

**Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, Connecticut**

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 28, 2016  
Administration Building Conference Room

**Attendance Taken at 7:23 PM:**

Board Members Present:

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

Also Present: Emily Oliver, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators Present:

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

Audience Members Present: Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Christine Murphy, Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Educational Technology; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; and Beth Giller, GHR Principal.

**I. Call to Order**

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 spoke briefly about a variety of topics from the district including the water issue on Monday, January 25, 2016, which was the cause of an 11:00 am dismissal at Coventry High School. He noted that the external cost was about \$1,400 (with an additional in-house labor cost of \$640.00). He also presented data related to PowerSchool usage, Coventry High School's Program of Studies Night, the Fuel up to Play 60 grant money awarded to Coventry, the arrival of Capt. Nathan Hale's Chinese sister-school, this week's early release professional development day, and an URSA/NASA update.

**IV.A. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report**

Emily Oliver discussed a number of the winter season sporting events, as well as her experience with half days for exams.

#### **IV.B. Information: STEM Staff Development Presentation**

Ms. Moyer shared a slide show on the collaborative work with teacher Sarah Landry on STEAM program at the Coventry Grammar School. Ms. Moyer highlighted statistics on the effectiveness of STEAM implemented with students at the grammar school level. She also shared several examples of how science, technology, engineering, and math are integrated into lessons at the various grade levels. These included the kindergarten tulip project, the first grade butterfly garden, the second grade Journey North butterfly project. Also, how the students are learning how to do an hour of computer coding k-2. She noted the efforts required to move forward with STEAM on a staff level.

E. Marchand remarked about how interesting these learning initiatives are.

#### **V. VOTE: Consent Agenda**

J. Beausoleil requested that the one item be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

#### **V.A. Accept the Resignation of Steve Stegman, CHS Teacher**

**Motion: To Accept the resignation of Steve Stegman, CHS teacher**

**By: J. Beausoleil**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: J. Beausoleil noted that she was reluctant to move to accept the resignation of Mr. Stegman because she didn't want to see such an excellent teacher resign, but she initiated the motion. J. Beausoleil also asked how this position in math at the high school would be resolved. Mr. Petrone noted that a qualified candidate would be found. He noted an option or two, including the assignment of a retired math teacher. The Board then discussed the issue of what to do with the savings for this school year's budget and what could be done with these funds, including hiring a math interventionist at CHS. J. Beausoleil asked for a follow up to this subject.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

#### **VI. Report of Chairman**

W. Oros discussed upcoming topics such as the Chinese exchange, the 25 year recognition dinner tentatively scheduled for May 18, and a poster he had distributed to the Board entitled, "The Ever Increasing Burden on America's Public Schools."

W. Oros also reviewed items from an EASTCONN Meeting he attended.

He also highlighted the legislative issues that CABA is raising this year.

#### **VII. VOTE: Approve Minutes of January 14, 2016**

**MOTION: Approve Minutes of January 14, 2016**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: J. Beausoleil asked, regarding page 3, the 4th paragraph under item VIII B.1 Presentation of the FY17 Budget, that the words "once the Board has approved it." be added to the end of that sentence.

M. Griswold asked the question of what kind of access the public has to the Budget and how they may go about raising issues about the Budget before the Board approves it.

Mr. Petrone, J. Beausoleil, and M. Kortmann discussed the opportunities that the community has to comment on the budget including the Board's Budget meetings, the Budget Q&A meetings, and the town meetings.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **VIII.A. VOTE: Approve New Policies and Policies up for Revision**

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

**VIII.A.2. 3541 Transportation - DRAFT Revision**

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

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

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

**VIII.A.6. 5110 Attendance and Truancy - DRAFT Revision**

**VIII.A.7. 5143 Restraint and Seclusion - DRAFT NEW**

**VIII.A.8. 5144 Student Discipline - DRAFT Revision**

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

G. Marchand brought up the topic of transportation and whether or not the district should be providing transportation to East Catholic High School.

W. Oros suggested that this matter be taken up within the transportation committee, and added it was not a policy matter this evening.

**MOTION: Approve New Policies and Policies up for Revision as noted on the agenda**

**By: M. Sobol**

**Seconded: F. Infante**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

### **VIII.B. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY2017 Budget**

Mr. Petrone distributed a document to the Board answering questions that had been raised about the social worker position, included in the FY2017 budget.

M. Griswold gave Mr. Petrone kudos for the responses generated to these questions and how much detail the responses contained.

J. Beausoleil noted how valuable the services of social workers and psychologists are in the public school system today.

Mr. Petrone called the Board's attention to the adjustments that have been made to the latest Budget document including the following accounts: GHR supplies, CGS salaries, out of district placements, technology, and an increase in special education tuition. He noted, as a result of the changes the total budget percentage increase will now be at 1.93%.

J. Beausoleil questioned the magnet school budget, and clarified that these are not out of district placements, rather these students who voluntarily attend school out of district.

M. Kortmann noted that the cost of magnet school students should no longer be placed within the Coventry High School budget, specifically because the students are no longer all high school aged students.

F. Infante questioned how there were savings, yet increases in spending. Mr. Petrone responded that it was due to the increase in spending in special education.

The Board continued to discuss the overall budget, including many specific line items.

Mr. Petrone reiterated items for follow-up are: the CHS phones, changing the BOE travel line item to BOE professional development, potential legal costs to be incurred in FY2017, iPad insurance policies, the financial impact of adding a math support person at CHS.

The Board discussed recent communications to and from the Town Council. There was concern that members of the Town Council may believe the Board is presenting inaccurate information. M. Kortmann noted this was in the Town Council minutes.

J. Beausoleil pointed to the fact that the Board had a flawless audit from last year.

W. Oros suggested that in order to resolve this issue, the Board Chair would ask the Town Council Chair to provide specifics regarding any inaccurate information that has allegedly been provided to them.

## **IX. Adjournment**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:23 p.m.**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted:

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Alison Hollister, Central Office Secretary

Approved: February 11, 2016