



Colchester Board of Education Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2014
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: William J. Johnston Middle School
 Media Center

Board Members Present: Ronald Goldstein, Donald Kennedy, Michael Egan, Brad Bernier, Michael Voiland, student member Lauren Hickey,
 Late arrivals: 9:00pm Mitchell Koziol, 7:58pm student member Mitchell Hallee

Board Members Absent: Mary Tomasi

Administration Present: Superintendent Jeff Mathieu, Principal Deb Sandberg, Assistant Principal Jennifer Olsen, Interim Principal Amity Goss, Assistant Principal Linda Iacobellis, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove, Board of Finance Liaison Rob Esteve, Director of Educational Operations Ken Jackson, Director of Teaching and Learning Barbara Gilbert, Director of Pupil Services Kathie Shaughnessy

1. Call to Order

Chairman Ronald Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

2. Citizen Comments - none this meeting

3. Additions to the Agenda by the Board of Education

7.6 Celebrations – ECSOA BA Girls Soccer Sportsmanship recognition

10.5 Field trip – Bacon Academy Community Activism 11-12 to Heifer International Farm Global Gateway Antipoverty Program

4. Citizen Comments on Additions to the Agenda – none this meeting

5. Approval of Minutes

Included for the Board of Education approval are the minutes of the:

- October 14, 2014 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- October 15, 2014 Tri-Board Meeting
- October 28, 2014 Board of Education Special Meeting

Motion: D. Kennedy

To approve the minutes of the October 14, 2014 Board of Education Regular Meeting as amended to read that Alyssa Kranc is a BA senior not junior.

Second by: B. Bernier

Vote: Unanimous for approval

Motion: B. Bernier

To approve the minutes of the October 15, 2014 Tri-Board Meeting

Second by: D. Kennedy

Vote: Unanimous; 1 abstention Michael Egan

Motion: D. Kennedy

To approve the minutes of the October 28, 2014 Board of Education Special Meeting

Second by: B. Bernier

Vote: Unanimous; 1 abstention Michael Voiland

6. Communications/Correspondence – none this meeting

7. Celebrations

7.1 CPS Cafeteria Staff Offer First Farm to School Menu Items

Chairman Goldstein, Superintendent Mathieu, and Student Board member Lauren Hickey introduced and thanked Cafeteria Supervisor Sharon Floyd for her work on the Farm to School initiative. The Farm to Schools Program launched its first menu item, Kale, on Friday, October 31, to students in all four Colchester Public Schools. The kale was purchased locally in Salem and prepared by Cafeteria Supervisor Sharon Floyd and her hardworking teams. Kale Caesar salad and kale chips were served. According to students, it was a tremendous success.

Ms. Floyd worked closely with Mitchell, Lauren, and Bacon Academy Student Council President Erica Boucher and advisor Thomas Frickman on this project. Chairman Goldstein presented a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement to Sharon Floyd.

7.2 School Security Competitive Grant Award

Director of Educational Operations Ken Jackson applied for a State of CT School Security Competitive grant in September. Colchester Public Schools was awarded a grant, in the amount of \$143,485.54. The money is designated for reimbursement of funds spent on, or budgeted for, school security projects. Some projects have already been completed and will be reimbursed, while others need to be completed by June 2015.

Chairman Ron Goldstein presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ken Jackson.

7.3 CES and JJIS Media Specialists Present at State Conference

Principals Sandberg and Goss introduced JJIS Media Specialist Barbara Johnson and recognized CES Media Specialist Maureen Schlosser who was not present. Ms. Schlosser and Ms. Johnson were selected to present their innovative ideas at the joint 2014 Connecticut Educators Computer Association (CECA) and Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL) Conference. Ms. Schlosser's presentation; "Using Technology and Information to Promote Your Program" is designed to promote programs with digital stories, annual reports, and usage reports. Ms. Johnson presented a hands-on session; "Teaching Information Literacy in 45 Days or Less."

Ms. Johnson has innovated many programs throughout JJIS such as livestreaming town meetings and working with staff to become more comfortable and familiar with Google apps. Chairman Goldstein presented Barbara with a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement.

7.4 Literacy Night at JJIS is Very Successful

JJIS Principal Sandberg introduced Lynne McCune, Reading and Language Arts Consultant, and Renee Anderson-Byrne, SRBI Paraprofessional, who facilitated

Literacy Night. Students and their families came together to celebrate the 5th Annual Literacy Night at Jack Jackter Intermediate School on Thursday, October 23, 2014. It was a huge success with an amazing turnout and lots of activities which were fun for the whole family. JJIS is one of the select Connecticut Higher Order Thinking (HOT) schools, noted for strong arts, arts integration, and democratic practice. Chairman Goldstein presented Certificates of Achievement to both Lynne McCune and Renee Anderson-Byrne.

7.5 CABE Award –Honorable Mentions for Excellence in Educational Communications

Each year the CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE) presents educational communication awards to those districts or schools effectively communicating with parents and taxpayers. This year Colchester Public Schools received honorable mentions in the District Budget Award category for the Superintendent Proposed Budget and in the Web Sites category for CPS Website.

7.6 ECSSOA BA Girls Soccer Sportsmanship recognition

ECSSOA recognized the Bacon Academy Girls Soccer team as a team of distinction and commended the conduct portrayed by Coaches Jeff Rich and Jillian Guerrette, and by the students.

8. Administrative Reports

8.1 Superintendent's Reports

8.1.1 Resources for Curriculum Implementation

Barbara Gilbert, Director of Teaching and Learning, shared with the Board the report on the district's efforts to fund the implementation of newly approved curricula and the progress of funding those curriculum initiatives over the past seven years. This has allowed the Colchester Public School Systems to remain well ahead of comparable surrounding districts in our vision for excellent instruction and professional growth.

Financial Reports

8.2.1 Budget Report – D. Kennedy briefly summarized status to date

8.2.2 Request for Budget Transfers – none this meeting

8.2.3 Notification of Transfers – none this meeting

8.2.4 Health Insurance Account – D. Kennedy briefly summarized status to date

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 WJJMS Building Project Update

Chairman Goldstein and Superintendent Mathieu shared with the Board the update on the WJJMS Building Project. The building committee has been meeting every two weeks and has three distinct building options for the project. Chairman Goldstein encourages members of the Board, and the public, to attend those very informative meetings. The Building Committee will report their progress to the Tri-boards at a meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014.

9.2 Honeywell Energy Cost Avoidance Report

Director of Educational Operations Ken Jackson presented a summary of the Honeywell Energy Cost Avoidance Report. The report is based on the Honeywell Performance Contract Project and the energy saving upgrades made in our buildings. Mr. Jackson advised the Board that the energy savings period will be audited at the end of the guarantee period to ensure projected savings were met.

9.3 Strategic Plan Update

Superintendent Mathieu updated the Board on the progress of the development of the District's long-range Strategic Plan. Several Strategic Plan Focus Groups have successfully met; others are progressing forward and on target. The Steering Committee will collect that data and have a projected date in April to present a draft strategic plan to the Board.

9.4 Bacon Academy Principal Search

Superintendent Mathieu provided the Board with a timeline for the BA Principal search and hiring process. Superintendent Mathieu advised the Board that three board members will be included on the hiring committee. The application closing date will be January 23, 2015.

10. New Business

10.1 Proposed Administrator Job Descriptions

A total of eight proposed job descriptions were developed by the Personnel Committee, district administrators, and Superintendent Mathieu to mirror the new state requirements and evaluation process.

Motion: D. Kennedy

To approve the proposed job descriptions for principals and assistant principals at each school level.

Second: B. Bernier

Vote: unanimous for approval

10.2 Donations

Motion: B. Bernier

To accept donations, totaling \$109, to be used for JJIS grades three and four scholarship field trips from the Bell & Vachon, Brown, Burton, Field, Goodwin, Reas, Romanowski, Starzec-Ducharme, and Tellar families as a block.

Second: D. Kennedy

Vote: unanimous for approval

10.3 Notification of Resignation

Motion: D. Kennedy

To accept the resignation of kindergarten teacher Lauren Mullaney.

Second: B. Bernier

Vote: unanimous for approval

10.4 Colchester Budget Priority Survey

The Board of Finance is looking for input from the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen as it moves forward with the proposed Colchester Budget Priority Survey. The Tri-Board Subcommittees presented the first draft of their proposed Budget Priority Survey which is currently setup in an alphabetical order so as not to persuade a rating by the public; it will be distributed via Survey Monkey with no restriction in IP addresses and will be open for a specific timeframe. This is only an information source not a source for definitive data. Discussion was held and the survey questions will be revised and brought back to the Board for further discussion.

10.5 Field trip – Bacon Academy Community Activism grades 11-12 to Heifer International Farm Global Gateway Antipoverty Program, Rutland, MA, May 18-20, 2015.

Motion: M. Egan

To approve the Bacon Academy Community Activism field trip for grades 11-12 to Heifer International Farm Global Gateway Antipoverty Program, Heifer Farm, Rutland MA, May 18-20, 2015

Second: D. Kennedy

Vote: unanimous for approval

11. Chairman's Reports

11.1 Report from Representatives to Tri-Board Subcommittees

Chairman Goldstein shared that updates were reported during previous items of business.

12. Committee Reports - None this meeting

13. Information Items

13.1 Enrollment

13.2 Student Achievement Report

13.3 In-District Professional Development on November 4

Board member M. Egan left the meeting

14. Executive Session

14.1 Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

14.2 Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract

Motion: B. Bernier

To enter into executive session for purpose of discussing items 14.1, 14.2 and invite Superintendent Mathieu into the session.

Second: M. Egan

Vote: unanimous for approval. Time: 8:45pm

M. Koziol arrived 9:00pm

Chairman Goldstein brought the Board out of Executive Session at 9:51pm

14.1 Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

Motion: B. Bernier

To approve the unpaid leave of absence as requested.

Second: D. Kennedy

Vote: Unanimous

14.2 Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract

Motion: D. Kennedy

To approve the Superintendent's evaluation and table action on the Superintendent's contract until the December 9, 2014 Board meeting.

Second: B. Bernier

Vote: Unanimous

15. Adjournment

Motion: D. Kennedy
To adjourn the meeting

Second: B. Bernier

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Goldstein adjourned the meeting at 9:53pm

Respectfully submitted,
Audrie Babineau
Recording Clerk