

Colchester School Board

Meeting Agenda and Packet

January 7, 2025

**Colchester School District  
Board of Education Meeting Agenda  
January 7, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.  
Colchester High School Library**

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**Agenda**

- |              |   |                    |
|--------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>I.</b>    | <b>Call to Order</b>  |                    |
| <b>II.</b>   | <b>Citizen Participation*</b>   |                    |
| <b>III.</b>  | <b>Approval of Colchester School District Announced Tuition Rates</b>   | <b>Action</b>      |
| <b>IV.</b>   | <b>FY'26 Budget Discussion</b>  | <b>Information</b> |
| <b>V.</b>    | <b>Second and Final Reading of Video Surveillance Policy: E6</b>  | <b>Action</b>      |
| <b>VI.</b>   | <b>Approval of Consent Agenda</b>   | <b>Action</b>      |
| <b>VII.</b>  | <b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b>  | <b>Action</b>      |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• December 17, 2024 (special)</li><li>• December 17, 2024 (general)</li></ul> |                    |
| <b>VIII.</b> | <b>Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports</b>  | <b>Information</b> |
| <b>IX.</b>   | <b>Future Agenda Items</b>  | <b>Information</b> |
| <b>X.</b>    | <b>Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations</b>   | <b>Action</b>      |
| <b>XI.</b>   | <b>Adjournment</b>  |                    |

**\*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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.lcatv.org/live-stream-3).



# Colchester School District

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## MEMO

**To:** School Board Directors  
**From:** George A. Trieb, Jr.  
**Subject:** Announced Tuition – FY’26  
**Date:** January 7, 2025

The announced tuition rates are based on the district’s overall proposed FY 2026 budget less any transportation and special education costs. The announced tuition rates are estimates of the allowable tuition reported by districts receiving tuition students. By law we are required to set the tuition rates before January 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Two years from now when the allowable tuition rates are released by the Agency of Education, we will learn the value of our estimates.

The table below shows the past announced and allowable tuition rates for the last few years. It also shows the recommended announced tuition rates for FY 2026.

Category	FY2026	FY2025	FY2024	FY2024	FY2023	FY2023
	<b>Announced</b>	<b>Announced</b>	<b>Allowable</b>	<b>Announced</b>	<b>Allowable</b>	<b>Announced</b>
<b>Elementary</b>	<b>\$17,200</b>	<b>\$16,100</b>	<b>\$15,222</b>	<b>\$13,800</b>	<b>\$14,003</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>
<b>Grades 7 - 12</b>	<b>\$23,300</b>	<b>\$21,200</b>	<b>\$19,641</b>	<b>\$19,100</b>	<b>\$18,183</b>	<b>\$18,250</b>

*Note: Special education tuition will be the announced tuition plus any additional costs incurred by the district.*

**Motion:** I move to approve the announced tuition rates for FY’2026 at \$17,200 for elementary grades (K – 6) and \$23,300 for secondary grades (7 – 12).

**Amy Minor**  
 Superintendent  
 of Schools

**George Trieb**  
 Business & Operations  
 Manager

**Carrie Lutz**  
 Director of Student  
 Support Services

**Gwendolyn Carmolli**  
 Director of Curriculum  
 & Instruction

**COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT****POLICY: VIDEO SURVEILLANCE****DATE ADOPTED: DRAFT****POLICY STATEMENT**

The district recognizes its responsibility to maintain safety, and discipline on school grounds. The Colchester School District may use video surveillance systems (including audio) to monitor and record activity on district property to improve and protect the health, welfare, safety, and security of the entire school community. The policy applies to all employees, students, vendors, contractors, visitors, and property of the Colchester School District.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The school board authorizes the installation and use of video cameras in public areas on campus, such as (but not limited to) hallways, auditoriums, lobbies, the cafeteria, and school grounds including the parking lot, sidewalks, playing fields, school buses, district vans, and other school grounds. Individuals, including students who are in such areas do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy. The district shall not install video surveillance systems in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as inside restrooms, changing rooms or locker rooms.

Video surveillance systems may be used to promote the safety, security, protection of property, and to assist school administrators in investigating conduct that may violate the policies of the Colchester School District or law. Such video recording may be conducted without prior notice and without student or parent consent. Video surveillance systems may be operational at any time, regardless of whether school is in session or if facilities or buildings are in use.

The use of video recordings from surveillance equipment shall be subject to the other policies of the district, including the policies concerning directory information and confidentiality of student and personnel records.

The district shall notify its students and staff annually that video surveillance may occur on school property. The district shall incorporate the notice in the Student Handbook, on the district's website, and/or in a separate mailing to students. The district shall post a notice at the main entrance of each school district building where video surveillance is in effect.

Employees and students are prohibited from unauthorized use, tampering with, or otherwise interfering with video recordings or surveillance equipment. Violations will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action shall be consistent with district policy and

Last Reviewed: November 15, 2022  
Date Warned: December 13, 2024  
First Reading: December 17, 2024  
Second Reading: January 7, 2025

regulations and may include, but not be limited to, written reprimand, suspension, demotion or dismissal for staff and suspension and/or expulsion for students, depending upon the nature and severity of the situation.

The use of video surveillance equipment on school grounds and on other district property shall be supervised and controlled by the building administrator or their designee. Video surveillance systems may be used for live, day and night viewing of buildings and grounds by the Superintendent or designee. At no time should students, employees, parents and/or community members have any expectation that anyone is monitoring events on the surveillance cameras as they occur. Nor should they assume that someone will immediately respond to an incident in progress. All incidents of concern need to be reported immediately to the administration.

The district retains the right to use video recordings in student disciplinary hearings and employee personnel hearings. Subject to Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) and federal and state law.



# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting, Special Meeting  
Room 114B, Colchester High School

Tuesday, December 17, 2024  
6:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

The Colchester Board of Education held a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. Board members in attendance included Board Chair Lindsey Cox, Directors Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, and Laurie Kigonya. District administrators included Superintendent Amy Minor and Business and Operations Manager George Trieb.

### I. Call to Order

Board Chair Lindsey Cox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### II. Work Session: Facilities

The board discussed the next steps connected to the November voter approval for a facilities bond. Business and Operations Manager George Trieb and Superintendent Amy Minor reviewed the process to obtain the funds for the bond, the project timeline, and the process to finalize the building floor plans. They will update the community regularly during the Board/Administration Communication agenda item at each school board meeting.

### III. Adjournment

*Director Kigonya moved to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Recorder:

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Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

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Ben Yousey-Hindes  
Board Clerk

# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

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

## MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 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 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 were no 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 FY'26 Budget Discussion

### Information

Superintendent Amy Minor provided a comprehensive overview of the FY'26 budget, emphasizing that enrollment is stable and projected to increase slightly in the coming years. Administrators are closely monitoring class sizes to ensure alignment with Vermont's Education Quality Standards. Superintendent Minor reviewed Vermont's unique education funding system, explaining how local tax rates are calculated to cover statewide school budgets. Business and Operations Manager George Trieb discussed the state funding formula, highlighting key terms and the Tax Commissioner's letter projecting an average statewide property tax increase of 5.9%. He detailed the components of the funding formula controlled by the district versus those dictated by the state or legislature. Significant factors influencing the budget include salaries and benefits, including statewide-negotiated health care, food services, transportation, and special education programs. Superintendent Minor presented graphs showing a decade-long trend of low tax increases in Colchester, averaging 2.8%, despite a significant increase last year due to the new funding formula.

Superintendent Minor outlined key priorities for the budget, including maintaining resources to support multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) in academics, social-emotional 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.

Director Yousey-Hindes emphasized the board's commitment to being good stewards of tax dollars, noting the board's limited influence on elements of the funding formula that drive tax rates. Director Longo highlighted that significant service cuts would compromise compliance with education standards and expressed relief that the projected tax increase is better than initially expected. Board Chair Cox stressed the importance of maintaining existing programming to meet both current and emerging student needs and shared a positive outlook on the budget's numbers.



The budget assumes all positions will be filled; however, 32 positions are currently vacant. Director Yousey-Hindes inquired about the impact of unfilled positions. Superintendent Minor and other administrators acknowledged temporary solutions, such as increased reliance on substitutes and staff covering multiple roles, but cautioned that these measures are unsustainable. Superintendent Minor noted ongoing hiring difficulties, despite efforts to address vacancies, and pointed to broader workforce issues affecting schools across the state.

The board discussed additional information needed to refine the budget before finalizing the warned amount in January.

**IV. Second and Final Reading of Students Who Are English Learners Policy: F22** **Action**

No changes were requested since the first reading.

*Director Longo moved to approve the second and final reading of the Students Who Are English Learners Policy, which will now be titled the Multilingual Learners Policy: F22. The motion passed unanimously.*

**V. First Reading of Video Surveillance Policy: F24** **Action**

This policy was reviewed as part of the scheduled cycle. Superintendent Minor provided context around the policy and how it's implemented. She noted that it is in compliance with the Vermont School Board Association's model policy. The policy has served the district well.

*Director Kigonya moved to approve the first reading of the Weapons Policy: F24. The motion passed unanimously.*

**VI. Approval of Consent Agenda** **Action**

The board reviewed the following consent agenda.



There were no items on the agenda that required board approval.

**VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Action**

- **December 3, 2024**

*Director Longo moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 3, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

**Information**

- Student musicians at CMS and CHS are performing in multiple concerts this week.
- PPS and UMS renovation committees meet with Black River Design to study and finalize the floor plans. They are planning to tour area schools that have recently undergone renovations. Engineering company Krebs and Lansing dug test pits at both schools.

**IX. Future Agenda Items**

**Information**

- School Reports
- FY26 Budget Development
- Policy Work

**X. Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations**

**Action**

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session at 7:56 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to exit executive session at 8:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

**XI. Adjournment**

*Director Kigonya moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.*

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

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Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

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Ben Yousey-Hindes  
Board Clerk