Colchester School District

Board of Education Meeting — Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Colchester High School Library — 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, November 3, 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 Jack LaChance. 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, and CMS Principal Tara Sharkey.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Lindsey Cox called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizens Participation*

None.

III. Hear 2026-27 School Report: Colchester Middle School — Informational

CMS Principal Tara Sharkey provided the board a presentation focusing on the CMS Action Plan for the 26-27 school year. She went over the STAR and VTCAP testing data from Fall ‘26 with the trends from the last couple of years and how this data helped establish this year’s action plan. Principal Sharkey ended the presentation with quotes from various students about the favorite thing they have learned so far this year along with their favorite way to learn. The board asked clarifying questions about the data presented.

IV. Hear State Graduation Requirements Presentation — Informational

Superintendent Amy Minor presented the board with information about the VT AOE graduation requirements currently proposed to the State Board of Education. If approved, there will be a uniform standard of 22.5 credits required for a student to graduate in the state of Vermont, currently Colchester requires 24.5 credits. This proposed standard would take effect next school year with a two year transition period to adjust required classes.

The board asked questions about the logistics of the changes. Superintendent Minor stated there is still discussion about the details such as how tech centers and flexible pathways will fit into the new credit requirements, among other questions that schools are bringing up, before it goes to the vote in March.

V. Hear FY’28 Budget Presentation — Informational

Chief Financial and Operations Officer George Trieb shared an overview of the education funding mechanism and the roles various state entities play in the tax process. State agencies and the Legislature set education tax rates and calculate property tax adjustments, while school boards prepare local school district budgets and administer the education property tax. Key dates in the timeline include the Tax Commissioner's recommendation on education tax rates on December 1st, school board approval of the local budget in January, and the March budget vote. The final tax impact is revealed in

May after the state adjusts calculations based on approved budgets. Important concepts for budget development include the Property Dollar Yield (the per-pupil amount the education fund supports), Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) (a measure of local appraisal accuracy), and Pupil Weighting (a calculation of long-term weighted average daily membership). The process involves estimating expenditures and revenue, and the CLA and Pupil Weighting influences the resulting education spending and tax components.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda — Action

The board reviewed the following items on the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA										
Board Meeting Date 11/3/2026 - REVISED										
Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)										
Contract Type	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Category**	**Position**	**Hours/Wk**	**Building**	**Agenda Information**	**Person Replacing**	**Budgeted**	**Admin Support**
Tacher	Sam	Burgess	New Hire	Music Teacher LTS 10/26/26-2/16/27	1.0	MBS	Request to Hire	Tyler Mast		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**
Handbook	Lori	Roberts	Leave Request	Lunch & Recess Supervisor	15	MBS	Request for Leave 11/16/26 - 3/22/27			
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	Caitlin	Beauvais	New Hire	Paraeducator	30	CMS	Notice of Hire	Irene Shagam		
Support Staff	Leah	Livernois	Resignation	Paraeducator	32.5	PPS	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Heather	Pung	Transfer	Behavior Interventionist	35	PPS	Notice of Transfer			
Support Staff	December	Conley	New Hire	Paraeducator	32.5	MBS	Notice of Hire	Lillian Gonyo		
Support Staff	Darlene	Lamphier	Resignation	Fixed Asset/Accounting Clerk	24	CO	Notice of Resignation			
Support Staff	Steve	Alger	New Hire	Lead Custodian	40	MBS	Notice of Hire	Mapigano Karubandika		

Director Yousey-Hindes moved to approve the Licensed Employees section and deny the request in the Non-Licensed Employees section of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes **Action**

Director Kigonya moved to approve the October 20, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Construction Update:
  - The framing for the walls of the new gym are going up at PPS. They are also pouring concrete curbs that will outline the edge for the new parking lot.
  - The steel frame and metal decking is almost completed at UMS. There is currently a steel beam in the school for all the students to sign; this final beam will be installed on Monday.

IX. Future Agenda Items **Informational**

- FY'28 Budget Discussion
- CSD Food Service Report
- School Reports
- 95XXX Property
- Bus Contract
- Policy and Board Work Plan

X. Adjournment

Director Longo moved to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Gabrielle Brooks

Recording Secretary

Ben Yousey-Hindes

Board Clerk