

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, August 27, 2015
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:24 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman (arrived at 8:00 p.m.)
Mary Kortmann, Vice Chairman
Mary Minor, Secretary
Eugene Marchand
William Oros
Denise Ryan
Michael Sobol

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; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Christine Murphy, Director of PSSS; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Steve Merlino, CHS Assistant Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Antonia Conti, BOE Candidate; Frank Infante, BOE Candidate; and a few community members. The Chronicle newspaper was represented.

I. Call to Order

M. Kortmann called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

M. Kortmann led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Mr. Petrone spoke to the different events and meetings taking place around the district and state. He noted the success of the CHS iPad distribution, which W. Oros also commented on and thanked the Technology Team for their work.

IV.A. Information: Student Board of Education Representative - Emily Oliver

Mr. Petrone introduced Emily Oliver as the new Student BOE Representative. Miss Oliver noted that CHS sports began today. E. Marchand said again how impressed they were with the candidates who applied this year. He asked Emily to talk about what she is doing in school and how she plans to be in touch with her fellow students. Emily spoke to those items.

IV.B. Information: Opening School Report

Mr. Petrone talked about the opening of school. He shared a video of students attending the first day of school. In addition he shared a video, which showcased students talking about their feelings for their Coventry teachers.

M. Kortmann asked about the google email accounts for the students. Ms. Drury spoke to that, saying all students have their google drive accounts set up.

IV.C. Information: Superintendent's 2015-2016 Goal Presentation

Mr. Petrone said the 2015-16 goals are focused on continuing to move things forward in a positive motion. Mr. Petrone reviewed each goal objective, which will also be available on the website.

J. Beausoleil arrived. (8:00 p.m.)

Mr. Petrone continued to explain the goals for the school year.

W. Oros spoke to the incoming grant money and noted that we are using our teachers to write the grants, not a paid grant writer. Mr. Petrone added that for three years, the district is bringing in over \$700K in grant money. The Board continued to talk about the different grants, including the Smart Start grant.

J. Beausoleil said the goals are all tied to where the district is and where it is going; it shows the long-range plan.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept Resignation of Josef Carlson, GHR Teacher

V.B. Accept Resignation of Jerald Craig, GHR Teacher

V.C. Accept Resignation of Steve Montgomery, Dean of Students

V.D. Accept Resignation of Nicoleta Stana, Special Education Teacher

V.E. Accept Resignation of Jennifer Thompson, Special Education Teacher

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

M. Kortmann asked if there has been difficulties in filling these vacancies. Mr. Petrone said this is an issue across the state. He said that it is difficult, but Coventry has been fortunate to find quality staff.

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil said there are few events when the Chairman gets to have fun. She noted a few of those events, but said specifically that Convocation is such an exciting day for staff and she is always so pleased to be there; it reminds her of why she is a Board member.

VII. Approval of Minutes

VII.A. VOTE: Approve Minutes of August 13, 2015

MOTION: To approve the Board minutes of August 13, 2015

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Old Business

VIII.A. Information: Projects Update and Equipment Repair

Mr. Carroll talked to the freezer breakdown at the Coventry Grammar School. He said there was over \$3,300 lost in food. He continued to review that issue with the Board. The Board discussed options and asked for a quote on a new freezer unit.

Mr. Carroll continued to note some other items, like the CGS boiler issue. He said that has been repaired and should be ready to go for winter. He talked about some roof leaks over the middle/high school Library Media Center, which have been patched.

The Board continued to talk about different items of concern. E. Marchand asked about the search for a new Director of Physical Plant and Facilities. Mr. Petrone spoke to those points.

J. Beausoleil asked about the ADA work. Mr. Carroll said that is moving ahead as planned, with expected completion in October.

E. Marchand asked about the structural issues at the complex. Mr. Petrone said a meeting is to be scheduled and it is best to wait for the new Director to be on board for that next meeting to be held.

VIII.B. Information: Transportation/2015-16 Bus Route Update

J. Beausoleil noted that there were a few updates in the routes this year, due to routing software being used and a bus being eliminated. She said the Board would like to know if there are serious concerns due to the changes and if there are more complaints this year compared to previous years.

Mr. Petrone said there are always a few calls regarding stops, but usually they are minimal. He noted this year there was a significant number of parent concerns about the changes in bus stops. Mr. Carroll added there have been approximately 2 dozen complaints, but many of the areas were the same. Mr. Petrone explained the procedures regarding bus route/stop complaints.

The Board continued to talk about the stop changes, the routing software, and the GPS software.

M. Minor mentioned the stop at Mark Drive and Route 44. Mr. Petrone said that area has been noted.

W. Oros said an independent review of the stops and routes might be in order.

The Board continued to discuss the concerns surrounding the routes and stops and what information the district is receiving from M&J and how to move forward.

J. Beausoleil said she has angst about the fact that M&J is not always aware of what is not working.

VIII.C. Information: Preschool Update

J. Beausoleil said we have received a lot of information about the preschool project this evening. Mr. Petrone asked if there were any further questions.

M. Kortmann asked about enrollment. Mr. Petrone said there 8 spots available out of 138.

X. VOTE: Executive Session (Bargaining Unit Negotiations)

