

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, November 21, 2023
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Board members in attendance were Board Directors Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Felix Anderson, and Laurie Kigonya, with Board Chair Lindsey Cox participating via Zoom. 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, and Food Service Director Steve Davis.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Food Services Report

Information

The Director of Food Services Steve Davis and Business and Operations Manager George Trieb provided the board with a summary of the food service program. The FY23 program finished the year with a deficit which is a result of both increased food and labor costs, and less COVID related Federal Funding. Federal funding allowed all districts in the nation to offer breakfast and lunch for free for all students during COVID. That funding was not offered for this school year, but the State of Vermont agreed to continue funding student meals at the state level. It is unknown if this funding for universal meals will continue in future years, but Mr. Davis was hopeful it will continue citing discussion at both the state and federal level.

The FY24 budget shows increases in both revenue and expenses with a projection of breaking even. This is also attributed to universal meals. Universal meals have increased the number of students eating the meals provided by the school which has invigorated the program. Districtwide, the number of students now eating school breakfast has gone up 31% and went down only 1.5% for eating lunch. He stated that the increased participation has reduced the stigma of eating a school-provided meal and has subsequently created a different and hugely positive atmosphere in the cafeteria. The stigma of eating a school-provided meal has basically disappeared because nearly everyone is eating a meal. Students have also become more engaged with the kitchen staff, sharing their opinions and suggestions on food choices. He said they are enjoying hearing from the students and are working to give them options that they enjoy.

He went on to say that we will soon be starting the 23-24 Procurement Review. This review cycle takes place every three years; however, it was slightly delayed due to COVID. The review looks at everything from our procurement procedures to codes of conduct and the vendor list for where our food is sourced.

IV. FY'25 Budget Discussion: Enrollment

Information

As the board prepares to engage in discussions for the FY'54 budget, Superintendent Amy Minor gave a district-wide overview of student enrollment. Colchester's enrollment is steady and has been projected in a recent demographic study to rise slightly over the next ten years. She went over individual school enrollment including grade level and class size. She also gave data regarding enrollment and class size in unified arts, teams, and tuition students at the middle and high schools.

V. First Reading of Caregiver and Community Involvement Policy: H2

Action

This policy has been updated as part of the review cycle. The policy was expanded to include the required section on Title I along with Title I procedure, while keeping specific language such as the term "caregiver." The updated version is in alignment with the VSBA's model policy.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first reading of Caregiver and Community Involvement Policy: H2. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The following consent agenda was reviewed by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: November 21, 2023

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

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	Gina	Masse	New Hire	Special Education Driver	40.0	Districtwide	Notice of Hire	Donna Cross	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Hannah	Gervais	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35.0	MBS/EEE	Notice of Hire	New position	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Elizabeth	Brosseau	New Hire	Attendance Administrative Assistant I	40.0	CHS	Notice of Hire	Holly Bessette		
Support Staff	Eric	Green	New Hire	Custodian	40.0	CHS	Notice of Hire	Chiza Modelina	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Pat	McCarthy	New Hire	Boys "B" Basketball Coach	25.0	CMS	Notice of Hire			
Support Staff	Randall	Lafountain	Resignation	Maintenance Worker	40.0	Districtwide	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Kendy	Mayo	Resignation	Head Cook	40.0	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Mia	Parizo	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Lauren	Ledoux	Termination	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS/EEE	Notice of Termination			

No motion was needed to approve the consent agenda as provided.

- VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes** **Action**
• **November 7, 2023**

Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from the meetings held on November 7, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

- VIII. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports** **Information**
- Superintendent Minor shared with the board that she attended a UMS Faculty Meeting to present draft plans for an updated facility and gather feedback. She plans on presenting these draft plans with PPS after the holiday and bringing it to the board for early December.

- IX. Future Agenda Items** **Information**
- School reports
 - Nursing report
 - Continuation of the Policy Review Cycle
 - FY'25 budget discussions

X. Adjournment

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

Gabrielle Brooks
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk