

V. Audience of Citizens

J. Beausoleil read the audience of citizen's email from Nicole Druley Bingaman, which is attached to these minutes.

VI. Possible VOTE: Authorize the Superintendent to enter into Employment Negotiations

MOTION: Authorize the Superintendent to enter into employment negotiations with a new Assistant Principal for Coventry High School

By: W. Oros

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reviewed various meetings he has attended locally and across the state. Additionally, he noted items such as, CHS has been ranked #34 in CT by US News and World Report and summer programs being planned.

C. Williams asked about the Fire Arms Safety curriculum for grades K-3. Dr. Petrone said this is a state requirement and we want to address it at the most basic level for this age group.

M. Sobol said he is pleased with this curriculum and asked if there is a plan to expand it beyond the K-3 level. Dr. Petrone said he expects this will happen in the near future.

There was discussion surrounding the new law that was passed about eliminating religious exemptions for vaccinations. Dr. Petrone said there will be more guidelines to come from the State.

The Board discussed the recent interim guidelines that came out regarding remote learning and that it will not be required by the State in the 2021-22 school year.

A. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report

Miss Murphy talked about senior events happening at this time of the year such as, preparing for senior prom; seniors committing to a college; and testing.

The Board discussed what the senior prom will look like under COVID-19 preventative guidelines.

VIII. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil welcomed Board members back to in person meetings.

She reminded folks of the Dollars for Scholars and Project Graduation fundraising.

She said this Tuesday is the budget referendum.

J. Beausoleil noted that we will be migrating away from CAFE-meeting, which will become obsolete, to a new software program for Board meetings.

IX. Communications

It was noted that correspondence regarding remote learning to and from the Commissioner of Education is attached to CABE-meeting and available to the public.

X. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of April 8, 2021

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 8, 2021

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI. Old Business

A. Information: COVID-19 Update

Dr. Petrone reviewed various topics regarding the status of COVID-19 in the district, including - updated, reduced quarantine timelines; another vaccination clinic but geared toward people 16 and up; graduation; summer program to address learning loss; and a draft summary of COVID-19 savings, grant funds, and expenses.

Regarding graduation, Dr. Petrone noted that the seniors will most likely go remote for June 7 and 8 so there is an extra layer of safety before graduation.

Regarding the draft COVID-19 summary, J. Beausoleil explained the rationale behind the development in an effort to provide clear information.

E. Marchand asked about the summer program. Dr. Petrone said students will be sought out and parents can also inquire about it.

B. Information and Possible VOTE: Budget FY22

J. Beausoleil noted the items attached: the Town Meeting presentation; Summary and Copy of the FY22 Budget; and email response to the Town Council.

C. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Town Council COVID-19 Reserve Fund of \$99,000

J. Beausoleil explained the background behind this fund. She said the Board had a consensus at the beginning of the year to not use these funds if at all possible. She said it is time to vote and let the Town Council know we will not need those funds, so they can be freed up for the Town Council's use as part of the general fund.

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to notify the Town Council that the Board of Education intends to NOT use the \$99,000 reserved for COVID-19 expenses

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: W. Oros

Discussion: M. Sobol asked if there is any harm in waiting. J. Beausoleil said she and the Superintendent have been discussing it for a number of months and the Town Council has asked for the Board to let them know.

E. Marchand said there has been excellent planning and usage of grants by the administration.

M. Sobol said as long as the Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations are comfortable moving in this direction, he is okay with it. Dr. Petrone and Mr. Carroll agreed they are.

M. Sobol said he is concerned and there is still time, if we need it.

M. Kortmann explained that we have grants that can be used, if needed.

Both E. Marchand and C. Williams wished the Council had not reduced the FY22 budget by \$125,000.

After thoughtful consideration, C. Williams said she is okay with giving it back.

W. Oros said he is fine with giving it back, but he would like to see the Town Council give the Board credit for how they have conducted business this year.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

D. Information: American Rescue Plans Funds Update

Dr. Petrone said the ARP numbers should be out next week, according to the State. He said they will put a proposal together for the Board's review, once the numbers are received.

XII. New Business

A. Assign members (3) to the Scholarship Committee

M. Sobol, E. Marchand, and W. Oros volunteered.

B. Information and VOTES: Board of Education Annual Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement for School Year 2021-22

Ms. Pratt explained the annual procedure to continue Coventry's participation in the Healthy Food Certification.

1. VOTE: Continue to adhere to the CSDE Healthy Food Certification Program standards

MOTION: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups

By: W. Oros

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

From: [Nicole Druley Bingaman](#)
To: [audienceBOE](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:23:49 PM

Good evening,

This is Nicole Bingaman of 343 Hannah Lane.

I'm writing tonight because I believe in giving credit where credit is due. I wholeheartedly believe that Dr. Petrone is owed immense gratitude and praise for making what was likely an impossible decision at the start of the school year to have all students Pre-K through grade 12 have the opportunity to be full in person learning. It was a brave and courageous decision that I'm sure was met with tons of challenges and obstacles, but as a parent I cannot say thank you enough. This past week and month, I've watched friends and family near and far post pictures on social media of their children's first day back to full time in person learning. With each post, I became even more grateful that we live in Coventry and that our superintendent had the guts to say let's open full in person and see how we can make this work.

I realize this is 100 percent a team effort and that each and every school staff member has busted their backs this year to make it all happen. They each deserve a thank you and a bonus too in my humble opinion. Our kids are thriving when other kids in towns around us have missed almost an entire school year of in person learning. THRIVING! They aren't having to worry about achievement gaps or retaining entire grade levels which is what other districts across the nation are currently facing.

Being full in person Pre-k through grade 12 is amazing accomplishment and Coventry Public schools is like a unicorn in the education world this year. So I'll say it again...THANK YOU Dr. Petrone. We as parents cannot say thank you enough for this gift of in person education this school year.

The only other way that I know that I can show my gratitude for this year is by voting to support the school budget on May 4th. I would hope that all of the other parents in Coventry would also use this opportunity to show all of school staff members their appreciation by supporting this budget as well.

I know this job can feel thankless at times and that there are days where I'm sure you receive nothing but complaints so today I wanted to make sure it wasn't one of those days.

Sincerely,
Nicole Bingaman

Sent from my iPhone