Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting — Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Colchester High School Library — 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 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 Superintendent Amy Minor, Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmoli, Director of Student Support Services Carrie Lutz, CHS Principal Andrew Conforti and CMS Principal Tara Sharkey. There was one audience members present.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Lindsey Cox called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizens Participation*

None.

III. Introduction of Student School Board Member — Informational

Jack LaChance, a CHS senior, was introduced as the student representative on the school board for the 2026-27 school year. CHS Principal Andrew Conforti shared Jack's deep connections in the school community, highlighting his mentorship of younger students through the DREAM program, his role in the music department, and his leadership of the LakeShow. He shared that Jack can understand multiple perspectives and appreciates the district's diversity, which will make him a phenomenal student voice to the board.

IV. Hear Fall Principal Reports — Informational

CHS Principal Andrew Conforti and CMS Principal Tara Sharkey each gave a brief presentation on their school's opening, how they're building community, and their professional and academic goals for the year. The board asked some questions about the principal's biggest challenges and ways they are engaging students, particularly those who are at risk and with low attendance rates.

V. Hear Update on Act 170 — Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor provided an update on the district's involvement with the Chittenden Central CESA, which includes Burlington, Essex Westford, Grand Isle, South Burlington, Winooski, and Colchester. She said the Agency of Education (AOE) responded to the CESA's initial list of questions and plans to prepare an FAQ document for all CESAs to access. She confirmed that all CESAs have had initial meetings, and they all had similar questions and requested guidance from the AOE.

Superintendent Minor also updated the board on the merger study, including upcoming deadlines and action steps the board will need to take. Next, the board will decide which member will represent Colchester. Colchester is in a merger study with the districts in the Islands and Milton. The board had a preliminary discussion about which board member will serve.

VI. Hear Year End Finanical Report **Informational**

The report needed final adjustments, so the board moved this agenda item to the next meeting.

VII. Approval of Consent Agenda **Action**

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda. No items required action, so no motion was made.

CONSENT AGENDA REVISED

Board Meeting Date 9/1/2026

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

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

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	Cheryl	Moore	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Powell	Tina	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Wanda	Perez	New Hire	Food Service	22.5	CHS	Notice of Hire	Stephanie Carter		
Support Staff	Allison	Croce	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Kayla	Gilman	New Hire	Behavior Interventionist	35	MBS	Notice of Hire	Onyx Johnson		
Support Staff	Kevin	Kane	Resignation	Lead Custodian	40	PPS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Stephanie	Carter	Resignation	Food Service	17.5	CHS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Bernadette	Park	Resignation	Food Service	6.5	CMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Christina	Bleau	New Hire	Paraeducator	30	CMS	Notice of Hire	Irene Shagam		
Support Staff	Caitlin	Beauvais	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	CMS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Mark	McDuff	Transfer	Lead Custodian	40	PPS	Notice of Transfer	Kevin Kane		

VIII. Approval of Meeting Minutes **Action**

Director Kigonya moved to approve the minutes from July 24, 2026, and both meetings on August 18, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- The district created a Greatest Hits video from the 2025-26 Year that was shown to employees at opening in-service and has been posted on the social media pages and the website.
- An update with photos was given for construction projects at PPS and UMS. The oldest wing of PPS will begin removal on September 14. Rebar is being set and basement walls are being poured at UMS.

X. Future Agenda Items **Informational**

- Principal Reports
- Policy and Board Work Plan

XI. Proposed Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations **Action**

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to enter executive session at 8:01 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

Director moved to exit executive session and adjourn at 8:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorder:

Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:

Ben Yousey-Hindes
Board Clerk