

Colchester School Board

Meeting Agenda and Packet

March 5, 2024

**Colchester School District
Board of Education Meeting Agenda
March 5, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.
Colchester High School Library**

Agenda

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------------|
| I. | Call to Order | |
| II. | Citizen Participation | |
| III. | Colchester Middle School NELMS Presentation | Information |
| IV. | Second and Final Reading of Library Materials Policy: G6 | Action |
| V. | Second and Final Reading of Materials & Instructional Activity Selection and Review Policy: G5 | Action |
| VI. | Hear and Discuss Results of FY'25 School Budget Vote | Information |
| VII. | Approval of Consent Agenda | Action |
| VIII. | Approval of Meeting Minutes | Action |
| | • February 20, 2024 (general) | |
| IX. | Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports | Information |
| X. | Future Agenda Items | Information |
| XI. | Adjournment | |

***Meeting Participation and Viewing Options**

Meetings are open to the public unless warned otherwise. Colchester citizens have an opportunity to speak or comment on any items listed on the agenda. For topics not listed on the agenda, public comment can be made during the Citizen's Participation agenda item. Please review the Public Comment Rules listed at www.csdvt.org/schoolboard prior to the meeting. If not attending in person, citizens may also participate in the meeting by emailing a prerecorded message to schoolboard@colchesters.org with "Citizens Participation" listed in the subject line. It must be received by noon on the day of the meeting, include your full name and phone number, and follow the Public Comment Rules. LCATV will provide live stream coverage via: www.lcatv.org/live-stream-3.

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: LIBRARY MATERIALS

DATE ADOPTED: DRAFT

PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Colchester School District (District) to provide students with a broad variety of library materials that promote student learning and areas of individual interests, provide equitable access to learning for all students, and build a lifelong enjoyment of reading.

Library materials provide access to a diverse library collection that supports students in the curriculum, their personal research and recreational reading, and that sustains students' First Amendment Rights to access information and to read freely. Library materials provided by the district, regardless of technology, format, or methods of delivery, should be readily, equally, and equitably accessible to all students.

Instructional materials provide opportunities for each student to successfully engage in curriculum, meet graduation requirements aligned with Vermont standards, and promote opportunities for personalization. (CSD Instructional Materials Policy)

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. The school library plays an important role in helping students gain skills, understandings and knowledge, and enjoyment of reading. Therefore, library materials provided by the District, regardless of technology, format, or methods of delivery, should be readily, equally, and equitably accessible to all students. This policy exists to ensure that the District provides access to a diverse library collection that supports students in the curriculum, their personal research, and recreational reading, and that sustains students' First Amendment Rights to access information and to read freely.

DEFINITIONS

Library Materials include all materials considered part of the library collection, including but not limited to print, digital, and media production resources. Library materials may be found in both physical and virtual library spaces, as well as classroom libraries.

Diverse Library Collection are the library materials and resources that intentionally contain content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of

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ideas, information, stories, and experiences, including those from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities.

Instructional Materials are the materials and supplies for academic, social-emotional, and physical learning in classrooms.

ACCESS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. The school library plays an important role in helping students to inquire, study and evaluate information, and to gain new understandings and knowledge.

Each school shall:

- A. Provide a learning environment with sufficient supplies and infrastructure to allow for learning;
- B. Develop, maintain, and expand as needed a library collection of print, digital and technology resources, administered by a certified library media specialist;
- C. Ensure that the curriculum is supported by necessary digital and print resources;
- D. Ensure that students, educators, administrators, and staff have access to an organized collection of digital and print materials sufficient and appropriate to support all students in meeting or exceeding the current state and national standards at no cost to the student;
- E. Provide students access to the library on a regular basis to use materials for reading, research, and for instruction in the skills needed to select and use information effectively;
- F. Provide access to a variety of up-to-date information, assistive, and other technology to support students in meeting or exceeding the standards;
- G. Provide broadband internet service in school/on campus for students and educators to access educational resources;
- H. Adopt and implement written policies on electronic resources, acceptable internet usage, and procedures for handling complaints for both staff and students;
- I. Support a schedule that provides opportunities for a library media specialist to collaborate with educators as they integrate information research skills into their curriculum;
- J. Ensure that students are afforded the opportunity to learn the skills to locate, evaluate, synthesize, and to present information and ideas within content areas using technology integration;
- K. Provide access to diverse library collections that promote equitable learning for all students and are in alignment with the District's Equity Policy; and
- L. Promote personal growth, interests and an enjoyment of reading.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The superintendent or designee will develop and implement procedures that address the selection of library materials and the provision of access to those materials. The superintendent or designee will develop procedures to address:

- A. Selection of library materials;
- B. Deselection of library materials;
- C. Donation of library materials; and
- D. Reconsideration of library materials.

Colchester community members may request reconsideration of library materials. All concerns regarding the selection of library materials shall be directed to the superintendent for handling consistent with those procedures.

USE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

The library media specialist may consult with faculty, the student body, community members and organizations to develop library collections that are diverse, inclusive, and representative of the history, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic groups and social groups.

At the discretion of the building principal, students, staff, and family/caregiver members of the District may be allowed use of library materials and resources. However, such access shall not interfere with regular school use of those materials and resources.

Legal Reference

16 V.S.A §563 (14)

State Board of Education Rule Series 2122.2 (Access to Instructional Materials)

Resources

CSD Equity Policy, [Colchester School District Policies](#)

[Library Bill of Rights](#), American Library Association

[Freedom to Read Statement](#), American Library Association

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

DATE ADOPTED: DRAFT

PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Colchester School District (District) to provide students with a broad variety of instructional materials to support student learning and promote equitable access to learning for all students.

Instructional materials provide opportunities for each student to successfully engage in curriculum, meet graduation requirements aligned with Vermont standards, and promote opportunities for personalization.

Library Materials promote student learning and areas of individual interests, provide equitable access to learning for all students, and build a lifelong enjoyment of reading. (CSD Library Materials Policy)

DEFINITIONS

Instructional Materials are the materials and supplies for academic, social-emotional, and physical learning in classrooms.

Library Materials include all materials considered part of the library collection, including but not limited to print, digital, and media production resources. Library materials may be found in both physical and virtual library spaces, as well as classroom libraries.

IMPLEMENTATION

Instructional materials are critical to equitable learning for all students. Instructional materials shall be made available to students, selected by professional staff in accordance with the following criteria and procedures.

The District shall use the state standards approved by the State Board of Education and the Colchester School District Equity Policy (CSD Equity Policy) as the basis for the development and selection of curriculum, methods of instruction, locally developed assessments, and the content and skills taught and learned in school.

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The board will ensure the written and delivered curriculum that each school implements the District's written and delivered curriculum, which will be:

- A. Aligned with the standards approved by the State Board of Education;
- B. Coordinated across all grades to prepare students for graduation;
- C. Coordinated across the District;
- D. Informed by ongoing review of new research and evidence, changing learning opportunities, and updates to the standards approved by the State Board of Education;
- E. Designed to enable all students to achieve the graduation requirements;
- F. Integrated with technology across all disciplines; and
- G. Aligned with CSD Equity Policy and commitment to equitable learning for all students.

ACCESS TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Each school shall enable students to engage annually in rigorous, relevant and comprehensive learning opportunities that allows them to demonstrate proficiency in:

- A. Literacy (including critical thinking, language, reading, speaking and listening, and writing);
- B. Mathematical content and practices (including numbers, operations, and the concepts of algebra and geometry by the end of grade 10);
- C. Scientific inquiry and content knowledge (including the concepts of life sciences, physical sciences, earth and space sciences and engineering design);
- D. Global citizenship (including the concepts of civics, economics, geography, world language, cultural studies and history);
- E. Physical education and health education as defined in 16 V.S.A. §131;
- F. Artistic expression (including visual, media and performing arts); and
- G. Transferable skills/Colchester School District Essential Expectations (including communication, collaboration, creativity, innovation, inquiry, problem solving and the use of technology).

Further, each school with a pre-kindergarten early education program shall offer high-quality instructional materials for pre-kindergarten programs as outlined in State Board Rule 2600.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The superintendent or designee will develop procedures addressing access to instructional materials to ensure that each school:

- A. Provides a learning environment with sufficient supplies and infrastructure to allow for learning;
- B. Develops, maintains, and expands as needed, instructional materials that include a collection of print, digital and technology resources;
- C. Ensures that the curriculum, aligned to state standards and CSD Equity Policy, is supported by necessary digital and print resources;

- D. Ensures that students, teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals have access to an organized collection of digital and print instructional materials sufficient and appropriate to support all students in meeting or exceeding the current state and national standards;
- E. Provides students access to the instructional materials on a regular basis, to use materials for reading, research, and for instruction in the skills needed to select and use information effectively;
- F. Provides access to a variety of up-to-date information, assistive, and other technology to support students in meeting or exceeding the standards;
- G. Provides broadband Internet service in school/on campus for students and educators to access educational resources;
- H. Adopts and implements written policies on electronic resources, acceptable internet usage, and procedures for handling complaints for both staff and students;
- I. Provides opportunities for library media specialist to collaborate with teachers as they integrate information research skills into their curriculum; and
- J. Ensures that students are afforded the opportunity to learn the skills to locate, evaluate, synthesize, and to present information and ideas within content areas using instructional materials;
- K. Incorporates principles of equity within instruction materials, ensuring alignment with CSD Equity Policy; and
- L. Ensure the implementation of developmentally appropriate curriculum which is aligned with Vermont's Early Learning Standards in any pre qualified public prekindergarten program.

The superintendent or designee will develop and implement procedures to:

- A. Address the selection of instructional materials within the context of the alignment with mandated state standards and equitable access to those materials;
- B. Develop procedures to address selection, deselection, donations, and reconsideration of instructional materials; and
- C. Respond to requests for reconsideration of instructional materials.

Colchester community members may request reconsideration of instructional materials. All concerns regarding the selection of instructional materials shall be directed to the superintendent for handling consistent with those procedures.

Legal Reference

16 V.S.A §261a(a)(1)

State Board of Education Rule Series 2000 (Education Quality Standards)

State Board of Education Rule Series 2600 (Prekindergarten Education)

Resources

Equity Policy (CI), [Colchester School District Policies](#)

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.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The board reviewed the following consent agenda.

DRAFT

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:

Board Clerk:

Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk