of Attendance: F30 and Truancy: F30b Policies

Action

Principal Chris Antonicci led a committee to review the attendance and truancy policies and procedures currently in place for the district. The committee recommended combining the two policies into one overarching policy with an accompanying set of detailed procedures. Director Longo appreciated the language in the draft version that set a high expectation for school attendance but asked to add back in some sections from the current policy that also speak to the importance of school. Director Yousey-Hindes requested the procedures contain a preamble to explain terms, goals, and the timeline that are outlined in the policy document. The board also discussed and suggested some nuanced changes to the wording. Board Chair Cox emphasized the importance of providing clear communication to the CSD community to encourage families and students to review the updated policy once it has final approval.

Director Anderson moved to approve the first readings of the Student Attendance and Tardiness Policy: F30 and the Truancy Policy: F30b. The motion passed unanimously.

V. First Reading of Tobacco Prohibition Policy: F3 **Action**

This policy was last reviewed in 2017 and is still relevant as written. The proposed draft version adds additional modes of transportation and qualifying activities where tobacco is prohibited. Director Yousey-Hines asked the administration to review the statute to determine how nicotine suppressants fit into the policy. Director Longo initiated a discussion about the possibility of combining this policy with F9: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Policy. Board Chair Cox appreciated that this policy explicitly states that it applies to everyone (students, employees, and visitors) at all times. The board further discussed the term “prohibition” and if it should be more broadly used in policies regarding drugs and alcohol as well.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first reading of the Tobacco Prohibition Policy: F3. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. First Reading of Alcohol and Drug-free Workplace Policy: D8 **Action**

This policy was last reviewed in 2005 and has served the district well. In 2020, the Vermont School Board Association (VSBA) updated its model policy to make it more robust. To align with the VSBA, the draft policy reviewed by the board included additional definitions. Director Yousey-Hindes discussed the term “unlawful” and how it relates to the legality of consuming alcohol on school grounds. It was noted that this policy is specifically related to employees and their employment status. The board discussed a phrase that is repeated in the VSBA’s model policy “on or in the workplace” and questioned the definition of that, specifically regarding whether the employee is required to report legal convictions that occur outside of the workplace and on personal time.

Director Anderson moved to approve the first reading of the Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace Policy: D8. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. First Reading of School Search and Seizure Policy: F4 **Action**

This policy was last reviewed in 2018. The draft policy rewords a section to make it easier to understand and better articulates current district practice. It also adds language to include local emergency services. Superintendent Amy Minor explained how student searches are conducted and stressed that in those situations, administrators rarely, if ever, touch the student. Instead, they will instruct the student to do things such as empty their pockets, roll up their pant legs, etc. The board discussed the requirement to have a same-sex witness present for searches. That portion of the policy intends to demonstrate respectful support for the student while also providing administrators protection when they are engaging in a search. The board will also consider if the term same-sex is appropriate or if it should be changed to gender-identifying.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the first reading of the School Search and Seizure Policy: F4. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. First Reading of School Crisis Prevention and Response Policy: E3 **Action**

This policy was last reviewed in 2017 and is required by the Agency of Education. It is the overarching policy for school safety. Director Longo suggested swapping the order of the first two paragraphs.

Director Longo moved to approve the first reading of the School Crisis Prevention and Response Policy: E3. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Third and Final Reading of Fundraising Policy: H4

Action

This policy has been through several rounds of revisions. The board discussed the proposed updates to the draft policy and accompanying procedures. They suggested a few more edits to be made before final approval.

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

X. Approval of Truck Purchase

Action

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb requested approval to purchase a new maintenance truck. The district has been attempting to purchase a truck for the last three years but has run up against problems including inflated costs, low inventory, and a reluctance from vehicle retailers to sell to municipalities. The district has an opportunity to purchase a truck from Lamoille Valley Ford that is in stock and immediately available. The vehicle had been under contract, but the purchaser had to cancel. The proposed purchase is planned and budgeted for.

Director Longo moved to approve the purchase of a new maintenance truck as recommended and to authorize the business and operations manager to execute the necessary documents to make it happen. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The following Consent Agenda was reviewed by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA
Board Meeting Date: August 15, 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	Kaitlyn	Walz	New Hire	Science Teacher (one-year only)	1.0	CHS	Request to Hire	Kara Lenorovitz	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Carol	McNair	New Hire	Alternative Math Teacher	1.0	CMS	Request to Hire	Amy Contesti	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Nick	Corrigan	New Hire	6th Grade Math & Science Teacher (one-year only)	1.0	CMS	Request to Hire	Kyle Marlow	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Tyler	Willard	New Hire	Long-Term Sub - Social Studies (8/31/23-1/16/24)	1.0	CHS	Request to Hire	Emma Morrissey & Ben Beaudoin	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Elizabeth	Tansey	New Hire	Health Teacher (one-year only)	1.0	CMS	Request to Hire	Morgan Young	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Morgan	Young	Transfer	Physical Education Teacher	1.0	CMS	Request for Transfer	Julie Wockenfuss	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Kevin	Rondeau	Resignation	Long-Term Sub - Social Studies (8/31/23-1/16/24)	1.0	CHS	Notice of Resignation	Emma Morrissey & Ben Beaudoin	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Kyle	Marlow	Resignation	Math & Science Teacher	1.0	CMS	Request to End Employment			
Teacher	Julie	Wokenfuss	Resignation	Physical Education Teacher	1.0	CMS	Request to End Employment			

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	Andrea	Stamm	New Hire	Physical Therapist	0.5	DW	Request to Hire	Lini Wing	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Wendy	Colgrove	Leave of Absence	Food Service Worker (Head Cook)	38.75	CMS	Request for LOA (2/13/24-2/23/24)			
Support Staff	Mapigano	Karubandika	Leave of Absence	Custodian	40.0	MBS	Request for LOA (8/25-9/8)			

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
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Handbook	Holli-Jo	Brigante	New Hire	Central Office Specialist	40.0 CO	Notice of Hire	Heather Finelli	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Danielle	Michael	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5 UMS	Notice of Hire	Michelle Ziter	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Lauren	Ledoux	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5 EEE/MBS	Notice of Hire	Sarah Wight	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Kendra	Simpson	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35.0 PPS	Notice of Hire	Cynthia Kuenzi	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Jason	Rodriguez	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	40.0 CMS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Erin	Skala	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35.0 MBS	Notice of Hire	Gregg T. Galati	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Jane	Hill	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35.0 MBS	Notice of Hire	Cheyenne Shoem	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Gail	Stone	New Hire	Paraeducator	20.0 PPS	Notice of Hire	Katarina Visek	Yes	Yes
				Intensive Needs					
Support Staff	Gabrielle	Hurst	New Hire	Interventionist	35.0 UMS	Notice of Hire	Judy Lilley	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Lily	Harris	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35.0 CMS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Erica	Pareja	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35.0 MBS	Notice of Hire	Isabelle Sances	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Ndayisenga	Vandame	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35.0 CMS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Adrian	Zemor	New Hire	Paraeducator - SpEd	35.0 CMS	Notice of Hire	Logan Spicer	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Gabrielle	Lajeunesse	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5 PPS	Notice of Hire	Bridget Doherty	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Nora	Tetrick	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5 UMS	Notice of Hire	Haylee Patch	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Shahquia	Cross	New Hire	Paraeducator - SpEd	32.5 MBS	Notice of Hire	Gail Messier	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Michael	Sheppard	New Hire	Paraeducator - SpEd	30.0 MBS	Notice of Hire	Barbara Harshorn	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Chelsey	Coulombe	New Hire	Food Service Worker	32.5 CHS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Victoria	Goulette	New Hire	Food Service Worker	22.5 CHS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Cindel	Otto	New Hire	Food Service Worker	27.5 PPS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Amissi	Munyugu	New Hire	Custodian	40.0 MBS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Handbook	Nancy	Cunningham	New Hire	Food Service Worker	10.5 CHS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Handbook	David	MacMurtry	New Hire	Special Ed. Van Driver	25.0 DW	Notice of Hire	Dave Eaton	Yes	Yes
				Assistant Girls					
Co-Curricular	Jeff	Springer	New Hire	Basketball Coach	25.0 CHS	Notice of Hire	Hannah Treib	Yes	Yes
				JV Girls Basketball					
Co-Curricular	Tom	Corbett	New Hire	Coach	25.0 CHS	Notice of Hire	Justin Bissonette	Yes	Yes
				Varsity Field Hockey					
Co-Curricular	Shawn	Lefebvre	New Hire	Coach	30.0 CHS	Notice of Hire	Katie Comeau	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Caitlin	O'Neil-Bain	New Hire	JV Field Hockey Coach	25.0 CHS	Notice of Hire	Amelia Campos	Yes	Yes
				Girls Cross Country					
Co-Curricular	Abby	Schaible	New Hire	Coach	25.0 CHS	Notice of Hire	Jackie Dixon	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Patrick	Houle	New Hire	JV Girls Soccer Coach	20.0 CHS	Notice of Hire	Morgan Young	Yes	Yes
				Assistant Field Hockey					
Co-Curricular	Alexina	Richard	New Hire	Coach	20.0 CHS	Notice of Hire	Jenn Turmel	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Ryan	Spooner	New Hire	Music Accompanist	n/a CHS	Notice of Hire	Christian Pickwell	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Nicholas	Shramm	New Hire	Debate Coach	20.0 CHS	Notice of Hire	Bob Hall	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Claire	Ross	Resignation	Guidance Registrar	40.0 CMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Harlie	Desautels	Resignation	Non-Instructional Aid	15.0 CMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Kendra	Simpson	Resignation	Behavior Interventionist	35.0 PPS	Notice of Resignation			

Support Staff	Bridget	Doherty	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5 PPS	Notice of Resignation
Support Staff	Mackenzie	Drake	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5 PPS	Notice of Resignation

The board determined there was a need to discuss a personnel matter in executive session and agreed to wait to make a motion on the PCA until after that discussion at the end of the general meeting.

- XII. Approval of Meeting Minutes** **Action**
- June 20, 2023 (General)
 - July 24, 2023 (Special)
 - July 25, 2023 (Special)

Board Chair Cox noted a correction was needed to the meeting type for the July 25th meeting.

Director Felix moved to approve the minutes from the meetings held on June 20, 2023, and July 24, 2023 as presented, and the meeting on July 25, 2023 with the noted correction. The motion passed unanimously.

- XIII. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports** **Information**
- Opening in-service for all employees is scheduled for Thursday, August 25 and the board to attend. Schools will also be hosting open houses over the next couple of months.

- XIV. Future Agenda Items** **Information**
- Policy Review Cycle
 - School Reports

- XV. Executive Session to Discuss Negotiations and a Personnel Matter** **Action**
- Director Anderson moved to enter executive session to discuss negotiations and a personnel matter at 7:27 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Director Anderson moved to exit executive session at 9:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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

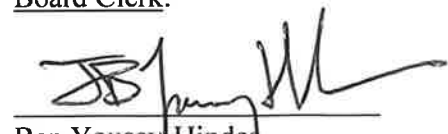
- XVI. Adjournment**

Director Longo moved to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk