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 McKeary, 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

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

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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 Maclver, 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.
One of the items discussed was the CHS Portfolio Night. W. Oros said he was very impressed with the amount of technology that was used for the portfolios by the students.

**V.B. Information: Coventry Goes Google - Jeff Spivey**

Mr. Petrone introduced Mr. Spivey who shared his presentation regarding Coventry Going Google. The presentation reviewed how Coventry got to where it is now with gmail, Google Drive, and Google Classroom.

W. Oros talked about the Professional Development potential. The Board talked about the quick movement of technology. In addition, they discussed the gmail accounts and that students are communicating with teachers continuously.

The Board thanked Mr. Spivey for his presentation.

**V.C. Information: Superintendent Goal Achievement Update**

Mr. Petrone thanked the administrative team and the staff for their efforts throughout the year.

Mr. Petrone shared a summary of his Goal Achievement via a PowerPoint presentation. (The PowerPoint presentation will be available on the district website.)

Mr. Petrone noted the incredible amount of work that has been done this year.

W. Oros gave kudos and noted that some superintendents would not go to these lengths to keep the Board informed.

**VII. Approval of Minutes**

**VII.A. VOTE: Approve the minutes of February 26, 2015**

**MOTION:** Approve the minutes of February 26, 2015

By: W. Oros  Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

**VII.B. VOTE: Approve the minutes of March 12, 2015**

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

By: W. Oros  Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

**VIII. New Business**

**VIII.A. VOTE: Annual Non-renewal of Listed Teachers**

**MOTION:** The contract of employment of teachers, named on the provided list, not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the current 2014-2015 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.

By: M. Minor  Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

**IX. Old Business**

**IX.A. Information: Solar Panel Update - Mr. Stanavage**
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

Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: April 30, 2015