

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of February 25, 2021
Remote/Electronic

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
William Oros, Vice-Chairman
Mary Kortmann
Barbara Paré
Christina Williams

Board Members Absent:

Eugene Marchand, Secretary
Robert Williams

Also Present:

Emma Murphy, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators Present:

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

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Petrone provided general updates and reviewed various meetings he has attending locally regionally, and statewide.

A. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report

Miss Murphy reported on the senior class officers' meeting regarding prom and graduation. She said they are hopeful for an outside event for prom, within guidelines.

B. Information: CHS Assistant Principal Search

Dr. Petrone reviewed the timeline for the Assistant Principal search.

J. Beausoleil thanked Mr. Oros for representing the Board as a member of the paper screening committee.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

A. Accept the Retirement of Deborah Goodale, CHS Teacher

B. Accept the Retirement of Carol Krysiak, GHR Secretary

C. Accept the Retirement of Roxanne Oakley, CGS Para-educator

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented

By: W. Oros

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil thanked the bus drivers, noting that February 22 was National Bus Drivers' day and they are important people who work with our students in our district and we value their service.

J. Beausoleil said there are a variety of budget meetings coming up. She added that the Town Council will begin their review of the department budget proposals on Monday evening; the Board's scheduled meeting with the Town Council is March 15.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of February 11, 2021

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 11, 2021

By: W. Oros

Seconded: B. Paré

Result: Motion passes 4-0-1 (C. Williams abstained)

IX. Old Business

A. Information: COVID-19 Update

Dr. Petrone provided an update on items related to the pandemic including the approval of educators to receive the first dose of the vaccine, the school-based clinics for educators, the reaction to the second dose of the Moderna vaccine, and the decrease in the percentage of remote learners. He added that they are aware that there may be a true "no school" day after the second dose of the vaccine, if there are too many adverse reactions by staff.

B. Information: Budget FY22

J. Beausoleil said the Board's budget has been delivered to the Town Council. She asked if there were any questions at this time.

C. Williams thanked Dr. Petrone for the detailed answers to the questions presented.

X. New Business

A. Assign Negotiation Committee Members: Para-Educators and Custodians

J. Beausoleil asked for volunteers.

The volunteers for the Para-educators are M. Kortmann, W. Oros, and J. Beausoleil said she would check with R. Williams. C. Williams said she would serve if absolutely necessary.

The volunteers for the Custodians are W. Oros, J. Beausoleil and J. Beausoleil said she would check with E. Marchand.

B. Information and Possible VOTE: Approve Coventry Public Schools Equity Statement

J. Beausoleil said this is an item that was needed as a part of Coventry's goal to become an Open Choice participating district. She said this is a great idea regardless of our participation.

B. Paré said it read well and clear and had no changes.

J. Beausoleil read the statement for the record, "Coventry Public Schools honors the uniqueness of each individual and embraces diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Our aim is to build a strong, inclusive community that values equity and prepares students for life in a multicultural society as they learn, grow, and succeed. The Board of Education and the entire learning community are committed to the goal of creating an environment free of bias and discrimination."

MOTION: To approve the Coventry Public Schools Equity Statement as presented

By: C. Williams

Seconded: B. Paré

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Dr. Petrone noted, for the Board's information, the hiring statement that has been developed. J. Beausoleil read the statement for the record, "Coventry Public Schools aims to increase the diversity of our educators as part of our commitment to provide outstanding teaching and learning opportunities for all students. Our Portrait of the Graduate and equity initiatives are engaging Coventry Public Schools in continuing to develop welcoming, inclusive, and culturally competent school environments."

C. Williams asked that the statement be reviewed by legal to be sure it is okay. Dr. Petrone agreed.

C. Information and Possible VOTE: Approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar

J. Beausoleil commended the Superintendent for getting feedback from the various stakeholders.

Dr. Petrone said he worked with the PTO groups to glean feedback as well as the teacher union leadership for teacher feedback. He added that the professional development half days were adjusted to Fridays, based on parent feedback. He reviewed the survey results and noted that parents were not in favor of removing Columbus Day in holiday.

C. Williams said it is very difficult when there are random days off in the middle of the week, so she agrees with moving the professional development days to Fridays. She noted the first week of November and the choppiness of that week. She asked if professional development days could be moved to February, reinstating February break for students.

Dr. Petrone said he appreciated the feedback. He noted that it is difficult to lump all of the professional development together. He explained the professional reasoning for spreading out the professional development for teachers over a full year.

C. Williams asked that the week in November be addressed.

Dr. Petrone said November 2 is Election Day, so that is not negotiable.

J. Beausoleil said this is one of the less choppy calendar proposals. She added that there are so many things that need to be taken into consideration such as testing dates for students.

The Board discussed what remote learning snow days might look like going forward. Dr. Petrone said he believes the state will put some limits on this and we will probably end up with just two days of remote learning snow days allowed.

C. Williams suggested moving staff development days to different months. Dr. Petrone appreciated the suggestion and explained how those days were strategically placed according to holidays in place.

J. Beausoleil asked for feedback regarding the Columbus Day Holiday. M. Kortmann said based on parent feedback, she suggests leaving it as is. B. Paré said she looks at C. Williams as a parent spokesperson and appreciates her opinion. C. Williams said she agrees with the survey and keeping Columbus Day as is.

MOTION: Approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented

By: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Superintendent Evaluation)

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 at 7:53 p.m.

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Open Session

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 8:25 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

By: C. Williams

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: March 25, 2021