

**Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, Connecticut**

**Coventry Board of Education Regular Meeting**

Approved Minutes of Thursday, April 9, 2015

Administration Building Conference Room

**Attendance Taken at 7:28 p.m.:**

Board Members Present:

Mary Kortmann, Vice Chairman

Mary Minor, Secretary

William Oros

Denise Ryan

Michael Sobol

Board Members Absent:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman

Eugene Marchand

Administration Present:

David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools

Robert Carroll, Business Manager

Audience Members Present: Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Denise Stanavage, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Jeff Spivey, CEP Teacher; Laura Boats, CNH Music Teacher; and several students, parents and community members.

**I. Call to Order**

M. Kortmann called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

M. Kortmann led the Salute to the Flag.

**III. Audience of Citizens**

Pam Miller, 347 Shore Drive, was present to advocate for the Challenge and Enrichment Program (CEP) and the additional .5 FTE position that is in the budget for 15-16. She talked about the personal experiences of her son as he has gone through the program. She said her son chose to stay in Coventry because of the program.

Sue Hoang, 38 John Paul Lane, said she was present in support of the CEP program. She noted she has two children who are in the program and said that the added position would be beneficial for the program and would be a positive force for even more students in Coventry. She said there are parents who support the program and students who are prospering from it.

Mike Shor, 47 High Street, said he was present to support of the CEP position. He talked about his children and the students of Coventry who are in the program. He said it is sad that more people cannot be a part of the program. He talked about the budget portion of this process.

Jaxon Arn, 6th grade student of 11 Loomis Drive, said he was attending this evening to talk about the CEP program and was in support of another position, so that the students would get more time with Mr. Spivey. He said the program gives the students a chance to use their mind to their best.

Donald Swinton, 658 Broadway, talked about his daughter who is in the program and that they are doing miraculous things. He also talked about his work at UConn and how hard it is to promote the STEM program there, without a good number students coming in.

Kendall Schenck, 6th grade student of 745 Merrow Road, talked about her experiences with the CEP program. She continued to talk about the support the students get from the program on many levels. She encouraged the Board to support the CEP position.

Claudia Schenck, 745 Merrow Road, said she was present to show support of the CEP program. She talked about the program and the benefit it has for the students. She talked about the environment the program provides and noted how crucial this program is for these students. She noted how fortunate Coventry is to have the program in town. She continued to talk about the benefits of the program for her daughter and the other students. She noted the Future Problem Solving portion of the CEP program and noted it builds the kinds of skills the students need to be problem solvers. She asked the Board to approve the .5 FTE position.

Martha McKerley, 66 Springdale Avenue, thanked the Board for the CEP program. She noted she has two children in the program. She said the town needs to build on the success of the program. She would like to see the program available to students at a much younger age. She encouraged the Board to not take the position out of the budget.

Robert Blanchard, 17 Majus Drive, spoke in support of the CEP program. He talked about the state bowl and the competition and how the students work for that. He said these are our future leaders and he would like to see the program continue and expand.

Denise Ryan commended the audience for attending this evening. She asked that the parents get out and vote.

M. Kortmann asked for a motion to move the consent agenda to before the Report of the Superintendent.

**MOTION: To move the consent agenda to before the Report of the Superintendent**

**By: W. Oros**

**Seconded: M. Minor**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

#### **IV. Consent Agenda**

M. Kortmann asked if anyone would like any of the items removed from the Consent Agenda. Items B, E, I, and T. were removed.

**IV.A. Approve the CNH April 11 2015 Field Experience to Providence, RI**

**IV.C. Approve the GHR May 7 2015 Field Experience to Sturbridge, MA**

**IV.D. Approve the CHS May 16 2015 Field Experience to New York, NY**

**IV.F. Approve the CHS May 29 2015 Field Experience to Agawam, MA**

**IV.G. Approve CHS May 29 2015 Field Experience to New York, NY**

**IV.H. Approve CHS May 29 Field Experience to New York, NY**

**IV.J. Approve the CGS June 11 2015 Field Experience to Mendon, MA**

**IV.K. Approve CNH May 10-13 2016 Field Experience to Philadelphia, PA and Washington, DC**

**IV.L. Approve CNH May 9-12 2017 Field Experience to Philadelphia, PA and Washington, DC**

**IV.M. Accept the Resignation of Patricia Andreoli, Custodian**

**IV.N. Accept the Resignation of Christian Ayer, CHS Para-educator**

**IV.O. Accept the Retirement of Susan Clark, CHS Teacher**

**IV.P. Accept the Resignation of MaryBeth MacIver, CHS Teacher**

**IV.Q. Accept the Resignation of Donna Plen, School Psychologist**

**IV.R. Accept the Retirement of Robert Slajda, CHS Teacher**

**IV.S. Accept the Retirement of Herman Stargardter, CNH Teacher**

**MOTION: To approve the remaining consent agenda as noted on the agenda**

**By: M. Minor**

**Seconded: W. Oros**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**IV.B. Approve the CNH April 25 2015 Field Experience to Mansfield, MA**

**MOTION: To approve the CNH April 25, 2015 Field Experience to Mansfield, MA**

**By: W. Oros**

**Seconded: D. Ryan**

Discussion: M. Kortmann commented that it was wonderful this field experience was happening on a Saturday.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**IV.E. Approve GHR May 21 2015 Field Experience to New York, NY**

**MOTION: To Approve the GHR May 21, 2015 Field Experience to New York, NY**

**By: M. Minor**

**Seconded: D. Ryan**

Discussion: M. Kortmann confirmed this was the program that was associated with EASTCONN. Mr. Petrone said yes.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**IV.I. Approve the CNH June 10-14 2015 Field Experience to Ames, Iowa**

**MOTION: To Approve the CNH June 10-14, 2015 Field Experience to Ames, Iowa**

**By: M. Sobol**

**Seconded: D. Ryan**

Discussion: M. Minor wanted to commend the students in the program for their wins so far. She wished them luck in Iowa.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**IV.T. Accept the Retirement of Anthony Susi, CNH Teacher**

**MOTION: To Accept the Retirement of Anthony Susi, CNH Teacher**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: D. Ryan**

Discussion: M. Kortmann noted the impressive experience provided by Tony Susi throughout the years. He said his retirement would be a huge loss to the district.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **V. Report of Superintendent**

Mr. Petrone distributed two emails from parents regarding their support of the CEP program.

Mr. Petrone reviewed many activities happening in the district over the past few weeks.



Mr. Stanavage said the panels were inspected. He said there are some corrections to be made at CNH and work will start April 10. He said it will need to be re-inspected, after the work is done. He continued to discuss the items that need to be accomplished before things can be turned on. He said GHR and CGS could be turned on as early as next week. He continued to review the roof inspections that were also completed recently.

M. Kortmann talked about the billing and when we would start seeing a difference. Mr. Stanavage said training will happen in all areas. The Board continued to talk about the billing and how that would work.

#### **IX.B. Information: Preschool AdHoc Committee Update - Mr. Petrone**

Mr. Petrone said the committee will be at the Board meeting on April 30 with the next phase of the project.

#### **IX.C. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY2016 Budget**

Mr. Petrone said he believes a very conservative budget was put forward to the town. He said due to the \$150,000 cut made by the Town Council, the Board has to now decide from where this amount will come.

D. Ryan said she would like the Council to provide a reason why this cut was made to the Board.

W. Oros agreed that the budget was very low, especially compared to surrounding towns.

Mr. Petrone said his goal was to have a transparent budget and not a padded budget. He said he believed that is what was submitted to the Town.

Mr. Petrone reviewed areas that the Board could look at. He focused on items that have been introduced in the FY16 budget, including positions, tablets, and vacancy savings.

The Board discussed several combinations of cuts.

D. Ryan said she did not want to see any student programs cut. She said she would be more willing to see the maintainer stipend amount cut.

Mr. Petrone emphasized the possibility of eliminating a bus.

M. Miner reviewed the figures again related to tablets, NEASC, and rent for the preschool.

The Board reviewed and agreed upon the following cuts from the FY16 budget:

Tablets

Vacancy Savings

Complementary Evaluator

Bus

It was the consensus that the backup to the school bus cut would be a delay in hiring the electrical maintainer.

#### **X. Report of Board Members**

##### **X.A. Fiscal Committee Report Meeting of March 12, 2015 - M. Kortmann, Mr. Carroll**

###### **X.A.1. Management Report**

###### **X.A.2. Encumbrance Reports**

###### **X.A.3. Special Education Tuition/Excess Cost**

###### **X.A.4. Food Service P&L, Cash Flow (January)**

Mr. Carroll reviewed the reports and said the bottom line looks good right now. Mr. Petrone reviewed items that can be addressed this spring.

Mr. Carroll said a projection figure is still being used for the special education reimbursement. He said we may not know a firm figure until May.

Ms. Kortmann said at this point it looks like the tablets can be addressed along with maintenance items.

M. Kortmann noted that Food Services made money in February.

The Board continued to discuss the Food Service accounts and how that is being accounted for at the Town level.

#### **XI. Executive Session**

**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 present at 10:26 p.m.**

**By: W. Oros**

**Seconded: M. Sobol**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

#### **XII. Open Session**

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 10:35 p.m.

#### **XIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:36 p.m.**

**By: D. Ryan**

**Seconded: W. Oros**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: April 30, 2015