

Board of Education
January 14, 2020 – Regular Meeting
Colchester Elementary School Cafeteria

(Corrected 2/11/2020)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mary Tomasi, Vice Chair Chris McGlynn, Amy Domeika, Sue Hickey, Jessica Morozowich, Joanne Rose; Student Members Nick Janus and Shannon Hickey.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mitch Koziol

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Jeffrey Burt, Bacon Academy Principal Matt Peel, William J. Johnston Middle School Principal Chris Bennett, 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 Information Technology Darren Smith, Director of Education Operations Ken Jackson, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Liaison Denise Mizla.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Mary Tomasi called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Second grade students Taylor Hardy and Lilah Martz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Chair Tomasi presented the students with pledge cards for their participation.

2. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No additions or changes were requested.

3. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

3.1 Communications

Superintendent Burt noted that further information regarding concerns about the Pre-School lottery and tuition will be available soon.

3.2 Introduction of Mario Hurtado, new Director of Educational Operations

The Board welcomed Mario Hurtado to the district as Director of Educational Operations. Mario has an extensive background in operations management with over 26 years of experience as a Director of Buildings and Property Manager. For the last 8 years Mario has been the Director of Buildings and Grounds at the Rectory School in Connecticut, managing 110 acres with 29 buildings. Mario will be taking over the responsibilities of Ken Jackson's position effective January 27, 2020.

3.3 Recognition of Katherine Kosiba, Garden Club President

The Board of Education recognized Katherine Kosiba, President of Colchester's Garden Club, for her dedication and hard work with the day lily fundraising project and subsequent plantings for Bacon Academy.

3.4 Recognition of Innovators of the Month from William J. Johnston School: Kristina Ngai and Kelli Cauffman

Kelli Cauffman and Kristina Ngai are two people who are constantly engaged in thinking about providing opportunities for students to engage their critical thinking, creativity, and ingenuity in and out of the classroom.

Kelli understands that technology is constantly evolving and she prepares students to adapt to current trends, as well as prepare them for future advancements. In her class students spend time on specific areas of focus, that allow them to specialize in content of interest.

Kristina works with students so they are able to apply their skills, knowledge, and creativity to solve relevant real world problems and explore new ideas. She helps students overcome obstacles and break down barriers, to develop or create something unique or solve a problem.

A video was shown highlighting the students' amazing accomplishments through technology.

3.5 Recognition of Bradley Bernier

The Colchester Board of Education recognized Bradley Bernier for his 10 years of dedicated service to the BOE, School District, and Colchester Community.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Tomasi presented B. Bernier with a token of appreciation for his service on the Board.

3.6 Recognition of Mary Bylone

The Colchester Board of Education recognized Mary Bylone for her two years of dedicated service to the BOE, School District, and Colchester Community.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Tomasi presented M. Bylone with a token of appreciation for her service on the Board.

3.7 Recognition of Jason Violette

The Colchester Board of Education recognized Jason Violette for his dedicated service to the BOE, School District, and Colchester Community. J. Violette was unable to attend.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Tomasi will present J. Violette with a token of appreciation for his service on the Board.

3.8 Recognition of Kendall Jackson

The Colchester Board of Education recognized Ken Jackson for his seven years of dedicated service to the BOE, School District, and Colchester Community.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Tomasi presented K. Jackson with a token of appreciation for his service on the Board.

3.9 District Technology Update on Digital Conversion 5-Year Plan

Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Charles Hewes and Director of Information Technology Darren Smith presented the district technology update on the digital conversion 5-year plan.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ronald Goldstein, as former Board member and Chair, stated he wanted recognize the service of B. Bernier, M. Byline, K. Jackson, and K. Kosiba given to the Board of Education and the Town.

K. Kosiba spoke in reference to the Chromebooks given to students – security issues, responsibility for loss, damage, recycling, upgrading, etc. K. Kosiba asked if the Board would consider a partnership with the Colchester Community Partnership to establish a town location, possibly one of the schools, for community groups to use built in projection equipment. The only place available is Cragin Memorial Library and only on Mondays where scheduling for the year fills up fast.

5. PRIORITY DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS – None

6. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR FIRST READING

6.1. 1180P Memorials to Deceased students and Staff

This policy will be sent back to committee for further review.

6.2. 3110P Budget Planning

As this is a first reading, no action was taken.

6.3. 9402 Bylaw: Facilities Review

As this is a first reading, no action was taken.

7. GRANTS/OTHER FINANCIALS

7.1 4500 Grant to JJIS from Exxon Mobil

Derek Jette from Global Partners presented JJIS with a \$500 grant from ExxonMobil Educational Alliance. This is the third year in a row that JJIS has been presented with this grant.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to accept the \$500 grant from ExxonMobil Educational Alliance to Jack Jackter Intermediate School.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.2 Budget Transfers Over \$5,000 – None at this time

8. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/ASSESSMENT

8.1 Update on Curriculum

Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Charles Hewes noted that the membership of Committee A and Committee B for the curriculum update will need to be revised. Dr. Hewes will contact Chair Tomasi with further information and Board members may then volunteer for a committee.

8.2 Colchester Youth Services is working in collaboration with Colchester Public Schools on implementing a suicide prevention curriculum. This is a result of a

2-year grant from the Connecticut Networks of Care for School Systems Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Promotion Project. The program, called SOS (Signs of Suicide) is prescribed for middle (grade 7) and high school (grade 9) students.

This policy will be sent back to committee for further review.

9. CONTINUED DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

9.1 WJMS Building Project Update

No report at this time.

10. POLICIES/REGULATIONS FOR SECOND READING

10.1 5118.1P Homeless Children and Youth

The Policy Committee reviewed this policy and made suggested revisions based on CABA recommendations.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the revised policy 5118.1P Homeless Children and Youth.

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Abstaining: J. Rose.

In favor: All others present. Motion approved. (5-1).

10.2. 5131.6P Drugs Alcohol Tobacco

The Policy Committee reviewed this policy and has made suggested revisions based on new legislation regarding unauthorized possession of tobacco products on school property at any time.

Motion by: J. Morozowich

to approve the revised policy 5131.6P Drugs Alcohol Tobacco.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

10.3. 5141.214P and 5141.214R Sunscreen Application in School

The Policy Committee reviewed this new CABA-proposed policy and regulation based on new legislation regarding the use of sunscreen by students.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the revised policy and regulation 5141.214P and 5141.214R Sunscreen Application in School.

Second by: J. Rose.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

10.4 5144P Student Discipline

The Policy Committee reviewed this policy and has recommended revisions based on new legislation regarding expulsions.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the revised policy 5144P Student Discipline.

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

10.5. 5144.4P Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students

The Policy Committee reviewed this new CABA-proposed policy based on new

Board of Education

January 14, 2020 – Regular Meeting

legislation regarding physical exercise and discipline.

Motion by: A. Domeika

to approve the new policy 5144.4P Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students.

Second by: J. Morozowich.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

10.6 Bylaw 9221 Filling Vacancies

The Policy Committee has reviewed this Bylaw and is suggesting minor revisions.

This policy is tabled to be sent back to committee for further review.

10.7. Bylaw 9271 Code of Ethics

The Policy Committee reviewed this Bylaw and is recommending a replacement with a CABE-suggested policy.

Motion by: J. Rose

to approve the revised Bylaw 9271 Code of Ethics.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

11.1 Approval of 12/10/2019 BOE Minutes

11.2 Approval of 12/9/2019 Special Meeting Minutes

11.3 Approval of 12/10/19 Special Meeting Minutes

11.4 Approval of 1/7/2020 5:00 PM Special Meeting Minutes

11.5 Disposal of Obsolete Materials

11.6 Notification of Resignation: Cate Tsahalís

11.7 Notification of Resignation : Ryan Florentine

11.8 Field Trips – None

Motion by: C. McGlynn

to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Second by: A. Domeika.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

12. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

12.1. Policy – no further report.

12.2. Budget –

J. Morozowich was elected as interim chair at the January 9, 2020, budget meeting.

This meeting was a ‘financial training’ meeting for new members. CFO M. Cosgrove reviewed significant line items, Director K. Perry reviewed the out-of-district tuition placements. A deficit has occurred due to the unexpected hiring of key “high demand” positions. However, savings have been identified for approximately half of the deficit and a soft freeze is in place.

12.3. Personnel – no report.

12.4. Ad-Hoc Curriculum- no report.

12.5. A-Hoc Consolidation – no report.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD LIAISONS

CES PTO Liaison - J. Morozowich stated she was pleased to hear the pre-school lottery and tuition questions will be addressed.

Commission on Aging Liaison - Chair Tomasi reported that the Commission on Aging is planning a co-generational presentation, “*Food, Stuff, Water and Energy*”, to be held in April with the BA Environmental Club. Also, the Senior Center Building Committee has received four bids for architectural design and hopes to select an architect by the end of January. Chair Tomasi reported that the Senior Center membership has increased 142% since 2013.

14. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT and INFORMATION ITEMS

14.1 Next Meetings

14.2. Enrollment for January 2020

14.3. Regulations – None at this time

14.4 Approved Committee Meeting Minutes

14.5. Monthly Budget Reports

14.6 Health Insurance Reserve Analysis

14.7. Budget transfers Under \$5,000 – None at this time

Information items only, no action taken.

15. INFORMATION ITEMS: NON-SUBSTANTIVE POLICY CHANGES

15.1 9300 Methods of Operation

15.2 9310 Development, Distribution and Maintenance of Policies, Regulations, and Bylaws

15.3 9313 Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Administrative Regulations

15.4 9314 Suspension of Policies, Bylaws and Regulations

15.5. 9320 Meetings

15.6 9321.1 Work Sessions

15.7 9325.1 Quorum

15.8 9325.3 Parliamentary Procedures

15.9. 9401 Policy Review

Information items only, no action taken.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW ISSUES RAISED OR SUBJECTS DEVELOP

No comments received.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

17.1 Superintendent Midyear Evaluation Update

Motion by: A. Domeika

to go into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent’s midyear evaluation

Second by: C. McGlynn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve. Time: 8:47 pm.

Chair Tomasi brought the Board out of Executive Session at 10:20 pm.

No action taken.

Board of Education
January 14, 2020 – Regular Meeting

18. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tomasi adjourned this meeting at 10:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Recording Secretary