

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

September 19, 2023
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Board members in attendance were Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, and Student Representative Phoebe Richardson. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, and Colchester High School Principal Andrew Conforti.

I. Call to Order

Board Vice Chair Nic Longo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Colchester High School Report

Information

CHS Principal, Andrew Conforti, shared a presentation with the board reporting on the building and the start of the year. Principal Conforti touched on the goals of Colchester High School. He also went over the overall rising numbers of enrollment for the school; and rising numbers of students participating in dual enrollment, AP courses and tech centers, comparing the numbers to the years prior to the pandemic. Principal Conforti then brought attention to need of more space within the school and how they have repurposed spaces to better fit the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) needs of the students.

IV. Second and Final Reading of Tobacco Prohibition Policy: F3

Action

This is a required policy and was last updated by the VSBA in 2020. Superintendent Minor spoke with Cara Zimmerman, the attorney from VSBA about our draft policy, and they did not have any further update recommendations.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the second and final reading of the Tobacco Prohibition Policy: F3. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

V. Second and Final Reading of Alcohol and Drug-free Workplace Policy: D8

Action

This is a required policy and last reviewed in 2005. Superintendent Minor spoke with Cara Zimmerman, the attorney from VSBA, and while she believes our draft policy is up to date with no recommendations, the board discussed three separate language choices within the policy. Firstly, the board decided to keep the term “unlawfully” in the second sentence of the first paragraph as it helps describe the act taking place. Secondly, the board agreed to remove the language “on or” within the term of “on or in the workplace,” as the definition of workplace is clear. Lastly, the board

got clarification from Superintendent Minor, with the help of Cara Zimmerman, on the section regarding Employee Responsibilities.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the second and final reading of Alcohol and Drug-free Workplace Policy: D8. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

VI. Teacher Evaluation Model Revision

Action

CSD has a teacher evaluation model that is overseen by the Teacher Evaluation Leadership Team (TEL-T). The evaluation was developed after the Charlotte Danielson model, Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for teaching. The CSD model was revised in 2012 and again in 2015. For the 23-24 school year TEL-T is investigating a new teacher evaluation model to be implemented in the fall of 24.

In the Spring of 2023, TEL-T surveyed teachers and administrators across the district to obtain feedback on our current evaluation system. Collectively teachers and administrators agree, we have outgrown the Danielson model. Overall, teachers and administrators agree that the current model is cumbersome, and it may not be impacting teaching practices. For this final year, TEL-T are asking permission from both the CEA Executive Board and the CSD School Board to modify the model for one year.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the modified TEL-T process for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. The motion was passed unanimously, 3-0.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The following consent agenda was reviewed by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: September 19, 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	Deena	Murphy	New Hire	Long Term Sub - ELL (8/31-late November)	1.0	MBS	Request to Hire	Erika Merrell	Yes	Yes

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
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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	Kurt	Wagner	Resignation	Para - SpEd	32.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Hadija	Petro	New Hire	Custodian	40.0	CHS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Jillian	Hackett	New Hire	Para - SpEd	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	John	Landis	New Hire	Para - SpEd	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Alicia	English	New Hire	Cheer Coach	25.0	CMS	Notice of Hire	Open	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Bailey	Olson	New Hire	Strength & Conditioning Coach	8.0	CHS	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the consent agenda as provided. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes Action
• September 5, 2023 (General)

Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the meetings held on September 5, 2023. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

- Superintendent Minor and Communications Director Meghan Baule interviewed three PR firms and invited them to submit proposals to assist in communications for a facilities bond.
- The fourth and final Early Release Day taking place on Wednesday, April 3 will be moved to Monday, April 8 due to the traffic advisories from the Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding the total solar eclipse taking place in the Burlington area.

X. Future Agenda Items Information

- School reports from the other schools in the district.
- Continuation of the Policy Review Cycle.
- Budget discussions.

XI. Executive Sessions to Discuss Negotiations and a Student Matter Action

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session to discuss negotiations and a student matter at 8:19 p.m. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

XII. Adjournment

Director Kigonya moved to exit executive session and adjourn at 8:52 p.m. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Recorder:

Gabrielle Brooks
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk