

# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Directors Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Felix Anderson, 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, and school librarians Rebecca Sofferman, Carole Oglesby and Annie Brabazon. There were two community members in the audience.

### 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

Dirk Reith, a resident of Colchester, made a statement to the board regarding the proposed FY'25 school budget. Mr. Reith stated it is an unattainable budget that has increased 21 million dollars over ten years, which is more than the rate of inflation. He said he was the school board's chair until 2015, and the current board should look at changes that led to increased spending between 2015 and now. Mr. Reith acknowledged that enrollment has been steady, as were academic scores, and he did not want the board to cut any teacher positions. He encouraged the board to study the efficacy of their spending and how that money goes to the state education fund. He said he does not support the proposed budget or Act 127.

### III. First Reading of Materials & Instructional Activity Selection and Review Policy: G5 Action

This policy was last reviewed in 2004. The most significant change in the proposed draft policy was removing language specific to library materials. Based on the Vermont School Board Association's model policies and input from school librarians, administrators recommended splitting that section of the policy into its own policy with accompanying procedures which are outlined in the next agenda item.

*Director Longo moved to approve the first reading of Materials and Instructional Activity Selection and Review Policy: G5. The motion passed unanimously.*

### IV. First Reading of Library Materials Policy (New) Action

As outlined in the previous agenda item, administrators recommended the adoption of a new policy dedicated explicitly to library materials. CSD School Librarians Rebecca Sofferman, Carole Oglesby, and Annie Brabazon gave a presentation outlining the rationale and data for the new policy. The draft procedures define who can request a review of library materials. Director Anderson and Director Yousey-Hindes would like that point included in the policy. Director Yousey-

Hindes also asked for additional consideration regarding the questions on the form that community members seeking a literature review would be required to answer.

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first reading of the Library Materials Policy. The motion passed unanimously.*

**V. Recording of FY'25 Budget Q&A for LCATV**

**Information**

As part of the information communication plan for the FY'25 budget, the district partnered with LCATV to film a Q&A. Student Board Representative Phoebe Richardson served as moderator and asked the board members and administrators a series of questions connected to the proposed FY'25 school budget. This presentation will air on the LCATV channels and be available for online viewing on [www.lcatv.org](http://www.lcatv.org).

**VI. Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Action**

The board reviewed the following consent agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board Meeting Date: February 20, 2024**

***Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)***

<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>FTE/Hours</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Agenda Information</b>	<b>Person Replacing</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Admin Support</b>
Teacher	Kera	Breen	New Hire	Long-Term Sub: Special Education (03/04/24 - End of School Year)	1.0	CHS	Request to Hire	Leslie Noble & Additional Student Need	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Zach	Ziemer	New Hire	Long-Term Sub: Science (03/21/24 - Approx. Mid May)	1.0	CMS	Request to Hire	Carol Smith	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Aurina	Hartz	New Hire	Long-Term Sub: Elementary (03/11/24 - End of School Year)	1.0	PPS	Request to Hire	Caitlin Bellavance	Yes	Yes

***Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Board Approval Required***

<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>FTE/Hours</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Agenda Information</b>	<b>Person Replacing</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Admin Support</b>
Support Staff	Kera	Breen	Leave of Absence	Behavior Interventionist	35.0	CHS	Request for LOA (3/04-End of school year)			

***Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational***

<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>FTE/Hours</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Agenda Information</b>	<b>Person Replacing</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Admin Support</b>
Support Staff	Dokyeong (Erica)	Lim	New Hire	Paraeducator-ELL	32.5	CMS	Notice of Hire	Open Position		
Support Staff	Michelle	Berthiaume	New Hire	HR Coordinator	40.0	CO	Notice of Hire	Lindsey Troescher		
support Staff	Chelsey-Diane	Coulombe	Resignation	Food Service Worker	32.5	CHS	Notice of Resignation			

There was a written request connected to one of the items on the consent agenda that the board wanted to discuss further. They decided to add an executive session after the general session and will make a motion following their discussion.

**VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes** **Action**  
• **February 6, 2024 (general)**

Director Yousey-Hindes noted one correction to be made.

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 6, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

- None

**IX. Future Agenda Items** **Information**

- FY'25 Budget Results
- Continuation of the Policy Review Cycle
- NEASC Report from CHS
- NELMS Report from CMS
- 2024-25 School Calendar

**X. Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter** **Action**

*Director Anderson moved to enter executive session at 8:29 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter connected to the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to exit executive session at 8:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Director Longo moved to approve the consent agenda for February 20, 2024, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

**XI. Adjournment**

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Recorder:



Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:



Ben Yousey-Hindes  
Board Clerk