

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Directors Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Felix Anderson, Laurie Kigonya and Student Representative Phoebe Richardson. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Business and Operations Manager George Trieb, Director of Curriculum Gwen Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, Union Memorial School Principal Chris Antonicci, Malletts Bay School Principal Jordan Burke, and Preschool Program Facilitator Nancy Smith.

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. Preschool Report

Information

Principal Jordan Burke and Preschool Director Nancy Smith provided an overview of Preschool Program that operates out of Malletts Bay School. Their presentation included a history of the program, current enrollment, staffing, curriculum, and academic data. They also shared how their goals relate to the greater K-12 goals of the district and some of the needs of the program. Most of those needs related to the facility. When first started, the program was placed within MBS but it is not ideal.

IV. Union Memorial School Report

Information

Principal Chris Antonicci shared the report for Union Memorial School. He provided enrollment and demographic data, as well as curriculum and assessment scores. He focused on literacy comprehension and how they use data from assessments to provide targeted intervention. He also spoke about facility needs, primarily the lack of space for provided support services. The board asked some clarifying questions about curriculum and the recent addition of math supports. He applauded his staff and the community support from the PTA.

V. FY'25 Budget Discussion

Information

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb provided an overview of the budget development process and funding mechanisms/tax components. Many of these factors are remaining the same from previous budget years, however, some of the factors have changed by the passing of Act 127, which was created to improve student equity by adjusting the school funding formula and providing education quality and funding oversight. This Act significantly changes the way students are

weighted and moves the education funding formula away from equalized pupils to long term weight average daily membership. Due to the change in the weighting methodology, the law places certain restrictions (CAPS) in place for the equalized tax rate (tax rate before applying the CLA) and per pupil spending. The five percent (5%) equalized tax rate cap will attempt to limit the tax spikes for communities whereas the ten percent (10%) per pupil spending cap will attempt to control district and SU spending during the five-year period (FY'25 – FY'29). The mechanism utilized to attempting to control the per pupil spending cap is a review by a committee to include three superintendents, three business managers and the secretary of education. Any district or SU that has a per pupil spending increase greater than 10% will trigger this review. The outcome of said review will be based on the determination of whether the district is looking to spend budget funds appropriately or excessively.

VI. Second and Final Reading of Long Term Leaves of Absence Without Pay Policy: D13 Information

This second reading reflected the changes requested at the last meeting. No further edits were requested.

Director Anderson moved to approve the second and final reading of the Long Term Leaves of Absence Without Pay Policy: D13. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda Action

The following consent agenda was reviewed by the board.

DRAFT

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: November 7, 2023

REVISED

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
Individual	Eric	Low	New Hire	Behavior Specialist	1.0	CHS	Request to Hire	New position	No	Yes
Individual	Ordina	Smailhodzic	New Hire	Behavior Specialist	1.0	CHS	Request to Hire	New position	No	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	Oluwwdare	Sowunmi	New Hire	Interim Athletic Director	1.0	CHS	Notice of Hire	Mark Ellingson	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Mia	Parizo	New Hire	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5	PPS	Notice of Hire	Bridge Doherty	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Christina	Moore	New Hire	Paraeducator	18.0	MBS/EEE	Notice of Hire	New Position	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Myla	Jacobs	New Hire	Nordic Ski Head Coach	n/a	CHS	Notice of Hire	Gabby Brooks	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Bora	Dina	Resignation	Custodian	40.0	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Chiza	Modelina	Resignation	Custodian	40.0	CHS	Notice of Resignation			

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

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes **Action**
• **October 17, 2023**

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes from the meetings held on October 17, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Congratulations to the CHS Girls Varsity Soccer team for winning the D1 State Championship. The Varsity Football Team will be playing in the D2 State Championship this weekend.
- New entrance and exit signs are being installed at MBS and CMS this week.
- The district hired the Center for Effective School Communications (CESO) to help develop and facilitate engagement opportunities with the community regarding facility planning. Architects are continuing to meet with school-based committee members.
- Conditions for the easement agreement with the Town were sent to the DPW.

X. Future Agenda Items **Information**

- School reports
- Food service report
- Continuation of the Policy Review Cycle
- FY'25 budget discussions

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

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session to discuss a student matter at 8:53 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to exit executive session and adjourn at 9:26 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk