

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of June 10, 2021
Electronic

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
William Oros, Vice Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Secretary
Mary Kortmann
Michael Sobol
Christina Williams
Robert Williams

Administrators Present:

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

Staff Members Present: Rookie of the Year Teachers: Justine Bertora, Gregory Buonome, Kaitlyn Crosby, Gregory Felver, Brianna Santangelo; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Matt Kyer, CGS Library Media Specialist; and Michele Reveruzzi-White, CGS Teacher.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:11 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 the school year coming to a close. He voiced his appreciation to the staff and parents for their support through a very challenging year.

Dr. Petrone continued and talked about various meetings taking place and some end of the year activities. He introduced the new GHR School Song, which was unveiled during the National Blue Ribbon School festivities.

Dr. Petrone also congratulated the Board for receiving the Board of Distinction award through the Connecticut Association Boards of Education for the 4th time.

A. Staff Recognition: Rookie of the Year - Outstanding First Year Teachers - Justine Bertora, Gregory Buonome, Kaitlyn Crosby, Gregory Felver, Allison Lagassie, Brianna Santangelo, and Dario Sarmiento-Loayz

Dr. Petrone said he was excited to recognize the teachers present as our 2020-21 Rookies of the Year - Outstanding First Year Teachers.

Each administrator said a few words about the Rookies of the Year: Justine Bertora (CGS), Gregory Buonome (CNH), Kaitlyn Crosby (CNH), Gregory Felver (CHS), Allison Lagassie (CNH), Brianna Santangelo (GHR), and Dario Sarmiento-Loayza (CHS)

Dr. Petrone presented the teachers with plaques. There were congratulations from the Board.

B. Staff Recognition: Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) 2021 Best Practices Award - Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

Dr. Petrone recognized Mr. Carroll for winning the Best Practices Award through the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO).

Mr. Carroll said a few words about the project. J. Beausoleil said it is an honor to receive this award from your peers.

Dr. Petrone presented Mr. Carroll with a token of the Board's appreciation. There were congratulations.

C. Information: Equity and Diversity at the Coventry Grammar School

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Carrie who shared a presentation on the equity and diversity work that is taking place at the Coventry Grammar School. Ms. Carrie was joined by Matt Kyer, Justine Bertora, and Michele Reveruzzi-White

C. Williams asked about "communities as legitimate sources of knowledge." Ms. Carrie explained that the specific communities provide the knowledge about their communities and culture.

R. Williams asked how this work will be monitored and measured. Ms. Carrie talked about the processes taking place in the schools from the teachers in the classroom to the administrators providing guidance and tracking of curriculum.

Dr. Petrone talked about the work with CREC and how they have guided us with what we need to do to prepare for Open Choice students and what is expected going forward.

The Board discussed the number of Open Choice students we could expect. Dr. Petrone said we have seven seats available; we have one committed student.

The Board continued and talked about how to support the students coming to Coventry.

D. Information: Administrator Goal Achievement Reports 2020-21

1. Capt. Nathan Hale School

Ms. DeJulius shared the 2020-21 Goal Achievement Report presentation for CNH (which is also available on the district's website).

C. Williams said CNH did a great job. She said she had questions about the lower math performance task results. Ms. DeJulius said a piece of it does have to do with the effects of the pandemic. She also said it is not a high scoring area usually. Dr. Petrone said it is not a reflection of math progress overall, but is specific to this performance task.

M. Kortmann noted this is the same cohort from when they were in 5th grade and did so well. Dr. Petrone said it will be interesting to see how these students rebound. Ms. DeJulius said this is not reflective of this group of students. J. Beausoleil said this does not represent the entire math program.

The Board discussed this performance task and Dr. Petrone noted that the SBAC results will show more.

R. Williams talked about the color graphs and noted the good outliers. He asked how the high end students are being challenged. Ms. DeJulius said the teachers are always working with those students. Dr. Petrone said there are students who will take grade advanced classes.

C. Williams talked about the work at the lower grades. She mentioned the parent survey and that she felt she needed more communication as well. She also wants her children to be challenged. She wanted to know how the parent communication will improve. Ms. DeJulius said there will be more accountability with the teachers.

2. Coventry High School

Mr. Blake shared the 2020-21 Goal Achievement Report presentation for CHS (which is also available on the district's website).

C. Williams said the MAPS scores were outstanding.

M. Kortmann asked how many teacher AP scorers there are at CHS. Mr. Blake said 6.

E. Marchand asked about the graduation rate. Mr. Blake said, while the official 2021 results will not be out until fall, we did very well.

There was discussion about the high graduation rate, SAT scores and that goal, as well as the challenges of coming out of the pandemic.

V. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil talked about the end of the school year and she thanked the staff for their work in this challenging year.

J. Beausoleil reminded everyone of graduation on Saturday and hoped for good weather.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of May 27, 2021

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 27, 2021

By: M. Sobol

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes 5-0-2 (W. Oros, R. Williams abstained)

VIII. Old Business

A. Information: COVID-19 Update

Dr. Petrone said they are waiting for information from the state regarding next year and what the climate will look like in relation to the pandemic.

Dr. Petrone added that enrollment is up, including students who were homeschooled this past year re-enrolling.

IX. New Business

A. Discussion and VOTE: Open Choice - Device Insurance Options

Ms. Drury shared a presentation regarding the usage fee/insurance on technology devices and the Open Choice program.

J. Beausoleil said the vote is about possibly waiving the fee for Open Choice students.

C. Williams asked why it couldn't be waived for Open Choice students who qualify for "free and reduced lunch" the same as Coventry students

M. Kortmann verified that the money goes into a repair account. Dr. Petrone said the account is doing well. Since it is positive, she said it would not hurt anything to waive it for all Open Choice students.

E. Marchand said we are currently looking at one student.

J. Beausoleil said there are three options on the table: Do not waive the fee for Open Choice students; waive the fee for only those who qualify for free and reduced lunch; all Open Choice students get the waiver.

MOTION: That the fee be waived for all Open Choice students

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion failed 3-4 (W. Oros, M. Sobol, C. Williams, and R. Williams against)

MOTION: To waive the fee for Open Choice students who qualify for free and reduced lunch

By: M. Sobol

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

B. Discussion and VOTE: Approve the District Technology Plan 2021-2024

Ms. Drury shared her presentation on the new three-year Technology Plan (21-24).

Dr. Petrone praised Ms. Drury for the work she has done to make the plan interactive and organized.

MOTION: To approve the district technology plan 2021-2024

By: W. Oros

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: C. Williams said she was not able to review the material prior to the meeting.

Result: Motion passes 6-0-1 (C. Williams abstained)

J. Beausoleil thanked Ms. Drury for all of her work this year.

X. Report of Board Members

A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Joint Town Finance/Fiscal Committee Meeting of June 10, 2021

1. Information: ECS Levels for Towns

W. Oros said Mr. Carroll was recognized at the meeting for his award.

W. Oros summarized the update that was provided on the Microgrid.

The Board talked about who on the Board would be the representatives working on the Microgrid project. M. Kortmann and C. Williams were selected as the primaries and J. Beausoleil as the backup.

W. Oros said the year looks to end in the positive, with final figures being discussed on June 24.

W. Oros relayed the information about the ECS rate, which will not be reduced for the next two years, as was anticipated, which is good news for the Town.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

By: W. Oros

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: June 24, 2021