

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of May 13, 2021  
Electronic

Board Members Present:

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

Also in attendance: Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Technology Education; Kara Hennessey, K-12 ELA Specialist; Jeff Spivey, Educational Technology Coach; Kathryn Zadrowski, CHS Guidance Counselor; and Ted Opdenbrouw, District Security Specialist

**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 was one email submitted for Audience of Citizens, by Matt Kyer. J. Beausoleil read the email, which is attached to these minutes.

**IV. Report of Superintendent**

Dr. Petrone reviewed the various meetings taking place locally and around the state.

Dr. Petrone thanked the community for supporting the schools with the passing of the budget.

He went on to talk about new registrations for the 2021-22 school year; Open Choice; the 16+ vaccination clinic; the yearlong journey of diversity training; staff accolades, including

Hannah Cole and Robert Carroll for their recent accomplishments. There were congratulations from the Board.

**A. Recognition: Staff Presenters at UCONN's Teaching and Learning with iPads, Chromebooks, and Cloud-Based Computing Conference - Cathie Drury, Kara Hennessey, and Jeff Spivey**

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Drury, Ms. Hennessey, and Mr. Spivey who each gave an overview of the presentations they shared at the conference.

The Board asked questions about the virtual conference. There were congratulations from the Board.

**B. Information: College Credit Opportunities at CHS**

Dr. Petrone introduced Mr. Blake and Ms. Zadrowski, who shared their presentation on the College Credit Opportunities at CHS. The colleges providing programs are, UCONN, Eastern Connecticut State University, Manchester Community College, and Goodwin College.

J. Beausoleil said this is an outstanding program, and in addition to the AP classes. She said this provides amazing rigor in a comfortable environment.

R. Williams said since the grades get transferred to your actual transcripts, he asked what the grade breakdown is or grades. Mr. Blake said the typical average grade is between 87-89 for UCONN ECE.

There was a discussion about ECE courses and how many students go to UCONN and how many actual ECE courses are taken by students.

M. Sobol asked about the cost of the class. Mr. Blake said the Board contributes \$11,500 toward some of the courses, which is distributed by the number of courses, and the students' families pay for the rest.

C. Williams asked about the afterschool programs. Ms. Zadrowski said it is a great opportunity, but travel is a challenge, so the numbers are low. Mr. Blake added that the majority of our seniors are involved in sports or have a job, which hinders participation.

**C. Information: CABE Board of Distinction Award**

Dr. Petrone applauded the Board for the ability to work together on behalf of the students. He said he is happy to nominate the Board once again this year for this award. There was general consensus to move forward with this application.

**D. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report**

Emma talked about the AP exams and other happenings taking place at the high school, including the colleges that the seniors are going to.

**V. VOTE: Consent Agenda**

**A. Accept the Retirement of Candice Showalter, GHR Food Service**

**MOTION: Approve the consent agenda**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: C. Williams**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **VI. Report of Chairman**

J. Beausoleil said we approaching the last day of school - June 8. She noted that graduation is June 12, with a rain date of June 13. She encouraged folks to check the website for other events taking place.

J. Beausoleil noted the recent \$50,000 donation to Food Services, by a Coventry alumni. She thanked Mr. and Mrs. Watson for this generous donation.

J. Beausoleil thanked the community for their feedback by passing the budget on the first try.

J. Beausoleil continued that the school landscape for the fall is a moving target.

C. Williams asked for clarity on the Report of Superintendent. J. Beausoleil said asking questions during the report is acceptable if they are brief and non-consequential in nature; anything requiring a detailed discussion would require an agenda item, so the public is warned. C. Williams said there is not consistency from meeting to meeting and would like a policy. J. Beausoleil asked her to submit her ideas to the Policy Committee.

## **VII. Communications**

J. Beausoleil noted the attachment, which were answers provided to questions asked by the Town Council on COVID-19 expenses.

## **VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes**

### **A. Approve Minutes of April 29, 2021**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 29, 2021**

**By: W. Oros**

**Seconded: C. Williams**

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

## **IX. Old Business**

### **A. Information: COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Petrone reviewed various items related to COVID-19.

Dr. Petrone said students are being registered for the summer academies (loss of learning due to the pandemic). Dr. Petrone said students who need assistance are being identified by teachers.

R. Williams asked about learning loss in other districts. Dr. Petrone said this is a brand new program to address a very new problem. J. Beausoleil said no one has any data yet. She added that Coventry is probably ahead of the game, because we have been full in person all year. Dr. Petrone said we are not tracking enrollment from other districts, but believes all districts are having some type of learning loss and associated program.

Dr. Petrone continued noting the information that was sent to parents regarding quarantining athletes and the Emergency Broadband Benefit Communications.

R. Williams asked for the percentage of students 16+ that are vaccinated. Dr. Petrone said he does not have that information, but informally, he believes many have received the vaccine.

M. Sobol asked about relaxing the restrictions for end of the year activities. Dr. Petrone said, at this moment, the recommendations from the health departments have not changes in this regard.

Emma Murphy said she believes the vaccination rate is pretty high for the senior class.

R. Williams talked about voluntarily getting a percentage of students vaccinated. M. Kortmann said the state is tracking that information already.

C. Williams talked about virtual learning being taken off the table and will the budget be adjusted. Dr. Petrone said that was discussed throughout the budget process: software will be used to address other programs.

### **1. Information and Possible VOTE: Remote Learning 2021-2022**

Dr. Petrone said many districts are following this avenue; confirming we would not provide remote learning next year. J. Beausoleil said this removes the opportunity for parents to opt out of in person learning.

**MOTION: In order to ensure the best learning opportunity for students, unless required by the State of Connecticut or directed by the Board of Education, Coventry Public Schools will not offer a full remote learning program for students in the 2021-2022 school year. This does not prohibit the implementation / use of remote learning for emergency situations as directed by the Superintendent.**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: C. Williams**

Discussion: C. Williams wanted to be sure remote snow days for 2021-22 would come back before the Board before a practice was established. J. Beausoleil said it would.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

### **X. New Business**

#### **A. Information and VOTE: Approve the 2021-22 Tuition Rate for Regular Education Non-Resident Students at \$15,105**

J. Beausoleil explained this annual process.

The Board discussed the formula, which is included in BOE policy. C. Williams asked if the HEEC students are included. Mr. Carroll said yes, and explained that the numbers are dictated by policy. E. Marchand said this doesn't have financial implications to the budget. M. Kortmann said that the HEEC students should probably not be included in this formula, which means the tuition rate would be higher.

J. Beausoleil asked that the Administrative Regulation be modified and brought back to the next meeting, with an updated figure.

The item was tabled.

## **XI. Report of Board Members**

### **A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of May 13, 2021**

W. Oros reviewed the Fiscal Committee meeting. He mentioned the Project Graduation request for \$2,000 to support the program this year. He said the Committee had consensus to forward this to the full Board for approval. He noted it would be for this year only.

#### **1. Information and Possible VOTE: Project Graduation Request**

**MOTION: To approve the request from Project Graduation to fund \$2,000 toward this year's program**

**By: M. Sobol**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

W. Oros talked about the excess cost grant rate of 80.3%, which will give us \$40,000 in additional funds reimbursed than expected.

W. Oros continued that the current COVID-19 expenses have cost approximately \$653,000. He said locally we funded \$314,576.

W. Oros reviewed the various grants in play, including the ESSERs, Security, and Open Choice.

M. Kortmann added that the school lunch program will be funded by the federal government through June 2022.

C. Williams asked about the Health Insurance line on the Management Report. Mr. Carroll said it has to do with retirees staying on the plan or not; it is a fluid number. C. Williams asked if this will affect next year. Mr. Carroll said there will be new retirees this year, which should balance out that line.

## **XII. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Security Update and Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees)**

**MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to a Security Update and Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees with the District Security Specialist and Superintendent Present at 8:53 p.m.**

**By: W. Oros**

**Seconded: C. Williams**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **XIII. Open Session**

### **A. Possible VOTE on the Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees**

The Board returned to open session at 10:31 p.m.

**MOTION: To approve the terms of conditions of employment for the following non-union positions: Director of Finance and Operations Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Director of Teaching and Learning Superintendent of Schools Director of Education Technology Athletic Director Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator Food Service Director Physical Plant and Facilities Director Network Administrator/Systems Specialist District Security Specialist Educational Technology Project Manager Database and Systems Specialist Senior Technician/Systems Support Data Management Specialist Technology Technicians Educational Technology Assistant Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant Physical Therapist Board Certified Behavior Analysts**  
**By: E. Marchand                      Seconded: W. Oros**  
**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**XIV. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:32 p.m.**  
**By: W. Oros                      Seconded: R. Williams**  
**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme

Approved: May 27, 2021