

**Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut**

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 8, 2015
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:26 p.m.:

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairman
Eugene Marchand
William Oros
Denise Ryan
Michael Sobol

Board Members Absent:

Mary Minor, Secretary

Others Present:

David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Carroll, Business Manager
Allen Andrews, Student Board of Education Representative

Audience Members Present: Barbara Trinks, PSSS Director; Carla Kennedy, Director of Educational Technology; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dennis Stanavage, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Jon Landry, CNH Teacher; Sarah Landry, CNH Teacher; Ken Goodale, CNH Teacher; Lisa McLean; Laura de la Llave, CHS Teacher; and several community members, parents and students.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

Dave Hitchcock, 30 Willow Glen Drive, said he wanted to address a concern about his daughter, who attends Great Path Academy, and that the new CHS security procedures will not allow his daughter access the building any longer in the morning before she is picked up by the bus. Mr. Petrone offered his contact information and encouraged Mr. Hitchcock to reach out to him for some suggestions.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Mr. Petrone reviewed the morning events and the schools being open early for students due to the severe cold weather. He thanked many people for their cooperation and assistance.

Mr. Petrone reviewed events, programs and workshops he has attended, both in and out of the district over the past month.

IV.A. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report

Mr. Andrews reviewed items and events happening at Coventry High School. He also noted the Program of Studies night scheduled for January 21.

IV.B. Information: Student Recognition - CAPSS Superintendent Student Awards: Hannah LeVasseur, Sean Power, Allyson Dickerson, and Adam Grace

Mr. Petrone reviewed the program that took place in November. He introduced Mr. Blake and Ms. DeJulius who each talked about the students recognized at their schools. Mr. Petrone presented each student with a token of appreciation from the Board. There was congratulations from the Board and the audience.

IV.C. Information: CNH Student and Community Recognition - Coventry Human Services, Thanksgiving Adopt a Family Food Drive

Mr. Petrone showed a video, produced by CNH students, showcasing the Food Drive for Coventry Human Services' Adopt-a-Family Program at Thanksgiving time.

Lisa McLean introduced students from the CNH Student Council, who were involved in the Food Drive. The students talked about other items and events that they are involved in. Ken Goodale also said a few words about the work that was done.

Mr. Petrone presented Mr. Goodale and Ms. McLean with a gift of appreciation.

J. Beausoleil said she was very proud of the diversity of the activities the students are involved in, in giving back to the community.

MOTION: To move New Business item A "VOTE: Approve the CHS April 2016 Field Experience to France and Spain" to the next item on the agenda

By: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. A. VOTE: Approve the CHS April 2016 Field Experience to France and Spain

J. Beausoleil noted there has been a change in the scheduling for this type of trip. Mr. Petrone said that EF Tours is the company handling the trip, which the district has always used and he noted the positive feedback.

MOTION: To approve the CHS April 2016 Field Experience to France and Spain

By: D. Ryan

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV.D. Information: STEM Presentation

Mr. Petrone introduced Ms. DeJulius who shared a presentation on STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics). Ms. DeJulius introduced Sarah and Jon Landry, CNH Science Teachers, who teach STEM classes. Mr. and Mrs. Landry went through and explained the presentation and some of the STEM lessons taught at CNH. Ms. Landry introduced Hannah Toombs and Courtney Lessard, two students who were present to talk about their bridge building class. Ms. DeJulius thanked the staff and student for coming and their work on STEM.

M. Kortmann asked about girls and engineering and the interest. The students talked about that.

J. Beausoleil talked about how this could truly effect career paths for female students.

E. Marchand said it was an impressive presentation.

M. Kortmann asked if computer programming classes were in the future.

Mrs. Landry and Mr. Landry talked about all of the things they would like to see taught.

IV.E. Information: District Improvement Plan 2014-15

Mr. Petrone shared a PowerPoint presentation, a summary of the District Improvement Plan (DIP). He reviewed the reason for an improvement plan and noted that the school's improvement plans are developed from the DIP. He continued and reviewed this year's plan.

E. Marchand said it is a very impressive plan. He noted the portion about partnering with the town, and how important that is for a school system. Mr. Petrone expanded on that importance.

J. Beausoleil said there are positive benefits that come from this plan being long-term, multi-year.

M. Kortmann noted the new teacher programs and if the district is keeping track of how many new teachers are staying or leaving. Mr. Petrone spoke to that and noted that the majority of departures have been due to retirements. He continued to talk about trends and reasons why teachers leave the profession.

E. Marchand said the bar has been set high here in Coventry and it will attract that level of teachers.

V. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil noted that the Town Council has approved the Board's request for use of the 1% non-lapsing account for repair of food service equipment.

She continued and thanked the staff who contributed to preparing the budget.

She noted the decision made by the Superintendent to not have a delay this morning. She said she was pleased with the decision to open the schools early and have a safe warm place for students without disrupting the school schedule.

She noted that there are special meetings coming up and asked that Board members be aware and let staff know if you are not going to make it.

VI. VOTE: Approve minutes of December 4, 2014

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 4, 2014

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: D. Ryan

Result: Motion passes 4-0-2 (W. Oros and M. Sobol abstain)

VII. Old Business - Information: Solar Panel Installation Update

Mr. Stanavage reviewed the work that has been done over the past few weeks. He also talked about what needs to be done, before the switch can be flipped. He spoke to trees that have to be removed and when that would happen.

E. Marchand asked about the bumps that had been found in the roof at CGS. Mr. Stanavage said the warranty company had come out and fixed the issue.

Mr. Stanavage continued talking about the timeline and noted the hope is they will activate the panels in about two weeks.

