

Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Colchester High School Library Media Center. Board Directors in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, Jennifer Fath, and Student Representative Trinity McCarthy. Administrators and employees in attendance were Chief Financial 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 7:01 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizens Participation*

None.

III. First Readings of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Policies

Action

- Current G1: Instruction
- Current G1a: Homework
- Current G1b: Pilot Projects
- Current G6: Comprehensive Student Assessment

These policies were reviewed as part of the policy review cycle. The Vermont School Board Association (VSBA) recommends a curriculum policy, but its new guidance shifts instruction and assessment from policy to district procedure. After a comprehensive review of policies within the scope of curriculum, instruction and assessment, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli proposed to consolidate several related policies into a single policy to give an overview of the district's educational framework. The board reviewed the combined draft policy section by section and provided feedback.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first reading of policies G1: Instruction, G1a Homework, G1b Pilot Projects, and G6: Comprehensive Student Assessment. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Hear Quarterly Financial Report

Information

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb provided an overview of the second fiscal quarter. Revenue and expenditures are tracking mostly as expected. He noted that the district should expect a \$153,269 surplus if the current spending trend continues.

V. Approval for Replacement of CHS Gym Floor and Bleachers

Action

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb outlined a request to move forward with a long-overdue project to replace the aging bleachers and main gymnasium floor at Colchester High School. The current gymnasium floor is original to the 1974 building. After 50 years of use, it has

reached the end of its functional life and requires a full replacement to ensure a high-quality, safe surface for the district's students and athletes. Similarly, the bleachers are approximately 26 years old and exhibit significant mechanical wear. They no longer meet modern standards for ease of operation or spectator comfort, making their replacement a priority for the facility. The district secured competitive bids and Mr. Trieb answered the board's questions regarding the bids, funding strategy, and concerns for the projected timeline for the work, which would take place over 6-8 weeks while school is in session.

Director Kigonya moved to accept the combined bid from Danaher Flooring and Robert Lord and authorized the Chief Financial and Operations Officer to sign a contract for this project. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of 2026-2027 School Calendar

Action

Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz outlined the draft calendar for next school year. The calendar is based on the employee contract agreement, which specifies 176 student days, 8 in-service days, 1 teacher prep day, and 2 family conference days, for a total of 187 days. This is the third year that school districts in the Champlain Valley have committed to a regional calendar that includes 175 common school days. This means that all districts in Chittenden, Franklin, and Addison counties follow the same schedule for most holidays and professional development days. The regional alignment has proven to have many benefits, including consistency with students attending technical centers, the potential for more regionalized professional development opportunities, and fewer conflicts for staff who work in districts outside of where they live. One local addition specific to Colchester is the four early-release days, which have provided excellent professional development opportunities for faculty. Colchester Parks and Recreation will continue to offer childcare on those days.

Director Longo moved to approve the inclusion of four early release days in the 2026-2027 school calendar.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda.

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

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes Action

Director Longo moved to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2026, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports Informational

- A construction update was shared for the facilities work happening at PPS. The basement floor is being completed, and they will get started on the first floor and framing the walls soon.
- CMS restarted the MathCounts team and took 3rd place at a recent competition
- CHS School Counselors won the Excellence in School Programming Award for Vermont.

X. Future Agenda Items Informational

- Policy Work
- Auditor Report
- Facility Renovation Updates

XI. Proposed Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations Action

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations at 8:12 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

Director Kigonya moved to exit executive session and adjourn at 8:28 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk