

**Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut**

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of February 11, 2016
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:26 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 of Schools
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; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; two high school students; Andy Brodersen, Town Council Member; and one other citizen.

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 shared a video from Fox61 featuring Coventry's CEP students using the 3D printer to manufacture prosthetic hands. Mr. Petrone went on further to discuss the program and noted how it is moving forward. W. Oros noted how poised the students are and what a great job they did.

Mr. Petrone went on to talk about different items happening around the district. He also thanked John Elsesser, Town Manager, for his assistance to be sure the Chinese visitors were able to make it to the airport in time for their flight on Friday, despite the snow storm.

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

Miss Oliver highlighted different events taking place at CHS.

IV.B. Information: District Improvement Plan 2015-16

Mr. Petrone highlighted points of the District Improvement Plan by sharing a slide show with the Board. [The plan will be available on the district's website.]

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the Retirement of Bruce Gale, CGS Teacher

V.B. Approve the CHS April Field Experience to Boston, MA

V.C. Approve the GHR/CNH March Field Experience to Ludlow, VT

MOTION: Accept the Consent Agenda as presented

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

W. Oros reviewed upcoming dates for the Board to note. He also talked about different items, such as recent communications from EASTCONN.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of the Special Meeting of Thursday, January 21, 2016

MOTION: Approve Minutes of the Special Meeting of Thursday, January 21, 2016

By: J. Beausoleil

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII.B. Approve Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, January 28, 2016

MOTION: Approve Minutes of Thursday, January 28, 2016

By: J. Beausoleil

Seconded: M. Griswold

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Old Business

VIII.A. Information and possible VOTE: Approval of FY2017 Budget

W. Oros asked that the discussion be split into two different sections. He said the Superintendent would provide information previously requested and then there would be a vote and further discussion if necessary.

Mr. Petrone provided information on the Math position and program at CHS. In addition, he provided legal expense information and iPad student insurance information.

The Board discussed details of the iPad program at the high school.

Mr. Petrone shared information on iPad inventory. The Board asked various questions about iPads and the different versions of iPads. They continued to discuss the different plans being presented and what to do with the current 12th graders iPads. The conversation of the Board focused on the lifespan of the iPads and how to handle phasing out the older ones.

Mr. Carroll talked about two description changes to the budget: the high school phone line - line item, and that the BOE Travel account is now the BOE Professional Development line. He said these were just description changes, there were no dollar amount changes.

Mr. Carroll continued to talk about what might adjust the bottom line of the budget. He noted information was received in from the State on the excess cost calculation. The Board talked about the current year amounts and also the FY17 proposed figures. Mr. Sobol explained that the Fiscal Committee thought adjusting the figure by 3% and assuming 73% reimbursement would be agreeable and would put the bottom line increase to 1.99% or a total of \$27,344,665.

J. Beausoleil asked that the Board consider a \$2,500 reduction to the GHR line, which includes the iPad amount, moving it to the technology line were all district iPads are located. In addition she asked that the CNH extra-curricular transportation account be reduced by \$800 - with the staff coming back with a more stable plan across the district.

M. Griswold asked that the request for additional CNH World Language resources be eliminated. J. Beausoleil disagreed with that suggestion. The Board asked various questions about the program. M. Kortmann and E. Marchand also disagreed with the elimination. M. Griswold said it was just his suggestion.

F. Infante asked about vacancy savings. Mr. Petrone explained that item and that everything is up to date with "known" information.

W. Oros did a review of the suggestions put forward including taking out the \$3,300 that J. Beausoleil noted, which would put the bottom line at \$27,341,365 an increase of \$530,320 a 1.98% increase.

M. Griswold asked if there was a possibility to purchase FY17 iPads this year with any surplus funds from this year. J. Beausoleil explained the normal use and "look at" of unencumbered unallocated funds does not usually happen until April or May. She said the year is so volatile from now until then, it is not a good idea to do that at this time. M. Kortmann noted that the iPad program roll out is planned and if it is adjusted now, it creates a bigger problem down the line.

The Board talked about other items that can be looked at for any unencumbered/unallocated funds at the end of the year.

MOTION: Approve the FY2017 budget at \$27,341,365 a 1.98% increase

By: M. Sobol

Seconded: J. Beausoleil

Discussion: E. Marchand commended the administration for their work on the budget and noted that in comparison to surrounding towns and towns within our DRG, we are extremely conservative and realistic.

M. Griswold said he has had to learn a lot and that there are many differences between the Council and the Board budgets. He has learned that there is a lot of trust put into the staff. He talked about cuts that had to be made in the past and how difficult that is. He continued to talk about collaboration between the Board and the Town Council. He said he is going to support and vote for this budget.

F. Infante said his concerns and questions were answered and noted that he will vote for and support the budget.

E. Marchand added he understands the position the new Board members are in and noted that as time goes by they will understand it all better and will realize a verified trust of what the staff presents.

