

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, March 5, 2024
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 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, 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, and CMS Principal Michele Cote. There were no 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

None.

III. Colchester Middle School NELMS Presentation

Information

Colchester Middle School Principal Michele Cote shared an in-depth presentation of the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) comprehensive report following the whole school assessment. The school participated in the evaluation to learn what the school can do to best serve the needs of middle-level learners. The report is being used to determine which areas to focus on to further align with the experts' researched best practices. She highlighted feedback that included commendations and recommendations for seven areas: curriculum and assessment, varied instruction, middle-level teachers and staff, organization for relationships for learning, democratic governance, healthy school environment, and parents and community. She shared the leadership team's steps in response to the assessment report and the school's subsequent action plan. Given the recent retirement announcement of two of the school's administrators, the board discussed the action plan and how the transition will occur. Principal Cote shared that she is deeply committed to seeing the school through a successful transition and is confident in the leadership team and collaboration efforts of the district's administration.

IV. Second and Final Reading of Library Materials Policy: G6

Action

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli reviewed some of the changes suggested by the board at the first reading. The board noted several additional changes that they would like made to help clarify intent in several sections. The policy will return for a third reading at a future meeting.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the second reading of the Library Materials Policy: G6. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Second and Final Reading of Materials & Instructional Activity Selection and Review Policy: G5 Action

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli reviewed some of the changes suggested by the board at the first reading. The board noted several additional changes that they would like made to help clarify intent in several sections. The policy will return for a third reading at a future meeting.

Director Anderson moved to approve the second reading of the Instructional Materials Policy: G5. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Hear and Discuss Results of the FY'25 School Budget Vote Information

Unofficial results show that the school article regarding the FY'25 school budget passed with 1,885 votes in favor and 1,505 against. The board and Superintendent Amy Minor thanked the community for their continued support and reflected on the budget process.

Laurie Kigonya was reelected to a 3-year term, and Jennifer Fath was elected to a 2-year term to fill the seat vacated by current member Felix Anderson. District administrators and fellow board members thanked Mr. Anderson for his service on the board.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda Action

The board reviewed the following consent agenda.

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.

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes **Action**
• **February 20, 2024 (general)**

Director Longo noted one correction.

Director Longo moved to approve the amended minutes from the meeting held on February 20, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Mountain Transit lost several bus drivers and was forced to temporarily consolidate several routes until new drivers pass training and road tests.
- The district has a half day scheduled for the solar eclipse in April. Local officials will meet later in the week and may make additional recommendations to school districts.
- With it being his final meeting, Superintendent Minor and school board members thanked Felix Anderson for his service, commitment, and dedication to the school board over the past two years.

X. Future Agenda Items **Information**

- Continuation of the Policy Review Cycle
- NEASC Report from CHS
- 2024-25 School Calendar

XI. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matter **Action**

Director Anderson moved to enter executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to exit executive session at 8:57 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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

XII. Adjournment

Director Anderson moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk