

**Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut**

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of April 27, 2016
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 5:30 p.m.:

Board Members Present:

William Oros, Chairman
Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice Chairman
Mary Kortmann
Eugene Marchand (arrived 5:45 p.m.)

Administrators Present: David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools and Cathie Drury, Educational Technology Director

I. 5:30 p.m. - Board Workshop - Website Review (45 Minutes)

Ms. Drury was introduced and shared a slideshow presentation on the new website layout. Board members present asked various questions about the different options. Mr. Petrone and Ms. Drury answered those items as they came up throughout the presentation. Mr. Petrone recognized Ms. Drury for the amount of detailed work that she put into this project. He said he was impressed with the quality of work she completed and her dedication to "getting it right."

II. Recess for the Fiscal Committee Meeting to take place.

6:30 p.m. The Board recessed so the Fiscal Committee could meet.

Attendance Taken at 7:34 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

Audience members present: Christine Murphy, PSSS Director; Dena DeJulius; CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Meredith Kirkpatrick, CHS Teacher; Jennifer DeRagon, ELA Specialist K-12; Jeff Spivey, CEP Teacher; and several students and parents.

III. Call to Order Regular Meeting

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

IV. Salute to the Flag

W. Oros led the salute to the flag.

V. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

VI. Report of Superintendent

Mr. Petrone reviewed recent happenings in and around the district.

VI.B. Staff Recognition: Jeff Spivey - Neag Alumni Society - Outstanding School Educator Award

VI.C. Staff Recognition: 3D Printer Work - Jeff Spivey, CEP Teacher; Jon Landry and Sarah Landry, CNH Teachers

Mr. Petrone talked about the award Mr. Spivey received from UConn and also the 3D printing program. Ms. DeJulius read a statement from teachers Mr. and Mrs. Landry (who could not be present) which noted their appreciation of being involved in the 3D printing at CNH. Mr. Spivey, who brought one of the 3D printers to show the Board, shared details of how the printer works. Celia Delvecchio, CNH student, talked about the CECA Tech Expo they were able to attend today and showcased the 3D printer work they have been doing. W. Oros and J. Beausoleil both spoke positively about the 3D printing program and how it serves the students well in many ways.

Parent Donald Swinton was recognized by the Chair and spoke how this project has a direct bearing on what is going on in the working field right now.

J. Beausoleil noted how rewarding it is to see young women excited to be involved in the program, especially since this is the age when young women start to leave technology.

Mr. Spivey continued to talk about the 3D printer in action.

The Board noted how impressed they are with the work that is being done.

M. Griswold said his children love the opportunity to work with technology. He said he thinks society needs to prioritize what is being taught and that more time should be spent on this type of program - this is what the world is doing.

Mr. Petrone talked about the award that Mr. Spivey received at the NEAG awards night at UConn. He talked about the awards event and reiterated that Mr. Spivey has been and will continue to be an outstanding educator.

J. Beausoleil said there is not a better person to receive this recognition. She commended Mr. Spivey for his teaching both in the classroom and as a CEP teacher. Mr. Petrone also spoke about his work with Mr. Spivey.

Mr. Spivey said a few words of thanks to Board members, students, parents and co-workers in Coventry. He said the receipt of the award is due to the support he has received in Coventry.

VI.D. Student Recognition: Emma Grimaldi, Brain Dance Award Winner

Mr. Petrone noted that Emma had to be at a rescheduled track meet this evening. He introduced Meredith Kirkpatrick, who talked about the Brain Dance Awards and Emma's award.

VI.E. Staff Recognition: Meredith Kirkpatrick, CHS Teacher - College 12 English Mock Interviews

Mr. Petrone talked about the mock interviews and how it is one of his favorite things to be a part of. Ms. Kirkpatrick talked about the effort and how it has grown over the years and mentioned the different parts of the program. She noted that this year there were over 100 seniors who participated. She extended an invitation to the Board to be interviewers next year.

VI.F. Staff Recognition: Jennifer DeRagon, ELA Specialist and Meredith Kirkpatrick, CHS English Teacher for their Presentation at CCSU's Literacy Essentials Conference

Mr. Petrone asked Ms. DeRagon to join Ms. Kirkpatrick and recognized them both for the work they are doing and their presentation at CCSU. Ms. DeRagon and Ms. Kirkpatrick both talked about the presentation and what work they did in preparing for it.

VII. VOTE: Consent Agenda

VII.A. Accept the resignation of Victoria Fox, CNH Teacher

VII.B. Accept the retirement of Nancy Plaster, CGS Teacher

VII.C. Approve the CGS June Field Experience to Mendon, MA

MOTION: Accept the consent agenda as presented

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Report of Chairman

W. Oros noted the visit of the NEASC Committee on Sunday, May 1. He also talked about the May 6 Art Show at CNH. He noted other upcoming events of which folks should be aware, including the referendum.

He talked about the State budget proposal and how that will effect towns. He asked the Board for their support for the Chairman to write to the state representatives stating opposition to any cuts to the ECS grant. The Board members agreed that would be fine.

IX. Communications

J. Beausoleil said she would like to point out the outstanding job the Superintendent did at the Town Meeting on Saturday. She noted his preparedness and said the presentation was excellent.

X. Approval of Minutes

X.A. VOTE: Approve Minutes of March 31, 2016 Regular Meeting

MOTION: To Approve the minutes of March 31, 2016

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes 6-0-1 (M. Griswold abstained)

X.B. VOTE: Approve Minutes of April 7, 2016 Special Meeting

MOTION: To Approve the minutes of April 7, 2016 Special Meeting

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: M. Sobol

Discussion: M. Kortmann asked that the list of areas cut be added to the minutes, before the vote to take action on the budget on page 3.

Result: Motion to approve the minutes with noted addition passes unanimously

XI. Old Business: Information - Gas Conversion Project Mr. Petrone

Mr. Petrone said he met with Mr. Elsesser last week. He said that an economic comparison analysis as been ordered. M. Kortmann said this is due by Friday for the Town Council's consideration on Monday evening. She said the energy committee approved the conversion, if the comparison came out in favor of the conversion. She went on to explain the process in further detail. Mr. Petrone said the Board will be kept informed as the project moves forward.

XII. New Business

XII.A. Assign Members to EAC Negotiation Committee

W. Oros asked J. Beausoleil to fill the Board in on past practice. J. Beausoleil noted the differences in the unions and that teachers' unions have special State timeline rules regarding negotiations for new contracts. She added that due to the fiscal impact of the negotiations, the entire Board would act as the negotiation committee. She added that the Town Council is invited to send a non-voting member to sit in on negotiations.

The Board talked more about the negotiation history and process. W. Oros thanked the Board for their service on this committee.

XII.B. Information: Discussion of CECC Board of Directors' Request

Mr. Petrone reviewed the request from the CECC Board. He reviewed financial data from previous years. Mr. Petrone talked about different avenues the Board could take. He said he wanted a feel from the Board on how they might want to proceed before more work and research would need to be done.

M. Kortmann said she would like to see detailed and separate economics of the program specked out. She noted the Town has a history of running programs separately. J. Beausoleil noted that we are not required to have a preschool, so she agreed it needs to be run separately and be self-sufficient.

Mr. Petrone agreed and said that is the goal.

W. Oros said finances are the real issue.

The Board continued to discuss the different options and long term scenarios.

W. Oros asked in what direction the Board would like to go.

M. Sobol said it makes sense as a district to take advantage of this situation. He said the bigger picture is, it will attract families to town and increase the tax base.

E. Marchand said he agrees with M. Sobol. He said he wants to be sure the Board scrutinizes the proposal to be sure no liabilities are missed.

J. Beausoleil said she does not have any objections, but she does have a few questions and she relayed those specifically. Mr. Petrone said he would come back to the next meeting with those answers.

The Board agreed the item would be considered again on May 12.

XIII. Report of Board Members

XIII.A. Information: Transportation Committee Meeting of March 31, 2016

