Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of August 28, 2014
Administration Building: Superintendent’s Office and Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:52 p.m.:

Board Members Present:
Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Mary Kortmann, Vice Chairman
Mary Minor, Secretary
Eugene Marchand (joined at 8:45 p.m.)
William Oros (joined at 8:45 p.m.)
Denise Ryan

Absent Board Members:
Michael Sobol

Administrators Present:
David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools (joined at 8:45 p.m.)
Robert Carroll, Business Manager

Audience Members Present: Dennis Stanavage, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Paul Noel, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities (Ret.); Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Carla Kennedy, Director of Educational Technology; Brendan Owens, Clerk of the Works; Glenn Cucinell, ENCON Solar Division Manager; Tim Sadler, ENCON Sales; Richard Dziadul, from Pemberton Renewables LLC; and RJ Farah, Structural Engineer from R J Farah Engineering Inc.

I. Call to Order
J. Beausoleil called to order at 7:56 p.m. in the Superintendent’s Office.

II. Salute to the Flag
J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens
There were none.

J. Beausoleil apologized for the change in venue and noted appropriate signs had been placed for the public to locate the meeting.

MOTION: To grant the Chair total discretion in the order of the agenda
By: D. Ryan Seconded: M. Minor
Result: Motion passes unanimously

J. Beausoleil said they would begin with item V. Consent Agenda
V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the resignation of Deborah Davis, CHS Teacher
V.B. Accept the resignation of Brenda Gadzik, GHR Para-educator
V.C. Accept the resignation of David Maestrini, CHS Special Education Teacher

J. Beausoleil asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda.

D. Ryan said she had a general comment to make.

The Board agreed to remove item A.

MOTION: Accept the resignation of Deborah Davis, CHS Teacher
By: M. Kortmann
Seconded: M. Minor

Discussion: D. Ryan said she wanted it noted for the record that there seems to have been a lot of teacher resignations over the past 6 months. She said she has heard that teachers are leaving Coventry because the salaries for teachers in Coventry are so much less than other districts. She said in some instances she has heard a teacher can make up to $10,000 or $15,000 more in another district. She wanted this noted.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

MOTION: To accept the remaining items on the Consent Agenda
By: M. Kortmann
Seconded: M. Minor

Result: Motion passes unanimously

J. Beausoleil noted the next item on the agenda would be item VI. Report of Chairman

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil talked about how she attended the staff Convocation on Monday. She said it was very exciting to see the energy of the staff as the new year begins.

She spoke to a few dates she wanted noted:

- Open Houses are as follows: CNH is Wednesday, September 10; CGS is Wednesday, September 17; CHS is Monday, September 22; and GHR is Monday, September 29. She said these are great opportunities to see all of the schools.

- Infosnap sessions for parents are scheduled as follows: Wednesday, September 3 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Coventry Grammar School; Thursday, September 4 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the G. H. Robertson School; and Friday, September 5 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the middle/high school Library Media Center.

- Upcoming fall Superintendent Open Door sessions are as follows: Wednesday, September 10 at 5:00 p.m.; Friday, October 24 at 9:00 a.m.; and Thursday, November 20 at 6:00 p.m. All of these are held in the Administration Building conference room.

- CABE/CAPSS Conference: November 14 and 15. She said this is a great opportunity for Board members to get information.

J. Beausoleil continued saying the Town Council is still looking for volunteers to serve on the Building and Energy Efficiency Committee. She said if anyone was interested in volunteering they could contact the Town Clerk’s office.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes of August 14, 2014
MOTION: Approve the minutes of August 14, 2014
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: M. Minor
Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Old Business: VOTE: Approve the revision of Policy 5144 Discipline

MOTION: Approve the revision of Policy 5144 Discipline
By: M. Minor Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

J. Beausoleil said the Solar Panel AdHoc Committee Update, item IV.B Under the Superintendent’s Report would be next.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

IV.B. Information: Solar Panel AdHoc Committee Update

Mr. Noel introduced Brendan Owens to the Board of Education, the Clerk of the Works for the project.

Mr. Noel talked about why ENCON was invited to come out and update the Board. He introduced the gentlemen from ENCON, who were present to discuss the project. ENCON talked about the recent steps taken on the project and what the next steps were to be. The ENCON group explained the snow accumulation and melt off and how that would work.

The Board talked about the warranties and if there was a special contractor that would be allowed and qualified to remove snow around the solar panels if needed.

J. Beausoleil announced a short recess at 8:38 p.m. while the meeting moved to the conference room. J. Beausoleil reconvened the meeting at 8:45 p.m. (E. Marchand, W. Oros, and Mr. Petrone joined the meeting at this time.)

J. Beausoleil did a quick review of what was discussed before the recess in regard to the solar panel project.

The Board resumed the conversation regarding snow loads and snow removal.

Tim Sadler, from ENCON, talked about alternatives to locations of panels in relation to where snow would need to be removed.

ENCON suggested a safety plan could be put into place in regard to snow removal. M. Minor agreed that might be what is needed. M Kortmann said the district needs to know what to do, if the problem comes up.

The Board continued to listen to suggestions regarding how to handle the snow loads, including possible heated wires around the solar panels, which would melt the snow.

Mr. Noel noted that in discussions with East Hartford and Glastonbury schools, this has not come up as an item of concern.

Mr. Owens agreed with looking into electronic warming de-icing cables.

The Board continued to talk about specifics of installation and locations of other related items.

The Board was in agreement for the project to move forward.
J. Beausoleil noted the next item on the agenda would be under the Report of the Superintendent - Opening of the 2014-15 School Year.

**IV.A. Information: Opening of the 2014-2015 School Year**

Mr. Petrone said it was a great opening for Staff on Monday. He reviewed that event and the positive staff comments and message. Mr. Petrone continued to review opening day for students and showed a video clip of the day.

Mr. Petrone also reviewed the Open House schedule.

**IV.C. Information: New Technology - InfoSnap and Visitor Express**

Mr. Petrone introduced Ms. Kennedy who reviewed the new programs InfoSnap and Visitor Express.

Ms. Kennedy reviewed the InfoSnap item first. Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Petrone talked about what the process of implementing the system looked like from the beginning.

Ms. Kennedy went through the Visitor Express program and explained the details of that to the Board.

The Board discussed who had what kind of visitor badge and what type of badge substitutes and coaches will have.

W. Oros gave kudos to the Technology Team on the iPad distribution session he was able to see in action.

J. Beausoleil said item IX. New Business: Discussion and possible VOTE – Town Water Tower/Well Project would be next.

**IX. New Business: Discussion and possible VOTE - Town Water Tower/Well Project**

J. Beausoleil noted the information that was available to the Board for the meeting regarding the Water Study Report. She said the Town Council is hoping the Board will vote on the Water project. She noted the time is short and asked that the Board note questions and that the questions could be sent to the Town, so they could prepare answers ahead of time.

E. Marchand asked when the last time was that the Board discussed this item. J. Beausoleil said it was several months. M. Kortmann noted that the study was from September 2013. E. Marchand said a lot of time has passed and he would not be comfortable voting for anything without updated information.

J. Beausoleil reviewed a few highlights as she understood them.

W. Oros added to that review and also added what he thought the next steps, by the town, were supposed to be, at the last time this item was discussed.

The Board discussed how much the costs would be, who would own the wells, and what other towns have done.

The Board discussed if they could move forward without a presentation. The agreement was a presentation was needed.

M. Kortmann asked that W. Oros verify our annual expenses and the details related to water measuring and testing. W. Oros said he would get that information.

The Board continued to discuss wanting further details and why the need for a decision is pressing.
J. Beausoleil reviewed what was needed from the Town; a presentation with current financial numbers; what the potential cost would be; and what CT Water would definitely be covering. The vote was tabled pending further information.

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report of August 14, 2014

M. Kortmann reviewed the details from the Fiscal meeting of August 14, 2014. She said the year ended better than originally thought. She also added that the CIP is available for the full Board to review and asked members to review that in detail.

R. Carroll reviewed the ECHIP figures and overview for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

M. Kortmann said there are numbers available for review from the use of facilities accounts, which will continue to be tweaked. She also noted the concise reports now available for the Student Activity Accounts. She reviewed the end of the year accounts for the Food Service Department.

M. Kortmann distributed EASTCONN information as she is the Board’s representative.

XI. VOTE: Executive Session - Possible Bargaining Unit Negotiations

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to Bargaining Unit Negotiations at 10:23 p.m. with the Superintendent and Business Manager in attendance.

By: M. Minor
Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Open Session

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 10:37 p.m.

XII.A. The Board will return to Open Session for a possible VOTE on bargaining unit agreement(s)

MOTION: To approve the Agreement between the Coventry Board of Education and the Coventry Para-educator Employees 2014-2017

By: M. Kortmann
Seconded: W. Oros
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:39 p.m.

By: W. Oros
Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Michaud
Board Clerk

Approved: September 11, 2014