

Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 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 Officer George Trieb, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, CHS Principal Andrew Conforti, and CHS French Teacher Jennifer Loiseau. Several students were in attendance to present on an agenda item. There were no audience members.

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*

None.

III. Hear CHS Montreal Trip

Informational

CHS French Teacher Jennifer Loiseau brought a sampling of students who recently returned from a day trip to Montreal to share some of the highlights with the board. Their presentation included photos from the day while the students took turns explaining how they prepared in class and sharing 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 passion for the art they researched prior to the trip to see at the museum, and their renewed motivation to practice speaking more French in order to travel more. Another student signified the joy it brought them to see their peers speaking French, which is their native language, and be able to speak to others in French outside the home and classroom.

IV. Hear CHS Spring Principal Report

Informational

CHS Principal Andrew Conforti shared with the board his spring Principal Report. He presented multiple student highlights, equity initiatives, and academic highlights from the year. These included; teacher deep dives into lesson plans for greater emphasis on literacy and reading, the CHS staff hosting a large panel of alumni to learn about their perspectives and experiences within the community and workforce, and students excelling in their interests ranging from mentoring across the schools, participating in club initiatives across the Colchester community, winning state championships for Debate and E-Sports, and coming together for unified sports.

Multiple board members expressed gratitude for the level of student attendance and engagement they are seeing overall. Director Longo asked what Principal Conforti would like to see from the board going forward as it pertains to school decisions and conversations. Principal Conforti stated he wanted to continue to promote what the schools are doing well and keep open communication to the community in order to further build that relationship and trust of doing what is best for the students.

V. Quarterly Financial Report **Informational**

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb provided an overview of the third fiscal quarter. Revenue and expenditures are tracking mostly as expected. He noted that the district should expect a \$410,052 surplus if the current spending trend continues.

VI. Approval of Maintenance Truck **Action**

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb outlined a request to approve the purchase of a new truck for the maintenance department. He stated that although he is seeking approval now, the truck would not be available for 12 to 16 weeks. Therefore, it will be a FY'27 purchase. This is a planned and budgeted purchase. Mr Trieb answered the board's questions about current vehicles within the district's fleet, the potential for electric or hybrid vehicles, and the possibility of another purchase request next fiscal year to catch up on vehicle maintenance timeline that was pushed back during Covid when they were unavailable.

Director Longo moved to approve the purchase of a new maintenance truck as recommended and to authorize the Chief Financial and Operations Officer to execute the necessary documents. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Sealcoat and Line Parking CHS Parking Lot **Action**

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb outlined a request to approve the sealing and lining of the parking lot at CHS. This is normal maintenance that needs to occur to keep the district's parking lots in decent shape. The CHS parking lot was paved in June 2018, but has not been resealed since then. The district secured competitive bids and Mr. Trieb gave his recommendation to go with Black Beauty to complete the work.

Director Kigonya moved to award the parking lot sealcoating project to Black Beauty as recommended and to authorize the Chief Financial and Operations Officer to execute the necessary documents. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Second 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 Fath moved to approve the second and final readings of board policies C1, C2, and C3. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Approval of Consent Agenda **Action**

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda. Director Cox requested the action on the consent agenda be moved to after the executive session in order to allow discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: 5/5/2026 REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

| Contract Type | First Name | Last Name | Category | Position | Hours/Wk | Building | Agenda Information | Person Replacing | Budgeted | Admin Support |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Teacher | Rosalija | Zibrat | Resignation | Mathematics Teacher | 1.0 FTE | CHS | Request to end employment at the end of the 2025-2026 school | | | |
| Teacher | Kate | Hughes | LOA | Special Educator | 1.0 FTE | MBS | Request for LOA June 3 - 12, 2026 | | | |
| Teacher | Cory | Payson | Resignation | Physical Education Teacher | 1.0 FTE | CMS | Request to end employment at the end of the 2025-2026 school year | | | |

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

| Contract Type | First Name | Last Name | Category | Position | Hours/Wk | Building | Agenda Information | Person Replacing | Budgeted | Admin Support |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Support Staff | Amissi | Munyugu | LOA | Custodian | 40 | CMS | Request for LOA June 22 - June 30, 2026 | | | |

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational

| Contract Type | First Name | Last Name | Category | Position | Hours/Wk | Building | Agenda Information | Person Replacing | Budgeted | Admin Support |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Support Staff | Nicholas | Balsamo | Resignation | Behavior Interventionist | 35 | MBS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Laura | Sexton | Resignation | Accounts Payable Bookkeeper | 40 | CO | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Toni | Josey | Transfer | Administrative Assistant II | 40 | UMS | Notice of Transfer | Sue Phillips | Yes | Yes |
| Co-Curricular | Seth | Laffal | New Hire | JV Boys Lacrosse Coach | Coach | CHS | Notice of Hire | | | |
| Support Staff | Karen | Rolston | Resignation | Paraeducator | 32.5 | UMS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Lisa | Chandler | Resignation | Food Service Worker | 35.0 | UMS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Co-Curricular | Zach | Ziemer | New Hire | Track & Field Coach | Coach | CMS | Notice of Hire | | | |

X. Approval of Meeting Minutes **Action**

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2026, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- A construction update was shared for the facilities work happening at PPS
- A reminder that bids for the upcoming construction at UMS will be due before the end of the month

XII. Future Agenda Items **Informational**

- Policy Work
- Principal Reports
- Facility Renovation Updates
- CSD Elementary Math Program Selection

XIII. Executive Session **Action**

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session to discuss two employee leave requests, a personnel matter, and a student matter at 7:59 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Adjournment

Director Kigonya moved to exit executive session at 9:58 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Longo moved to approve the consent agenda at 9:59 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to adjourn at 9:59 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Gabrielle Brooks

Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes

Board Clerk