

## Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting  
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, April 7, 2026  
7:00 p.m.

### Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, in the Colchester High School Library Media Center. Board Directors in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, and Jennifer Fath. Administrators and employees in attendance were Superintendent Amy Minor, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, PPS Principal Carolyn Milham, CHS Principal Andrew Conforti, CHS School Counseling Director Bob Hall, CHS Spanish Teachers Emma Pedrin and Megan Talbot. Several students were in attendance to present on an agenda item, along with local Scout Troop 655 and one audience member.

#### 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. Citizens Participation\*

Resident Steve Signell of Williams Road shared concerns over the amount of technology use and screen time kids are experiencing. He spoke about the distraction it causes both in and out of the classroom. He also cited a recent news article about the benefits of dialing back on technology and encouraged everyone present to read it.

#### III. Hear Presentation CHS Puerto Rico Trip

**Informational**

CHS Spanish Teachers, Emma Pedrin and Megan Talbot brought a sampling of students who recently returned from their trip to Puerto Rico to share some of the highlights with the board. Their presentation included photos and videos while the students took turns telling stories of their travel experience.

The board as a whole asked the students to explain what a trip like this means to them and how they see it helping their future. One student expressed their interest in pursuing the medical field and planned on continuing to take Spanish courses because it will be an asset while working in hospitals. Another signified that this experience will forever stand out and they don't take the opportunity for granted.

#### IV. Hear Presentation CHS Opportunities

**Informational**

CHS School Counseling Director, Bob Hall provided the board with a presentation on the various opportunities that CHS students have access to. The presentation included information on the technical centers, dual enrollment, and other flexible pathways such as online learning, alternative senior year, and trades apprenticeships that CHS students can access.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding what certain classes look like and how these grades show up on transcripts. Mr Hall described aspects of the working environments and stated they all show up as part of the CHS transcript with the exception of Early College which shows up on both the CHS and college transcripts.

Director Cox inquired about how students learn about these available opportunities. Mr. Hall explained that the counseling department utilizes various methods from individual student meetings with all 9th graders, to hosting specialized informational Advisory Time sessions during the school day, and working closely with the CHS case managers and the local VSAC Gear Up counselor.

Director Yousey-Hindes expressed gratitude to Mr. Hall and the School Counseling department for taking on the added work when it comes to creating these individualized plans and meeting students where they are.

**V. Hear PPS Spring Principal Report** **Informational**

PPS Principal Carolyn Milham shared the first of the spring Principal Reports. She presented to the board a student highlight, equity initiative, and one academic highlight from the year. These included; the PPS Music Teacher Nora Klick working with students to create an original song titled “Chain of Kindness” to sing to the construction crew, the initiative to get every student involved in class reading discussions by utilizing a turn system with cubes, and the use of “Math Menus” which provide options for types of math problems to work on in class.

**VI. First Reading of School Board Policies** **Action**

- C1: Equity
- C2: Nondiscriminatory Mascots and School Branding
- C3: Nondiscrimination

The Board looked over the three policies up for review as part of the policy revision cycle. There were no recommended changes to these policies since their last reading in 2023, since all policies are in full compliance with the recommended VSBA language. These policies have also been reviewed by the CHS Social Justice Alliance.

***Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the first readings of board policies C1, C2, and C5. The motion passed unanimously.***

**VII. 2025-2026 School Calendar Request** **Action**

Due to snow days, the last day of school falls on Monday, June 15, 2026. State law requires 175 student days and the CSD calendar provides for 176. Superintendent Minor requested that the school board approve converting June 15 into an in-service day due to the tendency of having very low attendance when the last day of school falls on a Monday.

***Director Fath moved to approve the superintendent’s recommendation to convert Monday, June 15, 2026 from a student day to an inservice pending any future school cancellations. The motion passed unanimously.***

**VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda** **Action**

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda and requested to discuss further during an executive session at the end of the meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board Meeting Date: 4/7/26 (Updated 4/7/2026)**

***Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)***

<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hours/Wk</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Agenda Information</b>	<b>Person Replacing</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Admin Support</b>
Teacher	Vicki	Wolinsky	New Hire	Health Teacher	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to Hire	Allison Croce	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Erin	McLaughlin	Resignation	Newcomer ML Instructor	1.0 FTE	DW	Request to end employment at the end of the 2025-2026 school year			
Teacher	Angie	D'Amico	LOA	Special Education Teacher	1.0 FTE	CHS	Request for LOA 2026-2027 school year			
Teacher	Heather	Fischer	Resignation	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	MBS	Request to end employment at the end of the 2025-2026 school year			
Teacher	Kiera	Johnston	New Hire	Elementary Teacher	1.0 FTE	MBS	Request to hire	Heather Fischer	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Wayland	Cole	LOA	English Teacher/Team Leader	1.0 FTE	CHS	Request for LOA 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 school years			

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

<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hours/Wk</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Agenda Information</b>	<b>Person Replacing</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Admin Support</b>

***Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational***

<b>Contract Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hours/Wk</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Agenda Information</b>	<b>Person Replacing</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Admin Support</b>
Co-Curricular	Quentin	Hoskins	New Hire	Varsity Assistant Track & Field Coach	Coach	CHS	Notice of Hire	Marc Gagne	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	James	Lopes-Smith	New Hire	Maintenance Worker	40.0	DW	Notice of Hire	Todd Bushey	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Cameron	Bock	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Didier	Mshimbake	New Hire	Custodian	40.0	CHS	Notice of Hire	Ramesh Dahal	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Mary	Crowley	Resignation	HR Coordinator	40.0	CO	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Sherrie	Hiller	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation @ End of School Year			

**IX. Approval of Meeting Minutes** **Action**

*Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2026, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

- A construction update was shared for the facilities work happening at PPS.
- CMS Mathcounts team took 4th place in the state competition out of 19 schools.

**XI. Future Agenda Items** **Informational**

- Quarterly Financial Report
- Policy Work
- Principal Reports
- Facility Renovation Updates

**XII. Proposed Executive Session to Discuss the Consent Agenda** **Action**

*Director Longo moved to enter executive session to discuss the consent agenda at 8:52 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

**XIII. Adjournment**

*Director Longo moved to exit executive session at 9:24 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Director Longo moved to approve the consent agenda with one recommended edit at 9:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Director Fath moved to adjourn at 9:26 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

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Gabrielle Brooks  
Recording Secretary

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Ben Yousey-Hindes  
Board Clerk