Colchester School District
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
Colchester High School Performing Arts Center
Monday, March 2, 2026 - 7:00 PM

Moderator Scott Barrett welcomed the audience, thanked them for attending, and facilitated introductions of the Colchester School Board and District Administrators. He called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and then read the warning: **The legal voters of the Town of Colchester, Vermont, are notified and warned to meet at the Colchester High School Auditorium, Laker Lane, in said Town on Monday, March 3, 2026, at 7:00 PM to act on the following articles not involving voting by Australian ballot (Articles 1-7 and 15).**

Article 1:
To choose a moderator, if the elected moderator is not present.

The moderator was present and no action was necessary.

Article 2:
To act upon the reports of the School District Officers.

MOTION was made by Paul Quintell and SECONDED by Angela McDonald to adopt the reports.
There was no discussion.
The MOTION carried.

Article 3:
To set compensation, if any, to be paid to the School Board Directors.

MOTION was made by Mike Whalon to maintain compensation for the school board chair at $2,200 and school board members at $1,700. SECONDED by Angela McDonald.
No further discussion
The MOTION carried.

Article 4:
To determine whether the District will vote to authorize the School Directors to borrow money for current and necessary expenses by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for this school year.

MOTION was made by Renee Barrett and SECONDED by Jackie Murphy.
There was no discussion.
The MOTION carried.

Article 5:
To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Superintendent Amy Minor provided an overview of the current state of the school district. Enrollment continues to be strong and is forecasted to remain steady. She shared core class sizes, which are right at the recommended levels set by the Vermont Agency of Education. She presented statewide academic assessment data, including current scores and multi-year performance, to show how the district is overcoming pandemic-related challenges.

Superintendent Minor provided an overview of the budget drivers for FY'27, including items like salaries and benefits, state-negotiated healthcare, transportation, out-of-district placements and special education requirements. She then highlighted some of the cost containment measures taken by the school board totaling just over $1M, including shifting maintenance costs, eliminating support staff positions and a teaching position, and reducing external professional educational services. She provided an update on the facilities bond work happening at Porters Point School, showed photos, and thanked the community for approving the bond in 2024. For FY'27, 3.62% of the budget increase is attributed to the facilities bond repayment, and 4.51% is for the annual operational budget. She noted that over the past decade, Colchester School District has averaged a 2.73% annual tax increase. Superintendent Minor provided examples of how this proposed budget would affect taxpayers during the town's reassessment year and explained Vermont's Property Tax Credit, which reduces tax bills for eligible taxpayers. She also highlighted a spending comparison with regional districts, showing Colchester spending well below state and county averages.

Article 7:
To adjourn said School District meeting and to reconvene at the Colchester High School, Laker Lane, in said Town on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, for voters in District 19 and 20 to vote for School Directors and to transact any other business involving voting by Australian Ballot with voting to begin at 7:00 a.m. and to close at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION was made by Dirk Reith and SECONDED by Mike Whalon to adjourn the meeting.
There was no discussion.
The MOTION carried.

Moderator Barrett adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Meghan Baule	Julie Greater	Scott Barrett
Recording Secretary	Town Clerk	Moderator