COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting Colchester High School Media Center

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 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 Representative Rylee Friend. District administrators and employees in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Business and Operations Manager George Trieb, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli, and Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz. There was one audience member.

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. Approval of Colchester School District Announced Tuition Rate

Each year, districts are required by law to announce their anticipated tuition for students attending Colchester Schools from other districts that do not have a high school or middle school. Most tuition students attending CSD are from the Grand Isle Supervisory Union and the town of Georgia.

Director Longo moved to approve the announced tuition rate for FY 2026 at \$17,200 for elementary grades (k-6) and \$23,300 for secondary grades (7-12).

IV. Hear FY'26 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Amy Minor provided a recap of the previous budget presentations, including stable enrollment, key term definitions used in the state's education funding formula, and how the variables impact the local estimated tax rate. She outlined top priorities for the FY'26 budget, including maintaining resources to support multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) in academics, socialemotional learning, and inclusion; adhering to Vermont Education Quality Standards for class sizes; prioritizing early literacy and mathematics proficiency; continuing co-curricular activities; protecting services for the district's most vulnerable students and families; exploring system efficiencies to ensure fiscal responsibility; and retaining current levels of professional staffing while monitoring future needs identified by school principals.

The board supported the budget priorities outlined by administrators. Based on that feedback at the previous meeting, two scenarios were considered. The first scenario rolls over the current budget with no additions or reductions, which amounts to \$65,501,603 — this budget increase of 14.06% results in an estimated tax increase of 4.37%. The second scenario has no additions but includes reductions through open positions. That scenario creates a budget of \$64,889,466, an increase of 13% and resulting in an estimated tax increase of 3.10%.

Superintendent Minor then went over the impact of the dollar yield, a component set by the state that significantly impacts the local tax rate. The two scenarios outlined used the current announced dollar

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yield; however, it was noted that the state could alter that number at will. They showed what would happen if the state decided to change the dollar yield by 5% or 10%, raising the estimated tax rate by as much. They emphasized that they do not know if the state will change the yield but felt it was important for the board to know the possibility exists.

Director Kigonya highlighted that the proposed budget reduces positions rather than adding and expressed concern about the vulnerability of Colchester's estimated tax rate to state-level decisions.

Director Longo thanked administrators for identifying budget cuts and inquired about the necessary reductions to maintain a 3% tax increase if there were a 1% yield decrease.

Director Yousey-Hindes sought details on the reduction in open positions, including the decisionmaking process and its impact on student support. Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz explained the analysis of 25-28 open positions, focusing on long-standing vacancies, current coverage strategies, and a spread-out reduction approach. Superintendent Minor reassured that the service delivery model would remain intact despite reductions.

Director Fath asked if Colchester would still be among the lowest-spending districts with the proposed budget. Business and Operations Manager George Trieb indicated that the district would approach the county and state spending averages with the bond payment included.

Mr. Trieb further updated how the facilities bond will impact the FY'26 operational budget. Black River Design Architects has recommended moving the construction start date up by six months to the fall of 2025. The board discussed the recommendation and impact of accelerating the construction schedule, including cost savings amid inflation. Directors Longo and Fath supported the idea, and the board agreed. They discussed the importance of keeping the community updated on progress connected to construction.

V. Second and Final Reading of Video Surveillance Policy: F24 Action

This policy was reviewed as part of the scheduled cycle. There were no edits or changes requested.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the second and final reading of the Video Surveillance Policy: F24. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

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The board reviewed the following consent agenda.

			CONS	ENT AGENDA					
		I	Board Meeting Date: 1	/7/2025 (UP	DATED 1/7/2	025)			
			Licensed Employee	es (Teacher/A	dministrato	r)			
First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Kelly	Barnett	Retirement	Elementary Teacher	1	UMS	Request to end employment - end of 24/25 school year			
lynn	Mazza	Retirement	Title Teacher	1.0	LIMS	Request to end employment - end of 24/25			
Lyiiii	Mazza					,			
First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	Hours/Wk	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
		No	n-Licensed Emplovee	s (Support S	taff). Informa	ational			
First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	Hours/Wk	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Gabrielle	Lajeunesse	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.6	PPS	Notice of Hire	Kendra Renz	Yes	Yes
Krista	Knaus	Resignation	Administrative Assistant	40.0	CHS	Notice of resignation end of 24/25 school year			
Shoshanna	Bennett	New Hire	Paraeducator	19.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Amelia Adams	Yes	Yes
Deena	Murphy	New Hire	ML Paraeducator	13.0	MBS	Notice of Hire	New	Yes	Yes
	Kelly Lynn First Name Gabrielle Krista Shoshanna	Kelly Barnett Kelly Barnett Lynn Mazza Krista Last Name Last Name Last Name Last Name Last Name Last Name Krista Knaus Shoshanna Bennett	First NameLast NameCategoryKellyBarnettRetirementKellyBarnettRetirementLynnMazzaRetirementLynnMazzaRetirementFirst NameLast NameCategoryFirst NameLast NameCategoryFirst NameLast NameNew HireGabrielleLast NameNew HireKristaKnausResignationKristaKnausResignation	Board Meeting Date: 1Licensed EmployeeFirst NameLast NameCategoryPositionKellyBarnettRetirementElementary TeacherLynnMazzaRetirementTitle I TeacherLynnMazzaRetirementTitle I TeacherFirst NameLast NameCategoryPositionFirst NameLast NameCategoryPositionFirst NameLast NameCategoryPositionGabrielleLast NameCategoryPositionKristaKnausNew HireParaeducatorKristaKnausResignationAdministrative AssistantShoshannaBennettNew HireParaeducator	First NameLast NameCategoryPositionFTEKellyBarnettRetirementElementary Teacher1KellyBarnettRetirementElementary Teacher1LynnMazzaRetirementTitle I Teacher1.0Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), IFirst NameLast NameCategoryPositionFirst NameLast NameCategoryPositionHours/WkFirst NameLast NameCategoryPositionHours/WkGabrielleLajeunesseNew HireParaeducator32.6KristaKnausResignationAdministrative Assistant40.0ShoshannaBennettNew HireParaeducator19.5	Board Meeting Date: 1/7/2025 (UPDATED 1/7/2 Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrato) First Name Last Name Category Position FTE Building Kelly Barnett Retirement Elementary Teacher 1 UMS Lynn Mazza Retirement Title I Teacher 1.0 UMS First Name Last Name Category Position Hours/Wk Building Gabrielle Lagunesse New Hire Paraeducator 32.6 PPS Krista Knaus Resignation Administrative Assistant 40.0 CHS Shoshanna Bennett New Hire Paraeducator 19.5 MBS	Board Meeting Date: 1/7/2025 (UPDATED 1/7/2025) Board Meeting Date: 1/7/2025 (UPDATED 1/7/2025) Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator) First Name Last Name Category Position FTE Building Agenda Information Kelly Barnett Retirement Elementary Teacher 1 UMS Request to end employment - end of 24/25 school year Kelly Barnett Retirement Elementary Teacher 1.0 UMS Request to end employment - end of 24/25 school year Lynn Mazza Retirement Title I Teacher 1.0 UMS School year First Name Last Name Category Position Hours/Wk Building Agenda Information First Name Last Name Category Position Hours/Wk Building Agenda Information Gabrielle Last Name Category Position Hours/Wk Building Agenda Information Gabrielle Last Name Category Position Hours/Wk Building Agenda Information Gabrielle Last Name Retigentse Notice of Hire N	Board Meeting Date: 1/7/2025 (UPDATED 1/7/2025 Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator) First Name Last Name Category Position FTE Building Agenda Information Person Replacing Kelly Barnett Retirement Elementary Teacher 1 UMS Request to end employment - end of 24/25 school year Person Request to end employment - end of 24/25 school year Lynn Mazza Retirement Title I Teacher 1.0 UMS Agenda employment - end of 24/25 school year Person Request to end employment - end of 24/25 school year Lynn Mazza Retirement Title I Teacher 1.0 UMS Agenda Information Person Replacing First Name Last Name Category Position Hours/Wk Building Agenda Information Person Replacing First Name Last Name Category Position Hours/Wk Building Agenda Information Person Replacing Gabrielle Lajeunesse New Hire Paraeducator 32.6 PPS Notice of resignation end of 24/21S school year Notice of resignat	Board Meeting Date: 1/7/2025 (UPDATED 1/7/2025) Licensed Employees (Feacher/Administrator) First Name Last Name Category Position FTE Building Agenda Information Person Replacing Budgeted Kelly Barnett Retirement Elementary Teacher 1 UMS school year - </td

Director Kigonya moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- December 17, 2024 (special)
- December 17, 2024 (general)

Director Kigonya moved to approve both sets of minutes from the December 17, 2024 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

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

• Facility renovations have focused on different employees from PPS and UMS meeting with Black River Design to finalize floor plans.

IX. Future Agenda Items

- School Reports
- FY26 Budget Development
- Policy Work

X. Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations

Director Longo moved to enter executive session at 8:09 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Kigonya moved to exit executive session at 9:22 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

Director Fath moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Recorder:

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Meghan Baule Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

Ben Yousey^UHindes Board Clerk

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