

**Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, Connecticut**

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of December 4, 2014 7:30 p.m.  
Administration Building Conference Room

**Attendance Taken at 7:30 p.m.:**

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman  
Mary Kortmann, Vice Chairman  
Eugene Marchand  
Denise Ryan

Board Members Absent:

Mary Minor, Secretary  
William Oros  
Michael Sobol

Also Present:

Allan Andrews, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators Present:

David J. Petrone, Superintendent  
Robert Carroll, Business Manager

Audience Members Present: Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Carla Kennedy, Educational Technology Director; Jennifer DeRagon, CHS Reading Consultant; Jeff Spivey, Challenge and Enrichment Teacher; Christopher Ekstrom, CNH Special Education Teacher; Brianna White, CNH Student; Nick Cabral, CNH Student; Kathryn Hassler, School Readiness Liaison; and several community members.

**I. Call to Order**

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

**III. Audience of Citizens**

Jason Blakesely, 27 Barry Avenue, said he was present to bring to light two items of concern. He talked about the football helmets that Coventry High School's football team uses and he said he did not believe they are as good a quality as other towns. The second item mentioned was whether Coventry had a cooling station for athletes, during very hot weather. Mr. Petrone noted Coventry did and that it was a mobile unit. In addition, Mr. Blakesely asked about the solar panels that had been installed. He asked about the savings effect to the budget. J. Beausoleil noted that the savings is reflected in this year's budget.

#### **IV. Report of the Superintendent**

Mr. Petrone wanted to commend the 134 staff members who did not use a sick day during the first quarter of the school year.

He continued to review events happening in and out of the district.

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

Mr. Andrews noted the PTO Craft Fair scheduled for Saturday, in addition he talked about other events taking place in the schools. He continued to relay his positive experiences at the CABE/CAPSS Convention. He noted it was a great learning experience.

#### **IV.B. Information: Staff Recognition - Jennifer DeRagon, CHS Reading Consultant, for her presentation on "Close Reading" at the Connecticut Reading Association Conference**

Mr. Petrone recognized Ms. DeRagon for her efforts at the CT Reading Association conference. Ms. DeRagon talked about the conference and the positive take-away. Mr. Blake talked about Ms. DeRagon's leadership and support at the high school.

#### **IV.C. Information: Staff & Student Recognition - Jeff Spivey, Challenge and Enrichment Teacher; Christopher Ekstrom, CNH Special Education Teacher; and CNH Students Brianna White, Nick Cabral, and Taylor Ney - Veterans Day Assembly**

Mr. Petrone noted the outstanding Veterans Day ceremony held at CNH. He recognized Mr. Ekstrom and Mr. Spivey for the work they did with the students on the organization of the ceremony. Mr. Petrone also recognized the students who were involved in the ceremony and were also present at the meeting, Brianna White and Nick Cabral. He also acknowledge student Taylor Ney, who could not be in attendance. Mr. Spivey and Mr. Ekstrom talked about the event and thanked the many people who had a part. Brianna and Nick talked about their experiences being involved in the project.

J. Beausoleil said the presentation that day was phenomenal. She said it had an extremely professional feel to it. She said it was seamless. She thanked the staff for their support and dedication.

#### **IV.D. Information: Curriculum Update and Forecast**

Mr. Petrone introduced M. Mullaly who shared the Curriculum Update and Forecast PowerPoint presentation. She highlighted several topics including, standards vs curriculum, shifts in the different academic subjects, the common core implementation task force, Coventry's approach to implementing the common core, standards adoption news, the district's Curriculum Cabinet, the district's curriculum process, ongoing needs, and implications for structures and process. She finished by stating that the staff is committed to excellence in providing outstanding education to Coventry students.

J. Beausoleil said the Board will benefit from this overview and they got a sense that there is a plan in place.

E. Marchand noted it was the right decision to use this approach to the common core.

M. Kortmann asked about the early college credits the high school students are earning and how they fit in. Ms. Mullaly reviewed how that works.

J. Beausoleil noted that Coventry is evaluating what currently exists in Coventry in curriculum and denoting what is kept and what is exceeding the standards. Ms. Mullaly spoke to that, specifically noting the ECE courses. She continued to relay other items that apply.

M. Kortmann asked if Coventry is in the "norm" and if bigger districts are involving their teachers more or less. Ms. Mullaly said bigger districts are using teachers, with consistent oversight.

E. Marchand talked about the reading requirements. Ms. Mullaly talked about reading that is required for the real world and how reading assignments are spread out through the classes.

The Board discussed state level processes for the standards and the change in the commissioner at the state level.

The Board thanked Ms. Mullaly for her presentation.

J. Beausoleil asked if there was any Board member who saw a need for next week's meeting. It was agreed it could be cancelled.

#### **V. VOTE: Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2014**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of November 13, 2014**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

#### **VI. Old Business**

##### **VI.A. Information: Solar Panel Update**

Mr. Petrone reviewed a brief update on the solar panel installation. The Board discussed the information with input from Mr. Petrone and Mr. Carroll.

##### **VI.B. VOTE: Approve the following Policies**

VI.B.1. 1241 - Volunteers - NEW

VI.B.2. 1251 - Prohibition Against Smoking - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.3. 1350 - School Security and Safety Plan - NEW

VI.B.4. 4116.34 Abuse or Neglect of Disabled Adults - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.5. 4116.35 - Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.6. 4151.2 - Family and Medical Leave - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.7. 4216.2 - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug-Free Workplace - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.8. 5125 - Confidentiality and Access to Education Records (FERPA) - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.9. 5131.6 Drug and Alcohol Use by Students - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.10. 5131.7 Bullying Prevention and Intervention - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.11. 5131.71 Safe School Climate Plan - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.12. 5141.21 Administration of Student Medication in the Schools - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.13. 5146 Physical Activity and Student Discipline - DRAFT Revision

VI.B.14. 9368.2 - Minutes - DRAFT Revision

**MOTION: To approve the policies as noted on the agenda**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: D. Ryan**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

#### **VII. New Business**

##### **VII.A. Information: FY15 Budget Calendar/Dates**

J. Beausoleil noted the dates for the budget process. She said a special meeting has been added, which is January 15. She continued to discuss other dates on the list, including "drop dead" due dates to the town. She asked Board members to send questions to the Superintendent ahead of time, if possible.

M. Kortmann asked for start times to be added where possible.

**VII.B. Information and VOTE: Approve the Coventry Board of Education submission of the Smart Start Request for Proposal**

Mr. Petrone gave credit to those who have been working tirelessly on getting the information for this grant together. He noted there was a very short timeline for submission. Mr. Petrone continued and shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the grant details.

Mr. Petrone noted this is in the very very early stages with many details to be worked out.

**MOTION: To approve the Coventry Board of Education submission of the Smart Start Request for Proposal**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**VIII. Report of Board Members - Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of November 13, 2014**

VIII.A. Financial Reports for October 31, 2014

VIII.A.1. Management Report

VIII.A.2. Encumbrance Reports

VIII.A.3. Special Education Tuition/Excess Cost

The Board reviewed figures and talked about unexpected costs. M. Kortmann asked that the Board attempt to use the 1% non-lapsing account for the condenser replacement.

**MOTION: To add a VOTE to the agenda regarding accessing the non-lapsing account**

**By: D. Ryan**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**MOTION: To authorize the business manager and superintendent to pursue using the 1% non-lapsing account for the condenser replacement**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

R. Carroll informed the Board that food service is going to continue to struggle, due to low participation. The Board discussed reasons for this concern. J. Beausoleil noted how resourceful and creative Ms. Pratt is and that it seems to be a trend that is not specific Coventry.

**IX. VOTE: Executive Session - Bargaining Unit Negotiations and Pending Litigation**

**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 and pending litigation with the Business Manager and Superintendent present at 10:01 p.m.**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: D. Ryan**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**X. Open Session**

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:20 p.m.

**XI. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:21 p.m.**

**By: D. Ryan**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: January 8, 2015