

# COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, March 18, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Board members in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Laurie Kigonya, Jennifer Fath, and Student Representative Rylee Friend. Board Member Ben Yousey Hindes attended by phone. District administrators 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

Superintendent Amy Minor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### II. Citizen Participation

None.

### III. Hear Nominations for School Board Reorganization and Approval of Newspaper of Record Information

Nominations were held for school board chair, vice chair, and clerk, as well as the official newspaper of record.

*Director Longo moved to nominate Lindsey Cox as Board Chair. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

*Director Kigonya moved to nominate Nic Longo as Vice Chair. Board Chair Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

*Director Longo moved to nominate Ben Yousey-Hindes as Board Clerk. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.*

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve The Colchester Sun as the District's official newspaper for legal notices. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.*

### IV. First Reading of School Board Policies Action

**School Board Policy: B1**  
**Code of Ethics for School Board Members: B2**  
**Management and Suspensions of Policies: A1**

These three policies are reviewed annually to renew the board's commitment to their service and the District. No changes were recommended or requested.

*Director Kigonya moved to approve the first readings of board policies B1, B2, and A1. The motion passed unanimously.*

**V. Hear School Report: Colchester Middle School**

**Information**

Colchester Middle School Principal Tara Sharkey provided an overview of the school's enrollment and assessment data from the 2024-25 school year. She explained how this data guides instructional decisions at the classroom and individual student levels. Principal Sharkey also highlighted discipline data and gave an overview of the behavior flow chart, explaining the use of restorative practices and consistent expectations.

Principal Sharkey highlighted three core strategies educators are implementing: developmentally responsive instructional practices, professional learning communities focused on curriculum design and implementation tailored to middle school students, and collaborative educator teams working to ensure diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility for all students. She shared examples of these strategies in action, such as monthly TA themes promoting positive values like being an upstander and the power of positive thinking. Educators are also working on curriculum alignment, formative assessment strategies, and data collection tools, with some piloting new instructional methods and student engagement strategies.

The board asked questions about discipline and enrollment data, which were answered by Principal Sharkey and Superintendent Minor.

**VI. Approval of Recommendation for Teacher Contract Renewals 2025-26** **Action**

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with a memo outlining the contracts recommended for renewal for the FY'26 school year.

*Director Longo moved to approve the recommended teacher contracts for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion passed unanimously.*

**VII. Approval of Recommendation for Administrator Contract Renewals 2025-26** **Action**

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with a memo outlining the contracts recommended for renewal for the FY'25 school year.

*Director Kigonya moved to approve the recommended administrator contracts for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion passed unanimously.*

**VIII. First Reading of Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973- Americans with Disabilities Act. Policy for Non-discrimination on the Basis of Disability: F27**

This policy was last reviewed in 2020. As written, the policy essentially confirms the District's commitment to following federal law. Administrators recommended revising the policy's purpose to better outline the grievance process for families. This shift would also align the District's policy with what is required in the Vermont School Board Association's (VSBA) model policy.

The board discussed concerns about potential changes to federal law under the current administration and explored ways to strengthen the District's broader anti-discrimination policies. Ultimately, they supported the recommendation to update the policy to reflect the VSBA's model policy guidelines.

*Director Longo moved to approve the first reading of the Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Americans with Disabilities Act. Policy for Non-discrimination on the Basis of Disability: F27. The motion passed unanimously.*

**IX. Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Action**

The board reviewed the following consent agenda.

DRAFT



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

**X. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Action**

- March 4, 2025

*Director Longo moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 4, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

**Information**

- Facilities Construction Update: Planning is still underway with building-based committees, and 3D renderings will be available soon.
- Superintendent Minor continues to be called to testify in Montpelier regarding Governor Scott's Transformative Education Plan. This plan would essentially dissolve all existing districts and reconfigure them into just five large regional districts. Colchester students would join over 30K other students in the region. Education leaders and legislators are advocating for students and districts, and Superintendent Minor is hopeful that all Vermonters will have the opportunity to provide feedback to both education committees soon.

**XII. Future Agenda Items**

**Information**

- Board Reorganization
- School Reports
- Policy Work

**XIII. Adjournment**

*Director Kigonya moved to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Recorder:

Board Clerk:

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Meghan Baule  
Recording Secretary

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Ben Yousey-Hindes  
Board Clerk