

**Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut**

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 14, 2016
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:30 p.m.:

Board Members Present:

William Oros, Chairman
Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice Chairman
Michael Sobol, Secretary
Michael Griswold
Frank Infante
Mary Kortmann
Eugene Marchand

Administrators Present:

David J. Petrone, Superintendent
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

Audience Members Present: Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Christine Murphy, Director Pupil and Staff Support Services; Daniel Bologna, Dean of Students; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Jen Trueman, Math Specialist; Jen DeRagon, English Language Arts Specialist; Mel Sposato, CNH Art Teacher; Lynne Mazzeo, CNH ELA Teacher; Corine Caginello-Jones, parent and CNH Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher; CHS Girls Volleyball Team, with Coach Ryan Giberson; Brian Maltese, Athletic Director; and several parents.

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

W. Oros led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Mr. Petrone reviewed different happenings taking place throughout the district over the past couple of weeks.

IV.B. Recognition: CHS Volleyball Team - Championship

Mr. Petrone introduced the volleyball team and congratulated them for winning the championship. Coach Giberson said a few words about the team and introduced those players who were present.

J. Beausoleil said how proud the Board is of the team.

Mr. Petrone presented the team with a token of the Board's appreciation.

IV.C. Recognition: Coventry Arts Grant Recipients Recognized - CNH Teachers - Melissa Sposato, Corine Caginello-Jones, Lynne Mazzeo, and Julie Charry

Mr. Petrone recognized the team of teachers who participated in submitting the arts grant. He introduced those teachers who were present. Ms. Sposato did an overview of the project. Ms. Mazzeo talked about her portion of the project. Ms. Caginello-Jones was present as a parent and as a teacher and talked about the project and her son's involvement.

M. Sobol said he is most proud of Coventry schools' sense of community and this project showcases that.

Mr. Petrone presented each teacher with a token of the Board's appreciation.

V. Report of Chairman

W. Oros reviewed upcoming dates for the Board, including the Program of Studies night, and the visit from students and staff from our Chinese sister-school.

He continued and talked about different items, such as a grant received from the Connecticut Master Gardeners Association, EASTCONN information, a funding lawsuit going forward at the state level, and budget presentations.

VI. Approval of Minutes

VI.A. VOTE: Approve Minutes of December 10, 2015

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 10, 2015

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII. Old Business

VII.A. Information and VOTE: ADA and Structural Projects Update

Mr. Trudelle talked about the final ADA project that needs to be finished at the softball field, which will now be completed in the spring.

Mr. Oros talked about a motion to ask that a School Building Committee related to the structural projects be formed by the Town Council. The Board talked about the process of forming a School Building Committee. M. Kortmann said these items are mandatory and noted her worry about it moving forward in a timely fashion. The Board talked about the composition of the School Building Committee. J. Beausoleil said there are benefits of having a mix of Community members with different backgrounds on a School Building Committee. The Board continued to discuss these issues.

M. Griswold agreed with Mary Kortmann regarding the difficulty of filling seats on these committees.

Mr. Petrone suggested putting a request forward and if no movement is made, within a short amount of time, an inquiry could be made and everything could be documented.

E. Marchand asked what the charge of the committee would be. Mr. Petrone responded saying that they would determine the scope of the structural project, and put an RFP out securing a contractor to perform those tasks.

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to send to the Town Council a request for the establishment of a School Building Committee related to the structural issues at the CNH/CHS complex

By: J. Beausoleil

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. New Business

VIII.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Approval of the 2016-17 School Calendar

J. Beausoleil noted we have to conform to a standard regional calendar and it limits the changes that can be made.

M. Sobol asked if there were significant differences from previous years. Mr. Petrone said no and explained the regional calendar conditions.

J. Beausoleil said the schedules in November and January are challenging for families.

The Board continued to discuss the schedule and possible variants.

MOTION: To approve the 2016-17 school calendar as presented

By: J. Beausoleil

Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII.B. Information: FY17 Budget Presentations

VIII.B.1. Presentation of the FY17 Budget

Mr. Petrone encouraged questions from the Board and asked that questioned be emailed, if possible. He continued and thanked Mr. Carroll and the administrators for their work on developing the budget.

Mr. Petrone shared the proposed budget highlights via a slideshow presentation. [That presentation will be available on the district website.]

W. Oros encouraged Board members to thoroughly review the budget book in the next week and to not hesitate to ask questions.

[The entire Budget document will be available on the district's website once the Board has approved it.]

VIII.B.2. Technology Department

Ms. Drury reviewed the technology portion of the budget and highlighted items of need.

W. Oros gave kudos to Ms. Drury and her first year in budget development.

M. Kortmann asked for clarification on where certain items are located. Ms. Drury explained that.

M. Griswold asked what the discounted school price is for iPads. Mr. Petrone said 5% and that it does not matter how many you purchase.

J. Beausoleil asked about the student insurance. Ms. Drury talked about the Apple-care program.

VIII.B.3. Pupil & Staff Support Services

Ms. Murphy talked how she approached the development of the budget in her first year. She continued to present various points of the proposed special education budget.

W. Oros verified this proposed budget accounts for the current population only.

The Board talked about the various components of students coming into the district with needs, mid-year, and how that effects the bottom line of the proposed budget.

VIII.B.4. Physical Plant and Facilities

Mr. Trudelle presented the details of the facilities department proposed budget.

The Board talked about the inventory program that has been put in place and how it will incorporate into budget planning and the overall good for the department.

The Board reviewed and verified different components of the facilities budget.

VIII.B.5. Central Office

Mr. Carroll reviewed the Central Office budget for FY17. Specifically, the Board discussed the health insurance line and at this time it is expected the rate increase will be flat - 0%. The Board discussed this in further detail and Mr. Carroll explained the process.

Mr. Carroll continued to review the different budget items and the proposed figures.

The Board focused on the electrical line. Mr. Carroll reviewed the solar panel issue at the high school, where the savings is not being realized. He believes there is a billing error issue, and is working on having it resolved. He said he left the electricity line flat due to this issue.

Mr. Carroll finished his presentation talking about the last few line items.

IX. Report of Board Members

IX.A. Report of Policy Committee Meeting of December 15, 2015, including Information and Discussion of New Policies and Policies up for Revision

IX.A.1. 3524.1 Pesticide Application on School Property - DRAFT Revision

IX.A.2. 3541 Transportation - DRAFT Revision

IX.A.3. 4000 Fingerprints and Criminal Record Checks to 4110 Employment Checks - DRAFT Revision

IX.A.4. 4116.35 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees - DRAFT Revision

IX.A.5. 4118.5 Employee Use of the District's Computer Systems and Electronic Communications - DRAFT Revision

IX.A.6. 5110 Attendance and Truancy - DRAFT Revision

IX.A.7. 5143 Restraint and Seclusion - DRAFT NEW

IX.A.8. 5144 Student Discipline - DRAFT Revision

IX.A.9. 9111.2 Code of Conduct for Board Members - DRAFT NEW

J. Beausoleil noted the Committee met in December and that the policy revisions presented are due to changes in laws.

She noted there are not any dramatic changes, except for the new ones. She did a quick review of the list of policies.

W. Oros asked if there were any questions. J. Beausoleil explained they would go forward for a vote at the next meeting, if there were no suggested changes tonight.

There were no suggestions that evening. It was the consensus of the Board that the policies go forward for a vote at the next meeting.

IX.B. Information: Fiscal Committee Update - Meeting of January 14, 2016

M. Sobol did a review of the items discussed at the Fiscal meeting.

The Board talked about the special education budget and reiterated that the proposed FY17 special education budget is prepared on actual current numbers.

J. Beausoleil asked about the topic of the request to the Town Council regarding money of additional appropriations. It was said that it has been placed on the next Town Council agenda.

X. VOTE: Executive Session (Pending Litigation)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to pending litigation 10:10 p.m. with the Superintendent present.

By: J. Beausoleil

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI. Open Session

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session a 10:22 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: January 28, 2016