

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting
Colchester High School Media Center

Tuesday, November 6, 2018
7:00 p.m. (General Session)

MINUTES (General Session)

The Colchester Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, at the Colchester High School Media Center. Those in attendance were Board Chair Mike Rogers; Directors: Craig Kieny, Curt Taylor and Lindsey Cox; Student Representative Sophia Brigante; Superintendent Amy Minor; Business and Operations Manager George Trieb; Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gwen Carmolli; and Principals Carolyn Millham and Heather Baron.

There were 3 community members in attendance.

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.

Board Chair Rogers requested to amend agenda item V from an informational item to action item.'

Director Taylor moved accept the requested agenda change, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

II. Citizen Participation

None.

III. Report from Building Principals

Information

PPS Principal Carolyn Millham said they are starting the transition from trimester 1 to trimester 2 and report cards and family conferences will occur soon. She said they are looking forward to talking with families and getting set for a great second trimester.

IV. Grades 9-12 School Report: CHS

Information

CHS Principal Heather Baron presented the school report for CHS. It included an overview of school enrollment and demographics, student climate and behavior data, as well as professional learning and continuous improvement plans.

Following the data presented for referrals to the planning room, the board asked some clarifying questions about the physical space of the room and the type of communication that takes place between students and teachers. They also discussed with Principal Baron and Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz the differences between the planning room and services that Child Protection Teams, DCF, and First Call can provide.

The board discussed data presented about dual enrollment and early college. Board Chair Rogers voiced concern that students enrolled in either of these options would miss out on the classic high school experience. Principal Baron stated that each student has individual needs and having differentiated options is important. Student Representative Sophia Brigante knows several classmates taking advantage of dual enrollment and shared that they feel fortunate to get a head start on college. She added that these students share their knowledge about college classes and culture with their friends back at CHS. She stated that those classmates are still involved in CHS by participating in sports and clubs. Director Cox pointed out that the financial benefit of taking college courses through CHS could be significant to some students.

V. Budget Discussion: Food Service

Action

As a follow up to an informational food service presentation in August, the board was asked to make some decisions regarding the program. Steve Davis, the Director of Nutrition and Food Services explained that the program is running well and participation numbers are actually up but with the rising cost of food and their aging equipment it will need funds to continue to operate. In addition to several updates and equipment replacements, the FY'19 budget is projecting a \$39,888 deficit for the year. The board talked about having an annual discussion as part of the budget timeline to review the food service budget and determine the dollar amount that will be provided to food services in the general fund. Director Davis stated it is not unusual for other area districts to fund their programs with the general budget. Director Cox emphasized the importance of the food service program and agreed that the board should make it a priority to figure out the best way to plan and fund the program in future budgets.

Director Kieny moved to approve the replacement of the CHS serving line and other small equipment at CHS as needed not to exceed \$100K, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director Kieny moved to approve \$50K from the general fund for FY'19 to support the CSD Food Services program, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

VI. Assessment Presentation

Information

Director of Curriculum Gwen Carmolli provided an overview of assessment for Colchester schools. Assessment in Colchester is based on the district vision that embraces high standards for all students, as well as federal and state requirements. Director Carmolli reviewed these requirements and the district vision. She also provided an overview of local assessments, kindergarten through grade 12. Results from one of the state required assessments, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), were recently made available to the district. Director Carmolli shared the results for all students and for equity groups of students in poverty or with disabilities. These results show Colchester has an average of scores above the state in English Language Arts and Math. There are achievement gaps for students in poverty and for students with disabilities. The school district and schools have plans, called Continuous Improvement Plans, to increase achievement for all students.

Director Kieny asked why grade 11 is no longer being tested statewide. Director Carmolli and Superintendent Minor explained that the Agency of Education examined all the other assessments taken at that grade level and determined it was excessive. They are instead testing in grade 9 now.

Director Kieny also asked why the district's SBAC and ACT scores are not closely aligned. Director Carmolli explained that different assessments have different levels of rigor and subsequently produce different scores.

Board Chair Rogers questioned why the scores dip between grades 5 and 6. Director Carmolli explained that students are transiting to middle school and in addition to developmental changes, there are big shifts in rigor, standards, and content; particularly in math. She added that this trend is not specific to Colchester.

VII. Quarterly Special Education Report **Information**

Director of Special Education Carrie Lutz shared an updated format of the quarterly special education report. This format further breaks down the enrollment numbers and ensures consistency in their tracking. She noted that special education enrollment continues to rise. In the last four years, the district has seen an increase of over 50 students enrolled in special education. In addition, the district is continuing to see the needs of students increase. The county and state are seeing the same enrollment and intensity trends. The alternative schools in the area all have waitlists.

Director Kieny asked if it is common for students to progress enough to exit the special education program. Director Lutz stated this does happen and her department does track that data, including the reason why the student exited. She offered to include that data in the next quarterly report.

VIII. First Reading of the Threats and Disruptions to School Operations: F7 **Action**

This policy was last reviewed in 2003 and has come up in the revision cycle. Edits were made to expand the policy to more accurately reflect the type of threats occurring across the country. The policy has been reviewed by the district's attorneys. Director Taylor had two grammar edits.

Director Cox moved to approve the first reading of Threats and Disruptions to School Operations Policy, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

IX. Approval of Personnel Consent Agenda **Action**

The following Personnel Consent Agenda was presented for November 6, 2018.

PERSONNEL CONSENT AGENDA

Board Date: November 6, 2018

Licensed Employees (Teacher/Administrator)

Contract Type	First Name	Last Name	Category	Position	FTE/Hours	Building	Agenda Information	Person Replacing	Budgeted	Admin Support
Teacher	Anita	Dayvie	New Hire	Physical Education Teacher, Long-Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	CHS	Request to Hire	Courtney Goetz	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Thomas	McAllister	New Hire	Grade 6 Elementary Teacher, Long-Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	CMS	Request to Hire	Kylie Nehrebauer	Yes	Yes
Teacher	Mathew	Pause	New Hire	Math Teacher, Long-Term Substitute	1.0 FTE	CHS	Request to Hire	Jamie Mulcahy	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
Co-Curricular	Lindsey	Baldwin	End of Employment	Drama Coach		CMS	Notice of End of Employment			Yes
Co-Curricular	Matthew	Schofield	New Hire	Girls Hockey Assistant Coach		CHS	Notice of Hire	Josh Thibault	Yes	Yes
Co-Curricular	Robert	Toms	New Hire	Drama Coach		CMS	Notice of Hire	Lindsey Baldwin	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Morgan	Beck	New Hire	Paraeducator - Special Education	32.5 hr	MBS	Notice of Hire		Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Shauna	Knapp	New Hire	Paraeducator - Special Education/Paraeducator	16.25 hr/ 16.25 hr	PPS	Notice of Hire	Skylar Rogers	Yes	Yes
Support Staff	Allison	McCuin	New Hire	Food Service Worker	31.25 hr	CHS	Notice of Hire	Roberta Goddard	Yes	Yes

Director Cox moved to approve the personnel consent agenda as provided, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

X. Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2018 Action

Director Kieny moved to approve the minutes of October 16, 2018, seconded by Director Cox. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

XI. Approval of Minutes: October 30, 2018 Action

Director Cox moved to approve the minutes of October 30, 2018, seconded by Director Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

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

- Superintendent Minor congratulated the CHS Ladies Soccer team on an impressive and hard-fought season. They fell to CVU in the Division 1 final over the weekend.

XIII. Possible Future Agenda Items Information

Future Meetings:

- Budget Discussions
- Discipline Policies
- School Reports
- District Nursing Report

XIV. Adjournment

Director Cox made a motion to adjourn at 9:14 p.m., seconded by Director Kieny. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Recorder:


Meghan Baule
Recording Secretary

Board Clerk:


Craig Kieny
Board Clerk