Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Tuesday, September 23, 2014
Administrative Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:31 p.m.:

Board Members Present:
Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Mary Kortmann, Vice Chairman
Mary Minor, Secretary
Eugene Marchand
William Oros
Denise Ryan
Michael Sobol

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

Audience Members Present: Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Dena DeJulius, CHS Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Carla Kennedy, Director of Education Technology; Barbara Trinks, PSSS Director; Steve Merlino, CHS Assistant Principal; Brian Maltese, Athletic Director; Matt Kyer, CGS Teacher; Steve Stegman, CHS Teacher; and several parents and students. The Chronicle newspaper was represented.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. Salute the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none

MOTION: To move New Business - Information and Possible VOTE: CHS Wrestling Program ahead of the Report of Superintendent.
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. New Business - Information and Possible VOTE: CHS Wrestling Program

Mr. Petrone introduced Mr. Maltese and Mr. Merlino and noted the effort these two gentleman have already put into the Wrestling Club. Mr. Maltese started by sharing a PowerPoint presentation with details on what a Wrestling Team would look like at CHS. This included costs, Title IX compliance, the number of interested students, sustainability and school climate.

E. Marchand said he thinks this is a tremendous opportunity for Coventry students.

J. Beausoleil noted there is a difference between an individual and team sport. She said it is nice to see this come forward and she appreciates there is a feeder system through the Knights of Columbus Little League Wrestling program.

M. Kortmann noted the cost per student for the sport, and that it is higher than others.

D. Ryan said it is worth it, if it gets students to participate, who might not usually.

The Board talked about transportation costs.

E. Marchand asked about the parent involvement and if there might be a booster club in the future as possible support.

MOTION: To accept the Varsity Wrestling Team into our budget
By: E. Marchand Seconded: W. Oros
Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV. Report of Superintendent

Mr. Petrone talked about the Open Houses which took place over the past few weeks and noted the great turnout by parents. He thanked staff for their efforts and support. In addition, he spoke to the dedication ceremony of the Sandy Hook Memorial Tree and Plaque that took place this evening. He thanked student Yasmine Forte for her work on the dedication.

IV.A. Information: Teacher Evaluation System Report

Mr. Petrone noted that Mr. Slajda was to be in attendance tonight to talk about the evaluation system, but unfortunately he was unable to make it. He thanked Mr. Slajda for his professionalism and partnership as they worked through the process over the past couple of years. Mr. Petrone introduced teacher Matt Kyer, who was a teacher representative on the evaluation committee. Mr. Kyer spoke about his experience on the committee, he talked about the collaborative atmosphere of the process. He said it was a valuable experience for him.

M. Kortmann asked how teachers responded, who were evaluated last year for the first time. Mr. Kyer said there were some growing pains, but noted that the anxiety did seem to decrease as the year went by. He said they believe the anxiety was due to the newness of the process and also possibly the media hype that surrounded it.

Mr. Petrone said we have fantastic teachers in Coventry and the administrators wanted to make sure everyone had an outlet to express concerns.

J. Beausoleil thanked the staff for their patience as everyone went through the process and especially during all of the changes that came from the State throughout the process.

E. Marchand said he really liked the way the teachers and the administration took this on as a team.

IV.B. Information: Administrative Goal Reports

IV.B.1. Athletics

Mr. Petrone introduced Mr. Maltese, who presented the Athletic Department goals for the 2014-15 school year. Those goals can be found on the district website.

E. Marchand noted goal two. He asked if there was any thought to involving parents. Mr. Maltese said that could be something they grow to include. He said he would definitely look into it.

IV.B.2. Teaching and Learning

Ms. Mullaly presented her goals as the Director of Teaching and Learning for the 2014-15 school year. Those goals can be found on the district website.

MOTION: To move the Consent Agenda to the next item on the agenda
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the resignation of Jessica Gonzalez, PSSS Secretary
V.B. Accept the resignation of Sylvia Mansfield, GHR Crossing Guard
V.C. Approve CHS March 2015 Field Experience to Newry, ME

J. Beausoleil asked if any Board members would like to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. M. Kortmann asked that, item C, the trip to Maine be removed.

MOTION: To approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda
By: M. Minor Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

MOTION: Approve the CHS March 2015 Field Experience to Newry, ME
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: E. Marchand

M. Kortmann asked if this was a ski trip. Mr. Stegman responded yes.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV.B.3. Pupil and Staff Support Services

Ms. Trinks presented the PSSS Department Goals for the 2014-15 school year. Those goals can be found on the district website.

The Board talked about needs in the district in regard to students with autism.

IV.B.4. Coventry High School

Mr. Blake presented his goals for Coventry High School for the 2014-15 school year. Those goals can be found on the district's website.

M. Kortmann said she would like to see numbers, tracking and comparison of students who are at "exceed." She said we don't have a read on those who fall below "exceed" once they've reached it. Mr. Petrone said the administrators could do that.

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil talked positively about the Open Houses. She spoke to the different age groups and the different excitement levels based on age. She said each Open House is tailored to each of the communities they serve.

She also noted the Sandy Hook Memorial dedication event and she said she was reminded of the very special community we have in Coventry.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes - Meeting of September 11, 2014

MOTION: Approval of minutes of September 11, 2014
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: M. Sobol
Result: Motion passes 6-0-1 (W. Oros abstained)

IX. Report of Board Members

IX.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report - Meeting of September 11, 2014

M. Kortmann said most of the time was spent on the CIP. She asked that Board members review it and get to Mr. Carroll if they have any questions or additions.

Mr. Carroll talked to that item and how the report would be improved for the next Fiscal meeting. He spoke to a few items on the list.

M. Kortmann talked about the non-lapsing account and if the Board wants to pull from the account, the item must have been listed on the CIP. She asked members to really look at the list and think of that also.

Mr. Carroll said regarding the monthly financial reports, much of the data is premature, because we are still at the very beginning of the year. He also noted that we locked into a fuel price and pre-paid for quite a bit, which saved the Board approximately $3,000. He also talked about the request for additional appropriations to the Town due to Medicaid reimbursement.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: Adjourn the Board meeting at 9:56 p.m.
By: M. Sobol Seconded: M. Minor
Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: October 9, 2014