Coventry Board of Education Coventry, Connecticut

Special Board of Education Meeting

Approved Minutes of April 7, 2016 Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:32 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 of Schools Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

<u>Audience Members Present</u>: John Elsesser, Town Manager

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

W. Oros led the Salute to the Flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There was no audience of citizens.

IV. New Business - VOTE to approve the CNH June 2016 Field Experience to East Lansing, MI

MOTION: Approve the June 2016 CNH Field Experience to East Lansing, MI By: I. Beausoleil Seconded: M. Sobol

Discussion: Mr. Petrone reviewed the trip and noted it needed Board approval before the group could move forward.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

V. Old Business

V.A. Information: Connecticut Natural Gas Project Update

W. Oros introduced John Elsesser, Town Manager who presented to the Board regarding the natural gas initiative being proposed in Coventry. He said Coventry was offered a \$1.1 million subsidy to convert one section of town, including CNH and CHS, over to natural gas.

The Board discussed the many advantages of this conversion including eventual savings, reduction in noise in school buildings, being a cleaner energy source, and many other future benefits.

W. Oros asked about the funding source for converting the systems in the school buildings.

Mr. Elsesser explained that ideally the money would be coming out the town's capital non-recurring fund through a referendum, and not from the Board's budget.

W. Oros questioned the role of the Board and whether the Board will have control over this process. Mr. Elsesser said the Board will decide to participate in this project or not. He continued saying, once that decision is made, the Board can have some level of oversight over the decisions made about the school buildings, once a procedure is established. He recommended that any stipulations or requests should be included in the motion made by the Board.

W. Oros mentioned that he would like information in writing from the Town Council outlining responsibilities for the project.

M. Sobol complimented Mr. Elsesser on the concise and thorough job he did explaining this proposed project.

J. Beausoleil expressed that she is against the project due to concerns over the timeline and the fact that she believes it will negatively impact the daily operation of the district, and she does not believe that there will be enough time to get the appropriate information to make an informed choice before a motion and a vote would need to be made.

MOTION: That the Board endorse the CNG conversion to natural gas provided that the Town Council is financially responsible at a minimum for the conversion of CNH, CHS, and Administration Building, and will follow the specifications of the proposal written up by the Building Energy and Efficiency and Building Committee. There will be no financial responsibility on the part of the Board. There will also need to be a written proposal of the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved worked out between the Superintendent and the Town Manager within 30 days. By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: E. Marchand.

Discussion: M. Griswold said he research this beforehand and fully supports this initiative. He said this affordably gets the town away from oil and strengthens the infrastructure. J. Beausoleil said she does not like the accelerated timeline or approving a major expenditure.

Result: 6-0-1 (J. Beausoleil against)

V.B. Information and VOTE: Acceptance of the Public Fleet EV Initiative program and grant funds

Mr. Carroll noted that the deadline has been extended and added that when looking at mileage for one of the vocational trainers alone, this proposal could save \$3,600 per year. He said the total financial exposure for the Board is \$10,000.

M. Kortmann talked about the \$3,600 in next year's budget and using it toward the car. She said it would mean reducing next year's projected cost toward mileage reimbursement.

J. Beausoleil noted that during the 3/31/16 meeting there was a motion made that if Mr. Carroll's number came back as feasible that this project would be considered good to go. The Board agreed that the numbers are is feasible, so the project will go forward.

V.C. Discussion and possible VOTE: FY17 Budget

W. Oros commented on emails sent supporting the budget, and the effort the Board will make to avoid reducing the quality of programs and services for the students.

- J. Beausoleil noted that the Board does have to act now, but they always set priorities the way they feel the cuts would least effect programs.
- D. Petrone shared the administration's recommended budget cuts.

The Board discussed the recommendations made.

F. Infante questioned whether the state will be reducing funds to municipalities for FY17. M. Kortmann responded saying that it appears Coventry's funding will be reduced by \$80,000, which she thought was a very manageable number.

M. Griswold commented on his admiration for the fact that the administration looked into cutting things that would not affect programs and students.

It was noted that the reduction made by the Council makes the Board's total budget a 1.23% increase over FY2016. The following areas were noted for reduction:

•	Utilities	\$37,500
•	Technology	\$62,000
•	Facilities	\$6,500
•	Special Education	\$94,000

E. Marchand questioned the recent list of resignations and if there would be any savings realized due to those. D. Petrone replied that many of the individuals were not with the district long, so there would not be significant savings when hiring new staff.

MOTION: To take action on the line items from the budget as discussed in reference to the

Superintendent's recommendations By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: M. Sobol Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. VOTE: Executive Session (Superintendent's Evaluation and Security Audit)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive

Session for discussions related to the Superintendent's evaluation and the

security audit with the Superintendent present

By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII. Open Session

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 10:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m.

By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Alison Hollister Central Office Secretary

Approved: **April 27, 2016**