



**COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Colchester, CT

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022**  
**6:00 PM**  
**ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Alexander Oliphant, Vice-Chair Mary Tomasi, Secretary Margo Gignac, Donna Antonacci, Rosemary Gignac, Michelle Millington, Christopher Rivers

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Thomas Y. McDowell, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Charles E. Hewes, Bacon Academy Principal Amy Begué

OTHERS PRESENT: Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk Heather Petit, Student Board Member Ryan Moores

1. **MEETING OPENING**

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Oliphant called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

1.2 Roll Call

Chair Oliphant conducted a roll call of the Board.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Oliphant led the Board and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

2.1 New Agenda Items

3. **RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

3.1 Welcome Student Board Members Brooke Dean and Ryan Moores

Chair Oliphant welcomed Brooke Dean and Ryan Moores to the Board of Education as student board members.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

4.1 For Public Comments, Please See Bylaw on Meeting Conduct  
None.

5. **REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

5.1 District Update from the Superintendent

Dr. McDowell read a letter from the Colchester Youth Action Council regarding vaping

detectors in Bacon Academy bathrooms. They will be reaching out to meet with Bacon Academy Principal Amy Begué.

## 5.2 Bacon Academy Presentations

### National Honor Society

Grace Gorreck, President of the National Honor Society (NHS), and NHS Vice-President Ryan Moores, gave a presentation on NHS projects and happenings. NHS has a total of 23 members and completed 717 service hours last year. These included a holiday gift drive, community cleanup, Harrington Court snowmen, American Red Cross Blood Drive, and Bacon Academy courtyard, median and sign beautification.

Ms. Begué thanked Mr. Moores and Ms. Gorreck as well as NHS' past advisor Michael Mal and current advisor, Chelsea Salafia

### Bacon Academy Carolers

The Bacon Academy Carolers sang holiday music for the Board of Education.

## 6. \*CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 \*Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of November 22, 2022
- 6.2 \*BA Choir Department Fundraising Request - Choir Concert Bake Sale
- 6.3 \*BA Baseball Team Fundraising Request - 50/50 Raffle
- 6.4 \*BA DECA/Business Department Fundraising Request - Non-Perishable Food and Canned Good Collection for Colchester Food Bank
- 6.5 \*BA SOAR Fundraising Request - Stickers
- 6.6 \*BA Freshman Class Fundraising Request - Sweet Holiday Grams
- 6.7 \*BA Field Trip to Providence, RI for Developmental Track Meet
- 6.8 \*Donation from Colchester Youth Basketball - CES Backboard Repairs

**Motion by:** M.Tomasi

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

**Second:** R.Gignac

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Roll Call:** M.Gignac, D.Antonacci, C.Rivers, R.Gignac, M.Tomasi, M.Millington, A.Oliphant

## 7. \*POLICY DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1 \*Bylaw 9323 Agenda Construction/Meeting Materials
- 7.2 \*1205 Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination
- 7.3 \*Series 3000 Donation or Gifts to Schools or District Policy

**Motion by:** M.Tomasi

To approve the updated Bylaw 9323 Agenda Construction/Meeting Materials as presented.

**Second:** C.Rivers

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Roll Call:** C.Rivers, M.Millington, M.Gignac, M.Tomasi, D.Antonacci, R.Gignac, A.Oliphant

**Motion by:** D.Antonacci

To remove Policy 1205 Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination

**Second:** C.Rivers

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Roll Call:** C.Rivers, M.Millington, M.Gignac, M.Tomasi, D.Antonacci, R.Gignac, A.Oliphant

**Motion by:** M.Millington

To approve policy 3280 Gifts, Grants and Bequests to the District (formerly Series 3000 Donation or Gifts to Schools or District Policy) as presented.

**Second:** R.Gignac

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Roll Call:** M.Gignac, D.Antonacci, C.Rivers, R.Gignac, M.Millington, M.Tomasi, A.Oliphant

8. **\*PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

8.1 \*Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2023

**Motion by:** M.Gignac

To approve the Board of Education Meeting Schedule Dates for 2023

**Second:** R.Gignac

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Roll Call:** C.Rivers, M.Gignac, D.Antonacci, M.Millington, M.Tomasi, R.Gignac, A.Oliphant

9. **REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS**

9.1 Reports from Board Liaisons

**Town Board and Commissions**

Board of Selectmen: None.

Board of Finance: Meeting is December 14, 2022 with possible additional budget dates.

P&R Parent Commission: None.

C3 Collaborative: December 8, 2022 meeting moved to January 26, 2023.

Youth & Social Services: Letter from Youth Action Coalition regarding vape detectors in Bacon Academy bathrooms. Colchester Youth & Social Services noted that needs of students and community are higher than in the past and as they are short staffed they need to utilize crisis management services through 211.

Commission on Aging: Mary Tomasi reported that at the December 12, 2022 meeting they discussed the senior center project and an injunction. There will be a hearing held on December 20, 2022 at 2:00 PM.

Board of Education Liaisons

Personnel: None.

Policy: See above section 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3

Curriculum: Margo Gignac met with Dr. Hewes on curriculum and the presentation he gave to the Board at the November meeting.

Student Wellness: None.

Budget: Christopher Rivers will attend the Board of Finance Meeting on December 14, 2022 and will meet with Chair Oliphant, Superintendent Dr. McDowell, and Business Director Rachel Linkkila on Friday, December 15, 2022.

**Motion by:** M.Gignac

To rescind the motion to approve the Board of Education Meeting Schedule Dates for 2023 and table the schedule of meeting dates until the January 10, 2023 meeting which will be the next meeting.

**Second:** M. Tomasi

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Roll Call:** M.Gignac, D.Antonacci, C.Rivers, R.Gignac, M.Millington, M.Tomasi, A.Oliphant

10. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 Next Meetings

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

10.2 Enrollment Report

Current enrollment is 2265 students.

10.3 Notices of Retirement/Resignation

Pamela Cannata

Marlene Blumberger

John Shea

Olivia Sirois

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

11.1 For Public Comments, Please See Bylaw on Meeting Conduct

None.

The Board thanked Dr. McDowell for his service to the Board, students, and Colchester community and welcomed Daniel P. Sullivan, III to Colchester.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Oliphant adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather R. Petit

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk