

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, September 17, 2024
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Board members in attendance were Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Directors Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, Jennifer Fath and Student Board Member Rylee Friend. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Business and Operations Manager George Trieb, and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz. There were three audience members.

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. Hear Union Memorial School 2023-24 Report

Information

Principal Chris Antonicci shared the Union Memorial School Report from the previous school year (2023-24). UMS serves grades K-2 on the village side of town. He provided enrollment numbers, demographic data, and curriculum and assessment scores. He focused on literacy comprehension and how they use assessment data to provide targeted intervention. He noted the importance of measuring different cohorts to identify achievement gaps for students of color, students experiencing poverty and students with disabilities. Mr. Antonicci also highlighted the strong community and culture at the school and praised his hardworking staff. Director Kigonya noted a link between the improved assessment score and the curriculum intervention positions that the voters approved. Mr. Antonicci validated her observation and said it is making a difference.

IV. Hear Porters Point School 2023-24 Report

Information

Principal Carolyn Millham shared the Porters Point School report from the previous school year (2023-24). PPS serves grades K-2 on the bay side of town. She highlighted the school's proud culture and the importance of making grade-level learning accessible to all students using Universal Design for Learning and school-wide social-emotional instruction. She shared how they build community through whole school events like the musical, a scavenger hunt, a student-led food drive, and a field trip to a UVM women's basketball game. Principal Millham provided enrollment and demographic data, as well as curriculum and assessment scores. She highlighted literacy growth in all grades from the beginning of the school year to the end. She also noted they still need to improve in some areas of math. She shared student behavior data and emphasized the importance of their PBIS framework, describing it as the foundation for student learning outcomes. She highlighted survey results from YouthTruth and connected them to her appreciation for the PTA, which supports school and community events. Director Longo asked about staffing levels. Principal Millham and Principal Antonicci stated each school has three open paraeducator positions that have been difficult to fill. All teaching positions are full, and there is excellent retention in that area.

V. Hear Quarterly Financial Report **Information**

Business and Operations Manager George Trieb provided an overview of the district's Year-End Financial Report. He reported the district ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$284,948. He shared details about revenue and expenditures and offered a list of accounts with budgeted versus actual spending amounts.

VI. Hear Update on District Facilities Renovation Bond Proposal **Information**

The School Board announced a comprehensive facilities bond that voters will consider on the November 5 ballot. The bond will fund various infrastructure, safety, and learning space renovations and additions at all five schools in the district. Most of the funds will go toward renovating and constructing additions at Porters Point School, Union Memorial School, and Colchester Middle School. The board made formal presentations at the last two board meetings covering the needs and scope of the proposal. Superintendent Amy Minor provided an update on the communication plan to inform the community of the bond. There is a dedicated website (csdbond.org) with an FAQ section that is regularly updated based on questions asked by the community. A postcard with information about the website, community presentations and public building tours was mailed to all households in Colchester. An 8-page booklet will be mailed in early October. Administrators and school board members have attended open houses, faculty meetings, and the town-wide autumn market. The first community presentation will be on October 1 and there will be two opportunities for the public to tour the buildings on October 3 and October 5.

VII. First Reading of Continuous Improvement Plan Policy: G8 **Information**

This policy was reviewed as part of the annual cycle. There is a federal requirement for schools to have a policy related to continuous improvement plans. Director Yousey-Hindes asked to clarify that this policy only governs schools in the district and not the geographic boundary of the town.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first reading of the Continuous Improvement Plan Policy: G8. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda **Action**

The board reviewed the following consent agenda.

There was a personnel item on the agenda that the board requested to discuss further in executive session. The motion was held until after that discussion.

IX. Approval of Meeting Minutes **Action**
• **September 4, 2024**

Director Longo moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 4, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- A team from the Commission on Public Schools (NEASC) will be visiting CHS in early October. The team will tour the building, interview school community members, and observe classes to provide feedback on the strengths, needs, and future growth areas.

XI. Future Agenda Items **Information**

- Facilities Bond Project Updates
- School Reports
- Policy Work

XII. Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter and a Student Matter **Action**

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session at 8:31 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and a student matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Kigonya moved to exit executive session at 9:13 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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

XIII. Adjournment

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Recorder:



Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:



Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk