

Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

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

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, March 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 Superintendent Amy Minor, Chief Financial and Operations Manager George Trieb, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, and District Technology Director Mike Mott. Several student audience members were in attendance to present on an agenda item.

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. Citizens Participation*

None.

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

Action

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 to serve as Board Chair, seconded by Director Kigonya. The motion passed 4-0.

Director Fath moved to nominate Nic Longo to serve as Board Vice Chair. The motion passed 4-0.

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

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

IV. Hear Presentation CHS AI Club

Informational

Students from the CHS AI Club presented the work they've done since starting the club, including the creation of a Laker Nation website and app that houses athletic schedules, news, and photos in one place (CHSlakernation.com). They spoke about how they plan to transition the club to the Laker Innovation Club to expand the mission and create more opportunities for collaboration with other clubs, such as the Lake Show video club, the Lakeside Voice journalism club, and other student clubs. They highlighted that the club initially focused on coding a sports website because that was the interest of the current members, but now that they have the foundation in place, they are working to recruit students

from different grade levels and interests to create projects at a broader “student life at CHS” level. They shared that the club has allowed them to work on real-world skills and projects and has given them actual industry experience. The Board engaged in a discussion with the students about their future plans, the ethics of AI, and their goals to expand the club's membership diversity.

- V. First Reading of School Board Policies** **Action**
- B1: School Board Policy
 - B2: Code of Ethics for School Board Members
 - A1: Management and Suspension of Policies
 - H1: School Community Relations
 - C5: Board Relations with School Employees

Each year following an election, the School Board reviews policies B1, B2, and A1 to renew its commitment to service and the District. This year, administrators also brought forward H1 and C5, which also have school board mentions; they are not required policies by the Vermont School Board Association. In their review of H1 and C5, the Board found areas of overlap with other existing policies or content written as procedures rather than policies. They made several suggestions for maintaining the content and intent of H1 and C5 by moving the language into other policies, such as H2 and B2.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first readings of board policies B1, B2, A1, H1, and C5. The motion passed unanimously.

- VI. Approval of Recommendations for Teacher Contract Renewals 2026-27** **Action**

Superintendent Amy Minor provided the board with a memo outlining the contracts recommended for renewal for the FY'27 school year.

Director Kigonya moved to approve the superintendent's recommendations for teacher contract renewals for the 2026-27 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

- VII. Third and Final Readings of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Policies** **Action**
- G1: Instruction (retitled to G1: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment)
 - G1a: Homework
 - G1b: Pilot Projects
 - G6: Comprehensive Student Assessment

No changes were made since the second reading. The board moved forward with consolidating the policies into a single, comprehensive policy.

Director Longo moved to approve the third and final reading of policies G1: Instruction, which will be retitled to G1: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Longo moved to approve the removal of policies G1a: Homework, G1b: Pilot Projects, and G6: Comprehensive Student Assessment. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda. Superintendent Minor acknowledged several announced retirements.

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There were no items on the consent agenda requiring board approval.

IX. Approval of Meeting Minutes **Action**

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

X. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports **Informational**

- CHS will be participating in a short-term teacher exchange program with Quebec.
- A construction update was shared for the facilities work happening at PPS.
- The new PPS playground was featured in a product catalog.
- There will be no second meeting in April.

XI. Future Agenda Items **Informational**

- Policy Work
- Principal Reports
- Facility Renovation Updates

XII. Proposed Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations **Action**

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations at 8:01 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment

Director Longo moved to exit executive session and adjourn at 8:54 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk