

Colchester School Board Meeting Agenda & Packet

June 2, 2026



**Colchester School District
Board of Education Meeting**
June 02, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.
Colchester High School Library

Meeting Agenda

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| I. Call to Order | |
| II. Citizens Participation* | |
| III. Hear Elementary Math Program Presentation | Informational |
| IV. Hear UMS Principal Report | Informational |
| V. Hear CMS Principal Report | Informational |
| VI. Second Reading of School Board Policies | Action |
| ○ New: Cell Phones | |
| VII. Approval of Consent Agenda | Action |
| VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes | Action |
| ○ May 19, 2026 (General) | |
| ○ May 26, 2026 (Special) | |
| IX. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports | Informational |
| X. Future Agenda Items | Informational |
| XI. 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: CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

DATE ADOPTED: DRAFT

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of CSD to maintain a cell phone-free school environment to promote focus, improved mental health, and increased social cohesion among our students.

The goal of this policy is to enable both students and employees to work free from distractions that impact learning by prohibiting student use of and access to cell phones and other prohibited personal electronic devices from the beginning of the school day to dismissal.

DEFINITION

1. **Cell phone** means any device capable of using cellular technology to facilitate voice service through a commercial telecommunications company, regardless of whether the device can access internet services and electronic mail.
2. **Other prohibited personal electronic devices** means any non-school-issued personal electronic devices that connect to cellular networks, the internet, or have wireless capabilities (e.g. smartwatches, earbuds, and smart glasses).
3. **An individualized health care plan** means a written document developed by a school nurse, in collaboration with parents, students, and other relevant professionals, to outline specific health care needs and management strategies tailored to the unique health condition of a student.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The superintendent, head of school, or designee shall establish procedures that outline:

1. The daily routines, employees responsibilities, and communication strategies are to uphold the intent of this policy.
 - a. Students are responsible for keeping their phones and other electronic devices **off and away, in their bag/backpack for the entire school day**. Not on their person.
2. An implementation plan for each school to provide storage for all students' cell phones and other prohibited devices.
 - a. Students are expected to keep their phones and other electronic devices off and away, in their bag/backpack for the entire school day. Not on their person.
3. How employees monitor compliance (e.g., prohibition includes restrooms, locker rooms, buses), where devices are stored, and how exceptions are communicated in the student handbook.
4. Details regarding supervision on the field trips or how district-operated after-school programs handle student access to cell phones.

Date Warned: May 15, 2026

First Reading: May 19, 2026

Second Reading:

Third Reading:

- a. During field trips (during the school day), students are expected to have their phones away and out of sight. Employees will collect phones if they see them during school day field trips.
 - b. For off-school-hour field trips or events (i.e., athletic events or co-curricular trips), employees, coaches, or advisors may allow students to use their phones.
5. On an annual basis, building principals shall report to the School Board on progress toward the goals of this policy, including areas of success and identified challenges.

EXCEPTIONS

1. Require a cell phone device as part of their individualized health care plan, IEP, or 504 plan, which shall be documented according to the applicable state and federal law.
2. Have been granted permission by an employee for an academic, school sponsored athletic, or cocurricular purpose, for the most limited use reasonably possible.
3. Required a cell phone/personal electronic device for compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 42 U.S.C. § 11431-11435.

Each superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for verifying exceptions as outlined above. With respect to accommodations documented in an individualized student plan (IEP or 504) or as required for compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the process shall give preference to the use of district-owned devices first.

FAMILY AND GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to ensure families can communicate with students during the school day. Schools shall establish and publish building-based procedures to facilitate communication between parents/guardians and students during the school day.

1. Families needing to speak with their student may call the main office of their school or other designated school communication channels, as outlined in school handbooks.
2. If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during the school day, a school employee may authorize the use of school-approved communication methods in accordance with procedures outlined in the school handbook.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures that describe the sequence of consequences and the process for contacting parents or guardians when a student has violated the policy.

1. The CSD cell phone and personal electronic device policy and procedures are not designed to be punitive. The use of progressive responses under this policy is intended to support student learning and responsible use of personal electronic devices rather than to be punitive in nature.
2. Students using a cell phone or personal electronic device in violation of this policy may be required to surrender the device for the remainder of the school day. Students who refuse to comply may be subject to additional disciplinary action in accordance with school procedures and the student code of conduct.

3. For repeated violations, parents or guardians may be required to retrieve the device from the school. Schools may also develop individualized support or monitoring plans, including temporary check-in/check-out procedures for personal electronic devices.

Legal Citations

16 V.S.A. § 582 Definitions

16 V.S.A. § 582 Student use of cell phones and personal electronic devices in schools

16 V.S.A. § 582 School district to maintain public high school or pay tuition

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Meeting Date: 6/2/26

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	Hours/Wk	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Bridget	Tierney	New Hire	Elementary Teacher	1.0	UMS	Request to Hire		Yes	Yes
Teacher	Emma	Montgomery	New Hire	Elementary Teacher LTS 9/7/26 - 12/23/26	1.0	UMS	Request to Hire	Hannah Hill		Yes
Teacher	Heather	Fischer	New Hire	Elementary Teacher LTS 8/20/26 - 10/15/26	1.0	MBS	Request to Hire	Catherine Lamoureux		Yes
Teacher	Courtney	Boetsma	New Hire	Driver's Ed	0.1	CHS	Request to Hire			

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	Charlton	Whitney	Transfer	HR Coordinator	40	CO	Notice of Transfer	Mary Crowley	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Melissa	Conchieri	Resignation	Occupational Therapist Assistant	37.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation			

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

Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Library

Tuesday, May 26, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a special board meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, in the Colchester High School Library Media Center. Board Directors in attendance were Lindsey Cox, Nic Longo, Ben Yousey-Hindes, Laurie Kigonya, and Jennifer Fath. Administrators and employees in attendance were Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb. Black River Design Architects Polly Wheeler and Cliff Nickerson, PCI Capital Project Consultant Tom Yadow, and PC Construction Executive Jordan Hershman. There were no audience members.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Lindsey Cox called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizens Participation*

None.

III. Approval of General Contractor for Union Memorial School Project

Action

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb introduced Polly Wheeler and Cliff Nickerson from Black River Design Architects, along with Tom Yadow from PCI Capital Project Consultants, and Jordan Hershman from PC Construction.

Polly Wheeler shared that the district received four bids from pre-qualified contractors. She noted the bids were in a tight grouping, with the lowest two being a less than a percent difference, which is a good indication that the lowest bidder did not miss any significant details. She recommended accepting the lowest bid from PC Construction.

The board then discussed the bidding process and compared the base bid totals to the original and updated project estimates.

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to award the Union Memorial Renovation/Addition Project to PC Construction and authorize the Business Manager to execute a contract with PC Construction to finalize the contracted work. This award is contingent on an agreed-upon contract between both parties. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

Director Longo moved to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Gabrielle Brooks
Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk