

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in the Colchester High School Media Center. Board members in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, and Student Representative Rylee Friend. Administrators in attendance included Superintendent Amy Minor, Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, and MBS Principal Jordan Burke. 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 School Report: Malletts Bay School

Information

Malletts Bay School Principal Jodan Burke gave an overview of the core beliefs, achievements, goals, and areas for growth in the school community. She gave examples of instructional areas that educators focus on, including evidence-based word study, how explicit instruction carries over into reading and writing, and how they align classroom math intervention routines. She noted data from the YouthTruth survey, which asked students questions on various topics, including school safety, belonging, and culture. Nancy Smith, the school's preschool facilitator, spoke about the preschool program, including its alignment with state regulations and how it connects and engages families. Principal Burke ended the presentation by sharing her appreciation for the school's community, culture, and traditions.

IV. Third and Final Reading of Fiscal and Business Management Policy: E1

Action

At the second reading, the Board requested an edit to ensure consistency. No additional edits were requested.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the third and final reading of the Fiscal and Business Management Policy: E1. The motion passed unanimously.

V. First Reading of Admission of Students Policy: F17

Action

Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz gave an overview of the policy which is being reviewed as part of the scheduled cycle. There were no changes recommended or requested.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first reading of the Admission of Students Policy: F17. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Second and Final reading of Fiscal and Business Management Policy: E1 **Action**

Director Yousey-Hindes requested another review to ensure consistency in section seven regarding school board and school district responsibility.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the second reading of the Fiscal and Business Management Policy: E1. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Second Reading of Weapons Policy: F24 **Action**

During the first reading of this policy, district administrators clarified the distinction between violations involving firearms and those involving other types of weapons. After discussion, the Board agreed to separate these into two distinct policies, one addressing firearms and the other covering all other weapons. This separation aims to better inform the community about expectations and potential consequences related to weapons in schools. The draft policies for both this item and the next agenda item (First Reading of Firearms Policy) align with recommendations from the Vermont School Boards Association and have been reviewed by the district's legal counsel. Director Yousey-Hindes expressed support for the updated language, noting that it gives district administrators discretion in disciplinary decisions. He recalled earlier Board conversations emphasizing how this flexibility can benefit students and families, particularly those with younger children. He highlighted that a set of guiding criteria is in the policy to support consistent and thoughtful decision-making. Director Yousey-Hindes also underscored the importance of monitoring how this discretion is used, to ensure it does not unintentionally lead to disparities or discrimination based on race, socioeconomic status, or other factors.

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

VIII. First Reading of Firearms Policy (New) **Action**

As noted in the previous agenda item (Second Reading of Weapons Policy: F24), this new policy will be specific to firearm violations. Currently, firearms are covered in the Weapons Policy, but it has been recommended that a separate policy be created.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the first reading of the Firearms Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Approval of Consent Agenda **Action**

The Board reviewed the following consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: 5/20/2025 (Updated: 5/21/2025)

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

[illegible]

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Board Approval Required

[illegible]

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational

[illegible]

The Board requested to discuss some of the items in executive session to discuss

X. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Action

- May 6, 2025
- May 12, 2025

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes for the meetings held on May 6 and May 12, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports

Information

- Carrie Lutz was honored as Vermont's Special Education Director of the Year.
- Superintendent Amy Minor gave an update on the planned construction beginning at PPS. The bid process has started, and the position of Clerk of the Works has also been posted. She shared some photos of staff using VR Headsets from the architect Black River Design, which allowed them to walk through and around the building to give them a feel for what the finished building will feel like.

XII. Future Agenda Items

Information

- School Reports
- Policy Work
- Facility Renovation/Construction Updates

XIII. Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations and a Personnel Matter

Action

Director Kigonya moved to enter executive session at 8:09 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations and a personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to exit executive session at 8:16 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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

XIV. Adjournment

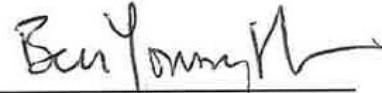
Director Yousey-Hindes moved to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:



Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:



Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk