

**Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut**

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, February 12, 2015
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:30 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

Also Present:

Allan Andrews, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators Present:

David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Carroll, Business Manager

Audience Members Present: Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Barbara Trinks, PSSS Director; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Carla Kennedy, Director of Education Technology; Dennis Stanavage, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Brian Maltese, Athletic Director; Lyle Evans, Technology Technician; Sarah Landry, K-2 CEP Teacher; Ed and Sue Grace; and several students.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Mr. Petrone reviewed events that have taken place over the past two weeks.

IV.A. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report - Allan Andrews

MOTION: To Approve the minutes of January 29, 2015

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: D. Ryan

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Old Business

VIII.A. Information: Coventry Recreation Department's Rec Daze January 2015 Update and Possible VOTE

J. Beausoleil said this is a two part item - the first is the update of the Rec Daze Program and the second is the approval of continuing a school liaison position for the program. She noted that Recreation staff could not be in attendance, but that the Board would move forward with the information on hand.

Mr. Petrone reviewed the program and the relationship with the district. He noted Ms. Mullaly's involvement. He said the relationship has been very positive and productive on both ends. Mr. Petrone said the district would like to continue the liaison position.

W. Oros asked if this would mean all of the liabilities would be transferred back to the Recreation Department. Mr. Petrone replied yes, and confirmed this is due to the changes in the state law and that the program no longer needs the district's oversight.

Mr. Petrone confirmed the Recreation Department wants to continue to pay a stipend, however they do not know the exact amount yet.

There was consensus with all Board members that it is a great resource and they want to keep the relationship intact.

VIII.B. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY16 Budget

J. Beausoleil noted she was hopeful a vote would happen this evening. She asked the administration if there was any changes since the last meeting.

Mr. Petrone reviewed different figures related to adding a CEP position. In addition, he noted that the .4 FTE nurse that was in the proposed budget is no longer needed, which is a \$17,000 cost. He confirmed there is currently a 1.0 FTE for CEP district-wide.

The Board talked about the CEP benefits. The Board asked if there were other areas that could be adjusted so the final percentage would stay under a 2% increase.

J. Beausoleil asked if the Board would be willing to give the Superintendent the discretion to adjust the budget figures to get to a 1.99% increase. She said this would include cutting the proposed additional .4 FTE nurse and adding a .5 FTE CEP teacher.

M. Sobol said he would like to see the increase stick to below 1.99%.

E. Marchand believes there is a perception issue if we go above a 2% increase, but also believes there is a true need for an additional CEP position.

J. Beausoleil talked about the requirements coming in from the State and that the CEP program is a way for students and the district to meet the requirements.

There was consensus that the bottom line increase would be 1.99%, with the Superintendent bringing back information about what adjustments were made to get there.

J. Beausoleil reviewed the remaining steps that needed to take place in the budget process to get to the May referendum.

MOTION: To approve the FY16 budget at \$27,047,045 a 1.99% increase.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. New Business

IX.A. Reappoint Eugene Marchand to the Cable Television Advisory Committee

J. Beausoleil thanked E. Marchand for his service and thanked him for volunteering to continue on this committee.

IX.B. Discussion and possible VOTE: Approve the 2015-2016 Coventry Public Schools Calendar

J. Beausoleil said this is the last year towns can have individual calendars. She said, with the 2016-17 school year, districts must align with a regional calendar. The Board discussed pros and cons to this concept. It was also noted that there is still discussion happening at the state level regarding this item and it is possible the law could change.

Mr. Petrone reviewed conversations he had with the EAC. He noted that they would like to see more half professional development days added to the calendar.

In addition, he said he spoke with the town's registrars, who would like to see voting back in the schools again.

E. Marchand asked why they would want to vote in the schools, when we have the new fire departments in town. Mr. Petrone reviewed the items that were of a concern to the registrars.

The Board talked about voting options and the Board's options.

M. Kortmann asked about October 9 vs October 13 for staff development, stating that Coventry has October 9 and EASTCONN had October 13. Mr. Petrone talked to that point and said it was the preference of the administration to disturb only one week of school. He continued to review how the discussion process worked at the regional Superintendent level.

J. Beausoleil talked about parent feedback related to the half days and the burden that is presented to working parents. The Board talked about the concerns.

D. Ryan said if the administrators put the calendar together, she trusts their judgment.

W. Oros said the half professional development days are set up a certain way for best learning for staff.

MOTION: To Approve the 2015-2016 Coventry Public Schools Calendar as presented

By: D. Ryan

Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

The Board talked about this year's calendar and how many days need to be made up to date. They continued to discuss options and different scenarios.

X. Report of Board Members - Information: Transportation Committee Meeting of January 29, 2105 W. Oros

W. Oros and Mr. Carroll reviewed the outcome of the Committee meeting.

