

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of May 27, 2021
Electronic

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Secretary
Christina Williams
Mary Kortmann
Michael Sobol

Board Members Absent:

William Oros, Vice-Chairman
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

Others present: Dr. Beth Giller, Director of PSSS; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Philip Gatcomb, and CHS Technical Education Teacher.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 talked about various meetings and events that took place in the district and around the region and state.

A. Information: 2020-21 Innovative Grant Presentation: Aviation Equipment Upgrades by Philip Gatcomb, CHS Technical Education Teacher

Mr. Gatcomb talked about the purpose of his project. He shared actual hardware purchased and explained how the students worked with the equipment.

B. Information and Recognition: Student Board of Education Representative Report - Last Meeting

Dr. Petrone announced that it was Miss Murphy's last Board meeting and recognized her for her work on the Board.

Emma thanked the Board for the chance to participate. Emma talked about end of year senior items such as the scholarships and the prom.

The Board congratulated Emma and wished her well.

C. Information: Administrator Goal Achievement Reports 2020-21

1. Coventry Grammar School

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Carrie who shared the Goal Achievement Report for CGS. (That report is available on the district's website.)

C. Williams said CGS did a great job this year.

M. Kortmann asked about the math results. Ms. Carrie said there are many structures in place to review the data. She added, one thing that was adjusted was the small group work; because of the pandemic we were not able to do what we usually do. She said the amount of time addressing this was also looked at.

Dr. Petrone talked about the loss of learning programs that will be developed.

E. Marchand asked about students returning from remote learning. Ms. Carrie said they have a group of staff who address Social Emotional Learning and loss of learning. She said the students are excited to see new students enter.

J. Beausoleil said an amazing job was done.

2. G. H. Robertson School

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. DeRagon who shared the Goal Achievement Report for GHR. (That report is available on the district's website.)

M. Sobol noted that great things happen at GHR.

M. Kortmann asked about students returning from remote learning. Ms. DeRagon said it seems to be easier at this age, as they already have their network of friends.

C. Williams said GHR is doing an outstanding job and asked about the lower data in third grade. Ms. DeRagon believes, in part, it has to do with the transition to a new school, but they are continually examining that.

E. Marchand asked about the students returning and what their status was. Ms. DeRagon said since they have been working with a certified teacher all along, they were keeping up; they did not notice any significant gaps.

3. Pupil and Staff Support Services

Dr. Petrone introduced Dr. Giller who shared the Goal Achievement Report for PSSS. (That report is available on the district's website.)

C. Williams talked about staff burnout and asked for Dr. Giller's take on it. Dr. Giller said it was challenging at the beginning, but everyone realizes how far we have come and is glad we have been in person all year.

Dr. Petrone said there is a real sense of accomplishment.

E. Marchand said he is impressed with the amount of home visitation completed. He also commented on the therapy dog and how great that is.

M. Kortmann asked about Coventry Academy. Dr. Giller said the enrollment began at 18 and there were transfers in and out during the year. The Board talked about the success of the Academy program.

M. Kortmann asked about the seniors in the program. Dr. Giller said this year has been challenging. Dr. Petrone added that the vocational program was not running this year, which makes a big difference for a lot of Academy students.

J. Beausoleil asked about outplaced students and how they did this year. Dr. Giller said, for the most part they have been in person all year; the providers have been doing a great job.

C. Williams asked how the pupil services team shares best practices. Dr. Giller talked about how collaboration works in the department; we have made sure time is spent sharing best practices.

M. Kortmann asked if we have enough social workers and psychologists, as they are so needed during this time. Dr. Giller said this has been a challenging time; the team has done a terrific job. Dr. Petrone said we have some ideas on how to expand services through the ESSER and ARP funds.

J. Beausoleil thanked Dr. Giller for her work.

D. Information: Community Conversations

Dr. Petrone reviewed the communication sent to the Town Manager. He reiterated that the Community Conversations was never intended to be an initiative of the Board. He said it is a Town initiative, by design. He wanted to be sure there was no misinformation out there that the schools did not want to be involved; that is not the case.

Dr. Petrone explained the goals of Community Conversations, which was reaching out to leaders in the community and having community members involved in furthering the discussion on what areas can be worked on, to make Coventry more welcoming to a more diverse population.

V. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil noted the joint Fiscal/Finance meeting will be held on June 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Media Center.

J. Beausoleil also noted the scholarship awards and how generous the community is; she thanked the Coventry Scholarship Foundation for their work.

J. Beausoleil talked about the annual spring staff celebration held earlier that evening, honoring staff who have reached 25 years of experience and those retiring.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of May 13, 2021

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 13, 2021

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Old Business

A. Information: COVID-19 Update

Dr. Petrone said registrations have started to go up; HEEC is expanding to accommodate new students. Dr. Petrone talked about other programs that are being worked on; such as student summer programs.

Dr. Petrone answered questions about the vaccination clinics for the 12+ students. He said the numbers have been low, but they believe that is because the vaccine is so readily available by other providers.

The Board discussed different scenarios related to the number of people vaccinated and what restrictions could or could not be put in place. Dr. Petrone said districts are waiting for direction from the State for the fall.

B. Information and VOTE: Approve the 2021-22 Tuition Rate for Regular Education Non-Resident Students at \$15,335

Dr. Petrone explained the updated Administrative Regulation, which no longer includes HEEC students.

MOTION: To Approve the 2021-22 Tuition Rate for Regular Education Non-Resident Students at \$15,335

By: M. Sobol

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Report of Board Members

A. Information: Scholarship Committee Report

E. Marchand noted that the Committee met with two students and were very impressed with their accomplishments. M. Sobol said it is his favorite committee to serve on.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: June 10, 2021