

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, December 18, 2018
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Lincoln White, Craig Kieny, and Lindsey Cox; Superintendent Amy Minor; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli; and Principals Chris Antonicci and Carolyn Millham.

There were no audience members.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Report from Building Principals

Information

CMS Principal Michele Cote stated the administration is preparing their message to students around SBAC testing which will take place after the break. They want all students to have the same information around expectations during the testing period.

PPS Principal Carolyn Millham shared excitement for their school-wide sing-a-long tomorrow. Because of a change in class time, she is unable to invite parents to the school as she has in the past. Instead, she plans to live-stream it on YouTube.

UMS Principal Chris Antonicci said their sing-a-long is on Friday. He also shared that UMS is hosting the No Strings Marionette Company as an artist in residence after the break. They will be at the school for four days working with students before they give a joint performance.

IV. Instructional Coaching in Grade One

Information

PPS Principal Carolyn Millham along with District Literacy Coach Sara Blake provided the board with a presentation on professional learning happening with first-grade teachers around reading instruction. They highlighted the importance of ongoing professional learning to align practices and build a shared understanding among the teacher's experiences and knowledge. Classroom observations combined with student data helps them identify patterns to revisit at future grade level meetings. Ms. Blake stated that she and the district math coach are able to get into the majority of classrooms K-5 to collaborate with teachers.

V. First Reading of Student Conduct and Discipline Policy: F1

Action

Over the summer the board did several reviews of this policy and the Student Suspension Policy (F33). Both policies spoke to the same overarching topic of discipline and because of that, they have been drafted into a single policy which is more comprehensive and easier to define. The Vermont School Board Association recommends one policy that encompasses both topics. Some of the language was updated and several revisions were made stemming from previous board member suggestions at earlier readings.

Director Cox moved to approve the first reading of the Student Conduct and Discipline Policy: F1, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

VI. FY'20 Budget Presentation and Discussion

Information

The Central Office Administrative Team provided further detail about the priority list shown at the December 4th board meeting. Superintendent Minor gave background around how the list was developed and the reasoning for which items made it to the top. Since the last meeting, they have altered the list slightly. The current top priority list includes maintaining current staffing levels, adding 2 FTEs to the middle school, adding 1 FTE for an instructional coach in grades 6-12, and adding .5 FTE for an English Language teacher.

In breaking down the effects and impact of each item, CMS Principal Michele Cote first went over current core class sizes at the middle school and how the classroom numbers would look if the additional “team” of 2 FTEs was added. Superintendent Minor spoke about “right-sizing” and showed their analysis of current student enrollment data from kindergarten through grade 5 to demonstrate the need not only this year but in future years. The board also discussed the impact of Grand Isle dissolving their 7th and 8th grade which will potentially mean more tuition students at the middle school level. With current class sizes already over the Vermont Education Quality Standards, Superintendent Minor said she would be hesitant to allow tuition students without adding the additional faculty to bring down class size. There would be substantial revenue loss if tuition students no longer choose Colchester or were able to be accepted.

Director of Curriculum Gwen Carmolli outlined the need for additional coaching to increase engagement and achievement for all students. She showed data regarding achievement gaps for students in poverty or with a disability. She referred the board back to the coaching presentation earlier in the meeting to illustrate the positive effects of instructional coaches. Currently, the district has two coaches which work primarily with grades K-5 and are paid for by federal funds. The request for next year’s voter budget would be an additional coach to add support for grades 6-12.

Special Education Director Carrie Lutz and current English Language (EL) teachers Susan Rosato and Jennifer Hoenigsberg went over the identification, assessment, family support, consultation and service delivery that they provide to EL students in the district. They also included enrollment numbers and explained how students enter their program across a broad spectrum of proficiency.

The Central Office Administrators also took time to go over several items on the second tier of the priority list including a social worker, money towards Next Generation Science Standards science kits, and money towards the Food Service Program.

VII. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

Action

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for December 18, 2018.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

Board Date: December 18, 2018

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

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

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), Informational

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Co-Curricular	Chantel	Wilkin	New Hire	JV Girls Lacrosse Coach		CHS	Notice of Hire	Sophia Rocciatti	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Natasha	Gibbs	End of Employment	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	UMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Support Staff	Lia	Giber	New Hire	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	UMS	Notice of Hire	Natasha Gibbs	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Ben	Mitchell	New Hire	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	CMS	Notice of Hire	Elizabeth Cubit	Yes	Yes

Director Kieny approved the Personnel Consent Agenda as provided, seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0

VIII. Approval of Minutes: December 4, 2018 Action

Director Cox moved to approve the minutes of December 4, 2018, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

IX. Approval of Minutes: December 11, 2018 Action

Director White moved to approve the minute of December 11, 2018, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

X. Board/Administration Communication, Correspondence, Committee Reports Information

- The board discussed dates film the LCATV budget roundtable.
- The board discussed the potential of adding a 3rd meeting date in January if needed.

XI. Possible Future Agenda Items Information

Future Meetings:

- Budget Discussions
- FCC Ruling
- Discipline Policies

XII. Adjournment

Director Cox made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 p.m., seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Craig Kieny
Board Clerk