

Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in the Colchester High School Library Media Center. Board Directors in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, and Ben Yousey-Hindes. Administrators and employees in attendance were Superintendent Amy Minor, Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, MBS Principal Jordan Burke, and MBS Grade 5 Teacher Amanda Bonnani. 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 7:02 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizens Participation*

None.

III. Hear MBS Principal Report

Informational

MBS Principal Jordan Burke provided the board with the MBS spring principal report. She presented a student highlight, an academic highlight, and an equity initiative from the year. These included; the success of the Artist-in-Residence program and the joy it brought the entire student body by hosting Jeh Kulu, this year's math goal focus incorporated with a weekly math word wall for all students to participate in and the assistance of math notebooks in class, and the new student leadership group taking initiative to make the school a place for all students to feel welcomed and safe. Students from MBS assisted in the presentation by sharing their experiences with the leadership group and the math initiative.

IV. Hear MBS Content Specialization Pilot

Informational

MBS Principal Jordan Burke and Grade 5 Teacher Amanda Bonnani shared with the board a pilot project that Malletts Bay School will implement next year. The pilot introduces the concept of teacher content specialization, where instead of teaching all content areas teachers work in teams of two, with each teacher focusing on two primary content areas. A small group of teachers will pilot this model next year.

The board asked about the next steps in communication to families. Principal Burke described an upcoming video for students and families providing the information.

V. Approval of Consolidated Federal Programs and IDEA-B Grant Assurances

Action

Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz provided an overview of the official allocations for the Consolidated Federal Programs Grant and the IDEA-B Grant. The district must ensure that it will comply with federal regulations to apply for these grant funds.

Director Longo moved to authorize the superintendent to sign the attached assurances and submit the Consolidated Federal Program and IDEA-B grants by June 30, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Approval of Installation of Video Surveillance System at MBS

Action

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb outlined a request to approve the purchase and installation of a video surveillance system at MBS. The district currently has video surveillance systems at CHS and CMS with the desire to have video equipment in all schools within the next three years. PPS and UMS will have systems installed as part of the construction/renovation projects. As MBS is not part of the larger construction project, the timing is good to install the systems during the upcoming school year. The district reached out to four companies in soliciting bids and Mr. Trieb gave his recommendation to go with Safety Systems of Vermont for this project.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the purchase and installation of a video surveillance system at MBS as recommended and to authorize the Chief Financial and Operations Officer to execute the necessary documents. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. First Reading of School Board Policies

Action

- New: Cell Phones
- New: Electronic Communications Between Students
- New: Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries with Students
- F12: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Policy

Superintendent Amy Minor presented the board with the Vermont Agency of Education's (AOE) model policy on Student Use of Cell Phones. She informed this will be a required policy for all schools starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Superintendent Minor suggested only updating the policy's language to be Colchester specific and adding procedures for the second reading. The board asked clarifying questions about the Vermont Statute on cell phones taking effect next school year.

Superintendent Minor introduced another model policy from the Vermont AOE for Electronic Communications Between Employees and Students. She stated this policy will also be required for next school year. She requested the board to review this model policy, find where it may overlap with existing policies along with the next policy on the agenda, and send edits before a second reading.

Superintendent Minor presented North Country's Supervisory Union's Policy on Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries with Students. There is no requirement from the Vermont AOE or the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) for this policy. She requested the board to review this recommended policy in the hopes of combining it with the previously introduced policy on Communications with Students so as to create one which encompasses a broader portrayal for the district. Director Yousey-Hindes offered to assist Superintendent Minor in rewriting these combined policies before bringing them to the board for the next reading.

Superintendent Minor brought the F12: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse Policy to the board as part of the annual review process. The VSBA recently updated its model policy, and the district's current policy already goes beyond the recommended language. Superintendent Minor also included the related procedures for the Board's review. She recommended moving some of the language from the

policy to the procedures document, keeping the logistics while simplifying the actual policy. The board discussed the current student consequences for a violation and the standard for other schools across the state.

Director Longo moved to approve the first reading of the Cell Phone, Electronic Communications Between Students, Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries with Students, and F12: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse policies as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda

Action

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda.

DRAFT

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: 5/19/2026 REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

| Contract Type | First Name | Last Name | Category | Position | Hours/Wk | Building | Agenda Information | Person Replacing | Budgeted | Admin Support |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Teacher | Steven | Ushakov | New Hire | Mathematics Teacher | 1.0 FTE | CHS | Request to Hire | Rosalija Zibrat | Yes | Yes |
| Teacher | Melissa | Goldberg | Resignation | Nurse | 1.0 FTE | CMS | Request to end employment at the end of the 2025-2026 school | | | Yes |
| Teacher | Makai | Yerkes | New Hire | Physical Education Teacher | 1.0 | CMS | Request to Hire | Cory Payson | Yes | Yes |

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 |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |

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 | Lasah | McMurray | Transfer | Food Service | 32.5 | UMS | Notice of Transfer | Lisa Chandler | Yes | Yes |
| Support Staff | Alejandro | Grimaldo | New Hire | Technology Specialist II | 40.0 | DW | Notice of Hire | Adalia Williams | Yes | Yes |
| Support Staff | Gabrielle | Brooks | Transfer | CSD Data Coordinator & District Registrar | 40.0 | CO | Notice of Transfer | Cathy Ward | Yes | Yes |
| Support Staff | Phenpitcha | Srisopa | Resignation | Paraeducator | 32.5 | MBS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Kylie | Lussier | Resignation | Paraeducator | 32.5 | PPS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Ann Carol | Moffett | Resignation | ML Paraeducator | 32.5 | CHS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Brittany | Cresta | Resignation | Behavior Interventionist | 35.0 | PPS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Irene | Shagam | Resignation | Paraeducator | 32.5 | CMS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Makayla | Beauty | Resignation | Paraeducator | 32.5 | CMS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Logan | Spicer | Resignation | Paraeducator | 32.5 | CHS | Notice of Resignation | | | |
| Support Staff | Michelle | Norton | Transfer | Administrative Assistant II | 40.0 | PPS | Notice of Transfer | Sheila Doherty | Yes | Yes |
| Support Staff | Krista | Ploof | Transfer | Accounts Payable Bookkeeper | 40.0 | CO | Notice of Transfer | Laura Sexton | Yes | Yes |
| Support Staff | Sheri | Bjork | Resignation | Behavior Interventionist | 35.0 | CHS | Notice of Resignation | | | |

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the consent agenda as provided. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Approval of Meeting Minutes Action

Director Longo moved to approve the minutes from the May 5, 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
- UMS Bid Selection meeting date proposed

XI. Future Agenda Items Informational

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

XII. Executive Session Action

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter and a student matter at 9:06 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to exit executive session at 9:31 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Gabrielle Brooks
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk