

Colchester School Board Meeting Agenda & Packet

April 7, 2026



**Colchester School District
Board of Education Meeting**
April 7, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.
Colchester High School Library

Meeting Agenda

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| I. Call to Order | |
| II. Citizens Participation* | |
| III. Hear Presentation CHS Puerto Rico Trip | Informational |
| IV. Hear Presentation CHS Opportunities | Informational |
| V. Hear PPS Spring Principal Report | Informational |
| VI. First Reading of School Board Policies | Action |
| ○ C1: Equity | |
| ○ C2: Nondiscriminatory Mascots and School Branding | |
| ○ C3: Nondiscrimination | |
| VII. 2025-2026 School Calendar Request | Approval |
| VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda | Action |
| IX. Approval of Meeting Minutes | Action |
| ○ March 17, 2026 (General) | |
| X. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports | Informational |
| XI. Future Agenda Items | Informational |
| XII. Adjournment | |

***Meeting Participation and Viewing Options**

Meetings are open to the public unless warned otherwise. Colchester citizens have an opportunity to speak or comment on any items listed on the agenda. For topics not listed on the agenda, public comment can be made during the Citizens' Participation agenda item. Please review the Public Comment Rules listed at www.csdvt.org/schoolboard prior to the meeting. If not attending in person, citizens may also participate in the meeting by emailing a prerecorded message to schoolboard@colchesters.org with "Citizens Participation" listed in the subject line. It must be received by noon on the day of the meeting, include your full name and phone number, and follow the Public Comment Rules. LCATV will provide live stream coverage via: www.lcatv.org/live-stream-3.

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: EQUITY

DATE ADOPTED: September 5, 2023

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Colchester School Board holds itself and all district, school-site decision-makers, and employees accountable for building a district-wide commitment to equity for all members of the CSD community, inclusive of race, gender, color, creed, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, ethnicity, caste, language and linguistic diversity, socio-economic status, religion, housing status, or non-citizenship or immigration status.

The district will incorporate principles of equity within all policies, programs, operations, practices, and resource allocations. We recognize that disparities in achievement, opportunity, and well-being may impact students and families in our district. A student's success should not be predicted nor predetermined by socio-cultural context or lived experience. The district affirms that each student can thrive given authentic opportunities in a supportive, inclusive, and equitable educational system. The district will strive to:

- Provide a learning environment and educational opportunities for students and employees that are equitable, anti-racist, culturally responsive, anti-discriminatory, and inclusive.
- Respect and honor the diversity and lived experience of all individuals.
- Create a nurturing school environment where individuals feel welcomed, accepted, respected, included, and supported.
- Increase the awareness of disparities and inequities that exist in the district to create and sustain a climate and culture that supports equitable practices.
- Cultivate and sustain school communities that embrace a collective responsibility to address, eliminate, and prevent actions, decisions, and outcomes that result from and perpetuate racism and discrimination.
- Address the harm caused to individuals as a result of bias and inequity.
- Hold ourselves and one another accountable to equity, inclusion and belonging in our schools.

IMPLEMENTATION

To realize this commitment to equity within this policy and outlined in the Vermont Education Quality Standards, the District will:

1. Provide engaging, inclusive, anti-racist, culturally responsive, anti-discriminatory curriculum, flexible instructional and assessment practices aligned with current best

Date Warned: April 28, 2023
First Reading: May 2, 2023
Second Reading: September 5, 2023

practices and informed by district, state, and federal data on academic achievement, social emotional learning, school culture and climate.

2. Systematically use district-wide and individual school-level data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, language, ability, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic background to inform District decision-making to mitigate barriers that perpetuate gaps.
3. Provide every student with equitable access to all educational resources that respect their individual and intersectional needs, identities, cultures, backgrounds, abilities, and experiences. Educational resources include but are not limited to: facilities, technology, high-quality instruction, curriculum, support, grading and assessment practices, food services, co-curricular activities and transportation.
4. Allocate financial resources, personnel, supports, and opportunities based on need so that all students have equitable opportunities to achieve, engage, and feel belonging in an inclusive and welcoming school environment.
5. Offer robust opportunities to critically engage students with themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion including a comprehensive historical and socially conscious understanding across all academic areas that include diverse perspectives and positive and affirming representation.
6. Engage student, employee, and community voices, particularly those historically underrepresented and most impacted by inequity, with opportunities for feedback and engagement to influence and advise district and school based action plans, policies, and practices.
7. Identify and counteract biased practices and policies that perpetuate achievement disparities and opportunity gaps. Factors that perpetuate systemic inequities, institutional biases, and discriminatory practices will be identified, intentionally interrupted, and replaced with more equitable and just systems.
8. Provide opportunities and programming that prevent bias based harm through direct instruction and school wide events that promote a culture that uplifts diversity, equity and inclusion.
9. Incorporate trauma informed and restorative approaches to behavior management and repair of relational harm in order to achieve equity in our discipline practices and improve school culture and safety.
10. Address bias-based harm and discriminatory behavior with robust protocols that are in alignment with district, federal and state policy.
11. Provide ongoing and continuous professional development and accountability at all organizational levels to ensure all employees are able to engage in culturally responsive practices and consistently identify, interrupt, and prevent bias based harm, microaggressions, and hate emphasizing impact.
12. Maintain and embed equity into district and school based strategic plans by identifying measurable outcomes to mitigate barriers that perpetuate achievement gaps and improve the culture and climate for all individuals across the district.

- 13.** Schools will honor cultural, and religious traditions not acknowledged by CSD and regional calendars by providing reasonable accommodations including but not limited to space and time for individual students where religious tenet require observance during the school day and scheduling considerations with regard to major assignments, evening events, and assessments.
- 14.** The superintendent shall identify outcome indicators as necessary to monitor this policy and shall provide an annual status report to the Board.

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: NONDISCRIMINATORY MASCOTS AND SCHOOL BRANDING

DATE ADOPTED: January 3, 2023

PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Colchester School District to provide welcoming, positive, and inclusive learning environments for all students by prohibiting the use of discriminatory school branding, which undermines the educational experiences of members of all communities and perpetuates negative stereotypes.

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. School** means a public school or an independent school approved under section 166 of Title 16.
- B. School Board or Board** means the board of directors or other governing body of an educational institution when referring to an independent school.
- C. School branding** means any name, symbol, or image used by a school as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, team name, slogan, motto, or other identifier.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The superintendent or designee shall:

- A.** Periodically review and provide recommendations for necessary updates to the nondiscriminatory school branding policy as necessary.
- B.** Assist the school board in its review of the district's school branding to ensure compliance with the policy following any school branding changes or updates to the policy.
- C.** Assist the school board in ensuring the prohibition of school branding that directly or indirectly references or stereotypes the likeness, features, symbols, traditions, or other characteristics that are specific to either:
 - 1.** The race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity of any person or group of persons; or
 - 2.** Any person, group of persons, or organization associated with the repression of others.
- D.** Develop a procedure for an individual to file a complaint that an element of school branding is in violation of the policy.

Date Warned: December 2, 2022
 First Reading: December 6, 2022
 Second Reading: January 3, 2023

III. COMPLAINTS

An individual may request an opportunity to appear before the Board for purposes of presenting the complaint, relevant facts, and further explanations. The Board shall hear the complaint in a fair and just manner. The Board shall render a decision within 45 days of the hearing, which must include a summary of facts and basis for the decision.

If the individual is unsatisfied with the Board's decisions, the individual may appeal the decision to the Secretary of Education. Appeals shall be filed within 30 days of the School Board's decision by sending a written notice of appeal to the Agency of Education.

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**POLICY: NONDISCRIMINATION****DATE ADOPTED:** May 16, 2023**POLICY STATEMENT**

In the performance of its duties, the Colchester School Board will safeguard the constitutional rights and dignity of all persons who come within its jurisdiction and will ensure fair and equal educational and employment opportunities in all of its policy determinations and actions. The board will not unlawfully discriminate in its programs and activities against any person or group on any basis prohibited by federal or state law and will provide equal access to designated youth groups.

Students, parents/legal guardians, employees, applicants for employment, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the District are hereby notified that this District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), ancestry, national origin, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, political affiliation or marital status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities.

The District shall make reasonable accommodations to the known qualifying physical or emotional disabilities of an applicant or employee, unless the district can demonstrate that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of its program or activity. This includes but is not limited to: equal treatment (including aid, benefits, services, and application of rules and regulations); access to all courses; access to all athletic, intramural or extracurricular activities; access to all vocational programs and activities; access to counseling with nondiscriminatory instruments and materials; equal treatment for applicants to all positions.

A person has been designated by the District to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other federal or State of Vermont non-discrimination laws or regulations. The designated coordinator is identified in the procedure accompanying this policy along with information on how that person may be contacted.

Any person having inquiries concerning the District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504 or other state or federal non-discrimination laws or regulations is directed to contact the non-discrimination coordinator described above.

Last Reviewed: May 17, 2005
Date Warned: April 27, 2023
First Reading: May 2, 2023
Second Reading: May 16, 2023



COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR – SY 2025-2026 (GRADES PK-12)



M	T	W	Th	F	August 2025
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	Aug 20-22, 26: Professional Development
11	12	13	14	15	Aug 25: Teacher Prep Day
18	19	20	21	22	Aug 26: Smart Start/Orientation for K, 3, 6 & 9
25	26	27	28	29	Aug 27: 1st Day of School (grades K-12)

Student Days: 3

Cumulative: 3

M	T	W	Th	F	February 2026
2	3	4	5	6	Feb 4: Early Release Day (grades K-12)
9	10	11	12	13	Feb 23-27: School Recess
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	

Student Days K-2: 15 Cumulative: 109

Student Days 3-12: 15 Cumulative: 108

M	T	W	Th	F	September 2025
1	2*	3	4	5	Sept 1: School Recess
8	9	10	11	12	Sept 2: 1st Day of Preschool*
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30				

Student Days: 21

Cumulative: 24

M	T	W	Th	F	March 2026
2	3	4	5	6	March 2: Professional Dev. 8 am–11:30 am & Conferences 12 pm–4 pm (grades PK-5)
9	10	11	12	13	March 2: Professional Development (grades 6-12)
16	17	18	19	20	March 3: Conferences 10:30 am–6:30 pm (grades PK-12)
23	24	25	26	27	
30	31				March 20: School Recess

Student Days K-2: 19 Cumulative: 128

Student Days 3-12: 19 Cumulative: 127

M	T	W	Th	F	October 2025
		1	2	3	Oct 2: School Recess
6	7	8	9	10	Oct 23-24: School Recess
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30	31	

Student Days: 20

Cumulative: 44

M	T	W	Th	F	April 2026
		1	2	3	April 8: Early Release Day (grades K-12)
6	7	8	9	10	April 20-24: School Recess
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30		

Student Days K-2: 17 Cumulative: 145

Student Days 3-12: 17 Cumulative: 144

M	T	W	Th	F	November 2025
3	4	5	6	7	Nov 5: Early Release Day (grades K-12)
10	11	12	13	14	Nov 24: Conferences 10:30 am–6:30 pm (grades PK-12)
17	18	19	20	21	Nov 25: Conferences 8 am–12 pm (grades PK-5)
24	25	26	27	28	Nov 25: Professional Development (grades 6-12)
					Nov 26-28: School Recess

Student Days: 15

Cumulative: 59

M	T	W	Th	F	May 2026
				1	May 6: Early Release Day (grades K-12)
4	5	6	7	8	May 25: School Recess
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

Student Days K-2: 20 Cumulative: 165

Student Days 3-12: 20 Cumulative: 164

M	T	W	Th	F	December 2025
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	Dec 24-31: School Recess
29	30	31			

Student Days: 17

Cumulative: 76

M	T	W	Th	F	June 2026
1	2	3	4	5	June 13: CHS Graduation Day
8	9	10	11	12	June 15: Earliest Possible Closing
15	+16	+17	+18	19	June 16-19: Make-up Days (for emergency closings)
22	23	24	25	26	June 16-17: Professional Development (PK-12)*
					June 18: Prof. Dev. 8 am–12 pm (PK-5 staff)*
					June 19: School Recess

Student Days K-2: 11 Cumulative: 176

Student Days 3-12: 11 Cumulative: 175

M	T	W	Th	F	January 2026
			1	2	Jan 1-2: School Recess
5	6	7	8	9	Jan 8: Emergency Closing at MBS, CMS & CHS
12	13	14	15	16	Jan 19: School Recess
19	20	21	22	23	Jan 26: Emergency Closing (1st snow day)
26	27	28	29	30	

Student Days K-2: 18

Cumulative: 94

Student Days 3-12: 17

Cumulative: 93

*Prof. Dev. will be held on the first three days following the close of school. The third day is for PK-5 staff only (this is a half day).

Professional Development Day or Conferences – No School
School Recess or Holiday – No School
Early Release Day – Dismissal at 12:00 noon (grades 6-12) and 12:45 PM (grades K-5)
Emergency Closing/Snow Day – No School
Potential Make-Up Days for Emergency Closings

Calendar Finalized 3/4/25, Revised 1/27/26

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.

DRAFT

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