

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, January 15, 2019
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Lincoln White, Craig Kieny, Curt Taylor, and Lindsey Cox; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli; and Principals Michele Cote, Jordan Burke, Chris Antonicci, and Carolyn Millham.

There was 1 audience member.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Mike Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) Presentation

Information

This presentation is part one of a three-part series about the use of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at the three K-5 schools. Porters Point School Principal Carolyn Millham and Behavior Specialist Dan Gaudet went over the benefits of PBIS and the history of its installment at their school. PBIS is a school-wide system of support that includes proactive strategies for defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create a positive school environment. This model is a shift from traditional behavior management that is individual student based, reactive, and focused on unwanted behavior. Schools that use PBIS focus instead on desired behaviors and teach them to all students. Administrators use data to see patterns and plan ahead for additional support. Principal Millham went over behavior data showing the positive effect PBIS has had at PPS.

Director Cox and Director Kiney asked how the school communicates with families about PBIS. All three K-5 principals responded with various methods including putting information on their website, in newsletters and emails, through direct contact with the student's teacher, family attendance at school-wide assemblies, and participation at family nights and open houses. Board Chair Rogers asked how the success rate is judged on a classroom and teacher level. Principal Millham stated that having pre-designed system helps everyone to be more prepared. There are expectations around what teachers are asked to know and that helps to shape staff approach and student behavior.

IV. FY'20 Budget Presentation and Discussion

Action

Special Education Director Carrie Lutz answered some of the board's questions from the last meeting in regards to the recommended 1.5 FTE English Language (EL) teacher request. She stated

the recommendation is aimed at reducing the caseload size at the elementary school level and to increase access to EL teachers from students and faculty. Currently there is one FTE for 52 EL students located in three separate elementary buildings.

Next, Director Lutz went over the request for a Howard Center Social Worker at MBS. She again went over the functions of a school social worker with their primary role being care coordination for the student and their family for outside programming and services. She clarified that this position would not be a CSD employee but rather a Howard Center employee that is contracted with the district and paid for with Medicaid funds. The proposed added position used to exist in the past but was cut due to funding, not lack of need. Currently there is one social worker at the MBS with a full caseload and a waiting list. Principal Antonicci stated one of the hardest things to do at the end of the school year is make decisions about which students to cease services for in the next school year because MBS cannot handle the increased caseload. The board further discussed the role of social workers in a school setting and the amount of time they spend with individual students. Director Taylor questioned if the support provided should be the responsibility of the school. Director Cox stated that schools provide more services today than they ever have and it is important that our community understand the current requirements of public schools today. She believes the request from administrators is reasonably justified based on the need of the students to access a high quality education.

Superintendent Amy Minor and Business and Operations Manager George Trieb presented seven scenarios with varying levels of recommended additions. The board had previously agreed the budget should include two core FTEs at the middle school to address oversized classes and 50K for the food service program. The remainder of their discussion circled around how many additional FTEs they should include based on the recommendations for EL and instructional coaching presented at previous board meetings. Superintendent Minor recommended two specific scenarios. The first would include 50K towards food service, the added contract with Howard Center for a social worker at MBS, and a total of 3 additional FTEs for positions described above. That scenario would result in a 5.29% budget increase, an estimated tax increase of 1.89% and an increase in per pupil spending of 4.72%. The second recommended scenario includes everything from the previous scenario and adds another FTE for a total of 4. This scenario would result in a 5.49% budget increase, an estimated tax increase of 2.14% and an increase in per pupil spending of 4.97%.

Director White pointed out that there is only a .2% difference in the budget increase between the two scenarios recommended by the Superintendent. The board then discussed what numbers appear on the ballot, since the language is set by State statute and not locally. Voters will see the total budget amount, the per equalized pupil spending amount, and the percentage difference in per equalized pupil spending from the previous year. Voters do not see the percentage of the budget increase or the percentage of the tax increase. The board discussed how last year the estimated tax increase was higher than the per pupil spending but this year it is flipped. The calculations are heavily affected by the education funding formula and factors outside of the board and school district's control. Director White stressed that it is important for the community to know that the estimated tax rate increase will be around 2%.

Board Chair Rogers asked for board members to weigh in on where they were in choosing one of the scenarios brought forth by the Superintendent. Directors White and Cox were both comfortable with the second recommended scenario. Director Taylor stated he needed more time to consider the information and Director Kieny was leaning towards a slightly amended first scenario.

The board made no final decisions and instead requested a third meeting be warned for Tuesday, January 22, 2018.

V. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda

Action

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for January 15, 2019.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

Board Date: January 15, 2019 REVISED

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Yvette	Amblo-Bose	New Hire	Guidance Counselor, Long-Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	CHS	Request to Hire	Katie Moran	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Morgan	Beck	New Hire	Elementary Teacher, Long-Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	MBS	Request to Hire	Dawn Buswell	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Lindsay	Lesage	New Hire	Elementary Teacher, Long-Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	MBS	Request to Hire	Rebecca Ford	Yes	Yes

Non-Licensed Employees (Support Staff), *Informational*

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Support Staff	Denison	Lang	New Hire	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	CMS	Notice of Hire	Claire Kane	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Lindsay	Lesage	New Hire	Paraeducator/Paraeducator - Special Education	16.25 hr / 16.25 hr	PPS	Notice of Hire	Anila Lawrence	Yes	Yes

Director Cox approved the Personnel Consent Agenda as provided, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0

VI. Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2019 Action

Director Cox moved to approve the executive session minutes of January 8, 2019, seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

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

- A meeting has been added for next Tuesday, January 22 to make a final decision on the FY20 budget and to sign the proper warnings.
- The board received an email regarding the budget and decided who will respond.
- The board will film the budget roundtable discussion at LCATV on February 4th. For the first time it will be aired live on Channel 16.

VIII. Possible Future Agenda Items Information

Future Meetings:

- CSD Integrated Field Review by the AOE on January 24th.
- Budget Discussions
- Nursing Report
- Discipline Policies

IX. Adjournment

Director Kieny made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m., seconded by Director White. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Craig Kieny
Board Clerk