

Board of Education
November 10, 2020 – Regular Meeting
Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mary Tomasi, Suesen Hickey, Jessica Morozowich, Amy Domeika, Mitch Koziol, Joanne Rose.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Chris McGlynn.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Principal Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara, Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Elise Butson, Director of Teaching and Learning Charles Hewes, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Kathleen Perry, Director of Education Operations Mario Hurtado, Darren Smith Director of Digital Learning and Innovation, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove.

1. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

Chair Mary Tomasi called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with a roll call to establish a quorum.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Burt requested the addition of Pandemic Impact Update as Item 5.5 and to move Item 13.6 Town Diversity and Inclusion Committee to 14.1 Liaison Reports.

Motion by: M. Koziol

to add 5.5 Pandemic Impact Update and to move 13.6 Town Diversity and Inclusion Committee to 14.1 Board Liaison Reports.

Second by: S. Hickey.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

3. CELEBRATIONS

3.1 Welcoming Evelyn Toennes Student BOE Member

Principal Peel introduced Student Evelyn Toennes who will be a student board member.

3.2 Introduction of New School Resource Officer Mike Brown

Officer Brown was unable to attend this evening and will be invited to the next meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments received.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Communications

Letters regarding the reopening of school have been received from Michael Dubreuil, Valerie Parekh and Candace Cerda.

5.2. 2021-2022 Budget Updates

Superintendent Burt is working with the Board of Finance to set dates for budget discussions in December and for a late February budget presentation. Superintendent Burt has met with building principals and directors to discuss priorities and the pressing needs of school departments around the pandemic and how to come back and bring budget to minimum standard. Superintendent Burt would like to start the dialogue sooner with online public discussion leading to a formal presentation in March

5.3 Reopening Planning Update

Thursday, November 12, 2020, is the date for the younger students to begin in-person

learning. Principal O'Meara and Principal Butson stated they are ready and thanked the custodial staff for their help in getting prepared.

5.4 Update on Voluntary At Home Learners (VAHL) Program

Dr. Hewes and Superintendent Burt provided an update on the Voluntary At-Home Learners Program that currently totals 241 students. The updates include improved goals that no longer require parent attendance, increased instructional time, provide a guaranteed curriculum. There will be virtual classes for K-5 and virtual tutoring for grades 6-12.

5.5. Pandemic Impact Update

There have been 16 cases since start of school in September. Superintendent Burt said they have not seen student to student transmission so far. The schools are going through custodial supplies more quickly as they are being provided to teachers.

6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING

6.1 4000-2T Employee Use of District's Computer Systems and Electronic Communications

6.2 5000-5T Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

6.3 5000-6T Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety

6.4 4113-4P Job Sharing

6.5 5141.22P Communicable/Infectious Diseases

6.6 5145-11P Questioning and Apprehension

6.7 5145-6P Student Grievance Procedures

6.8 9132 Bylaw: Guidelines on Ad Hoc Committees

As these are all first readings, no action was taken.

7. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Diversity Committee Discussion

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

7.2. Morozowich Funding Presentation

J. Morozowich presented the Board members with a written explanation /definition of the various funds within the Town of Colchester prepared by M. Cosgrove. These are terms used by the Board of Finance during budget season and will be helpful in understanding the process.

7.3 2020-2021 Calendar Adjustment

Superintendent Burt presented adjustments to the school calendar through the end of January. These changes reflect a shift in the educational model beginning November 12, 2020.

Wednesdays will be shortened days for all schools. These days will be used for teacher collaboration, professional development, to update planning, etc.

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the adjustments to the 2020-2021 school calendar through January 2021.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.4 In-School Suspension Coordinator Position Description

This position was in the budget but has not been filled to date.

Motion by: A. Domeik to approve the position description for In-School Suspension Coordinator at Bacon Academy.

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.5 Projected Enrollment Until 2030

Superintendent Burt reviewed the projected enrollment analysis for Colchester Public Schools until 2030.

7.6 2020-2021 Snow Days Discussion

The school calendar provides for inclement weather days. For the first two days, school will be closed as they have been traditionally in the past and no instruction will take place on these two days. The third day will be remote learning. These days will be made up with the built-in inclement weather days. If there is a power outage, school will be closed and there will be no instruction. If all built-in days are used, days will be added at the end of school.

8. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

8.1 Title I Grants

Title 1, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1964, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, is a non-competitive grant allocated to districts across the country with the intent of improving academic programming for struggling students. Allocations are distributed to schools at the district level based upon the percentage of students receiving free and/or reduced lunch. This grant is for \$304,651.

8.2 Title II Grants

Title II, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 is a non-competitive grant allocated to districts across the country with the intent of supporting the professional learning of faculty and administration. This grant is for \$53,117.

8.3 Title III Grants

The Title III is a non-competitive grant allocated to districts across the country with the intent of supporting English Learner. Due to the limited amount of funding, Colchester Public Schools is required to be a part of a consortium headed by EASTConn. This grant is for \$1,599.

8.4. Title IV Grants

Title IV is a non-competitive Title IV, Part A, SSAE grant has been allocated to districts across the country with the intent of improving students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of local communities to:

- a) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
- b) improve school conditions for student learning; and
- c) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. This grant is for \$18,399.

Motion by: S. Hickey

to accept Title 1, II, III and IV Grants totaling \$377,766.

Second by: M. Koziol.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

9. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT – None at this time.

10. CONTINUED DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Approval of Administrator Contract

The contract between the Colchester Board of Education and the Colchester Association of School Administrators was presented for approval.

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the Administrators' Contract for 2021-2024

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICIES

11.1 4112P Appointment and Conditions of Employment

11.2 4112.7P Orientation

11.3 4116P Probationary/Tenure Status

11.4 4117.1P Retirement

11.5 5156P Conducting Research in Schools

No action on the above policies.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

12.1 Approval of October 13, 2020 BOE Meeting Minutes

J. Rose asked to have information amended regarding the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. These minutes will be on the next agenda for approval.

12.2 Approval of November 2, 2020 Special BOE Meeting

Motion by: M. Koziol

to approve the November 2, 2020 Special BOE Meeting minutes.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve Item 12.2 November 2, 2020 minutes.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

13.1 Policy – no report.

13.2 Budget

J. Morozowich noted that CFO Cosgrove projects a loss for the cafeteria fund for the rest of the year.

J. Morozowich met with M. Cosgrove to discuss the terminology as it refers to the various funds that exist. M. Cosgrove prepared an explanation of each fund that will help the Board members as they move through the budget process. The technology reserve is very low, Pay to Play refund is still possible. Some sports may still be played so a possible refund will be determined at a later date.

13.3 Personnel – no report

13.4 Ad-Hoc Curriculum – no report

13.5 School Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

J. Rose reported that goals are being determined, training for committee members is being researched.

13.6 Town Diversity and Inclusion Committee - Moved to 14.1.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

14.1. Town Diversity and Inclusion Committee

J. Rose stated the committee is inviting guest speakers from town departments, religious groups, other groups to discuss diversity in those areas.

Other Liaison Reports -

S. Hickey reported that the Youth First has hired a full time program coordinator. Several programs are being planned to include suicide prevention, vaping and road rage.

C3 has become a town department to help families and children. They are in the process of setting up a task force.

A. Domeika reported that the Board of Finance members are having a discussion about changing how it is accessed. At the last meeting the Fire Department gave a presentation on the need for six new trucks and an ambulance. The Park & Recreation Commission interviewed five citizens for four vacancies on the commission.

15. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

15.1 CSDE Report on Student Attendance

15.2 CSDE Analysis of Preliminary Public School Enrollment in 2020-2021

15.3 Next Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Policy Committee	11/23/2020	5:30 PM	Virtual
Budget Committee	12/3/2020	9:00 AM	Virtual
Board of Education	12/8/2020	6:00 PM	Virtual
Personnel Committee	12/7/2020	5:30 PM	Virtual

15.4 Monthly Student Enrollment

15.5 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2020 – Board of Education Meeting – 6:00 pm

15.6 Monthly Budget Reports

15.7 Cafeteria Fund

15.8 2021 Committee Meeting dates

15.9 Budget Transfer Under \$5,000 – None at this time

15.10. Regulations – None at this time

Information items only, no action taken.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tomasi adjourned this meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jane Slade

Recording Secretary