

**Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, Connecticut**

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of February 26, 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  
Michael Sobol

Board Members Absent:

Mary Minor, Secretary  
Denise Ryan

Also Present:

Allan Andrews, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators Present:

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

Audience Members Present: Steve Merlino, CHS Assistant Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dennis Stanavage, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; two parents; several CHS students; Sue Clark, CHS Teacher; and James Smart and several leaders of Cub Scout Pack 65.

**I. Call to Order**

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:37 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 talked about different items and events happening around the district.

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

Mr. Andrews spoke about the blood drive held at CHS on Tuesday and that it was a success.

**IV.B. Information: Recognition - James Smart and Cub Scout Pack 65, work on the CGS Trail**

Mr. Petrone spoke to the work Cub Scout Pack 65 did on the nature trail at CGS. Mr. Smart talked about the project and noted all of the groups involved, including the PTO, Ms. Moyer, and a large number of parents and community members. He continued to review the project and the different components. He said the Scouts

see the schools as allies. Additionally, he talked about projects the group wants to do in the future and how to recruit older students into Boy Scouts.

E. Marchand asked about the recruitment process. Mr. Smart talked about how they could further promote Scouting to the students. E. Marchand asked about the retention rate. The group spoke to that point. Chairman, Beausoleil acknowledged audience member and CHS student David Pouliot. Mr. Pouliot suggested showing a video on the morning show at CNH and CHS. He said that would be a great venue for promoting scouting.

Mr. Petrone presented Pack 65 with a token of appreciation on behalf of the Board.

J. Beausoleil said this is great example of a partnership between the community and the schools.

Mr. Petrone thanked Mr. Stanavage for all of the work he has done over the past few weeks dealing with the snow. He said the district is very appreciative of his efforts during his first year here.

#### **V. Consent Agenda: VOTE to approve the April 2015 CHS Field Experience to New York, NY**

**MOTION: To approve the April 2015 CHS Field Experience to New York, NY**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: W. Oros**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

#### **VI. Report of Chairman**

J. Beausoleil talked about budget season and noted that the agendas for the Town Council meetings, noting different department budget discussions, can be found on the Town website.

J. Beausoleil asked for a Board volunteer for the Paper Screening Committee for the Director of Educational Technology vacancy. W. Oros volunteered.

#### **VII. Approval of Minutes: VOTE - Approve the minutes of February 12, 2015**

**MOTION: Approve the minutes of February 12, 2015**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: M. Sobol**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

#### **VIII. Old Business: FY16 Budget**

J. Beausoleil noted the new handouts for the budget books, which will bring the books up to date. Mr. Petrone and Mr. Carroll reviewed the three changes that were made.

#### **IX. New Business**

##### **IX.A. Information: Facilities Update**

##### **IX.A.1. Roofs, Snow Load/Removal**

##### **IX.A.2. Solar Panel**

Mr. Stanavage talked about the roofs and the monitoring of the snow loads. He said the district buildings are in good shape. He noted the work that needed to be done and how the solar panels have effected that work. He talked about the solar panel project and how the snow has delayed the project. He said inspections are due and that will have to wait until they can get on the roofs to inspect them. M. Kortmann asked if everything was ready to go. Mr. Stanavage said yes.

##### **IX.B. VOTE: Approve the Chairman of the Board of Education, Jennifer Beausoleil and John Ryan, Grandson to J. Leroy Schwyer, as the official bank account signers to the J. Leroy Schwyer Scholarship Fund**

J. Beausoleil reviewed the reasoning behind this vote tonight. Mr. Petrone added to that saying, over the years this scholarship account has transferred from bank to bank as banks have merged or been bought out by other banks. He continued, while this account has been with Bank of America for a number of years, they

are now insisting that the Board vote to officially assign "signers" to this account. He said, historically (20+ years) this account has had two signers - the Board Chair and the grandson of Mr. Schweyer.

**MOTION: To Approve the Chairman of the Board of Education, Jennifer Beausoleil and John Ryan, Grandson to J. Leroy Schweyer as the official bank account signers to the J. Leroy Schweyer Scholarship Fund**

**By: W. Oros**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**IX.C. Assign three Board members to this year's Scholarship Committee - Interviews/Meeting Date set for Saturday, May 30.**

J. Beausoleil asked for volunteers to serve on this committee this spring. Mr. Marchand, Mr. Sobol and Ms. Kortmann, said they would serve. J. Beausoleil said she would serve as alternate if needed.

**IX.D. VOTE: Accept the district's submission of the State Department of Education's RFP 813 - District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards**

Mr. Petrone reviewed the submission process and what is included in the grant.

**MOTION: To accept the district's submission of the State Department of Education's RFP 813 - District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards**

**By: M. Sobol**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**IX.E. Discussion and Possible VOTE: 2014-15 School Calendar Adjustments**

J. Beausoleil talked about the details of the calendar as it stand with 5 snow days. She reviewed the graduation date and what might happen if there are more than 3 additional snow days. Mr. Petrone said it is helpful to parents and the community if June dates are known sooner rather than later.

M. Sobol said it makes sense to move graduation to June 20 now and hope for no more snow days. M. Kortmann agreed.

**MOTION: To move graduation to June 20, 2015**

**By: M. Sobol**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**X. Report of Board Members**

**X.A. Information: Transportation Committee Report - Bus Contract Update**

Mr. Carroll updated the Board on the status of the bus routing software issue. He noted that the software is not working as of yet. He reviewed discussions of a recent meeting with the software company. Mr. Oros said after that meeting, we realized the district is not software challenged and that the true issues do lie elsewhere. He said there will be another meeting scheduled with M&J and our technology team and the Superintendent to determine how to move forward.

The Board discussed the current contract and how the issue of the contract not being met, might be handled. Mr. Petrone said M&J has an obligation to operate the software appropriately and also manage the outcomes of what the software might determine.

The Board continued to talk about information M&J would receive via the software programs and how the district could validate that information.

W. Oros reviewed the different options we are supposed to have available to us via the software, if it is running appropriately.

Chairman Beausoleil recognized audience member Kevin Smart, CHS Senior. Mr. Smart asked for clarification about the software that the bus company should be using. J. Beausoleil and W. Oros both talked to those details.

**X.B. Information - Fiscal Committee Meeting of February 12, 2015 - M. Kortmann and Mr. Carroll**

Mr. Carroll said the Committee focused on the Special Education Tuition preliminary figures that came from the State. He continued to talk about the fluctuation in the tuition costs for this school year.

He noted the budget's bottom line is holding very well.

The Board discussed unexpected snow removal costs. Mr. Petrone talked about how the district worked with the contractors to save money.

Mr. Carroll noted the Food Services program and that they are struggling. The Board talked about the program and those challenges.

M. Kortmann talked about the Town Manager's proposed CIP and how the education items were handled. M. Kortmann added that the Board can reiterate concerns at the March 16 meeting with the Town Council.

**XI. VOTE: Executive Session (Superintendent's Evaluation)**

**MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to the Superintendent's Evaluation with the Superintendent in attendance at 9:05 p.m.**

**By: M. Sobol**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**XII. Open Session**

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 9:28 p.m.

**XIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m.**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

**Approved: April 9, 2015**