

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 27, 2022
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Gene Marchand, Vice Chairperson
Peter DePaola
Emma Eaton
Courtney Rossignol
Christina Williams

Board Members Absent:

Mary Kortmann, Secretary

Also Present: Celia Delvecchio - Student BOE Representative (arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

Administrators Present:

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

Audience members: Dr. Beth Giller, PSSS Director; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities and Shannon Entwistle, CHS ELA Teacher.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone talked about happenings taking place around the district, region, and state. He also noted the new procedures that have been put in place regarding limited exceptions for in-person learning for specific extreme cases. He added these were developed due to the guidelines released by the State on December 31, 2022.

IV.A. Information: Staff Recognition - Shannon Entwistle, CHS ELA Teacher - Connecticut Reading Association Award of Excellence Recipient

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Entwistle for receiving this award. Mr. Blake said a few words about Ms. Entwistle's dedication. Ms. DeRagon also recognized Ms. Entwistle for this prestigious award. Ms. Entwistle said a few words of thanks. J. Beausoleil noted the work done by teachers and thanked Ms. Entwistle specifically.

V. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil thanked Mr. Trudelle and the administrators for the first of the facility tours. She thanked staff for their collaboration and attention to student safety early in the week at GHR. She noted the Joint Town Finance/BOE Fiscal dates for the year are set: March (tentative 14th), July 14, and October 27.

VI. Communications

J. Beausoleil noted the attached communications with the Town Council.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of January 13, 2022

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 13, 2022.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV.B. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report

Miss Delvecchio noted the start of the second semester, winter sports, band, drama, and that the year is moving along quickly.

VIII. Old Business

VIII.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY2023 Budget

The Board discussed comparing surrounding town budgets; technology use in the classroom; software licenses; DRG per pupil expenditure figures and rankings and the percentage of contractual obligations.

VIII.A.1 G.H. Robertson School

There were no questions at this time.

VIII.A.2 Coventry Grammar School

There were no questions at this time.

VIII.A.3 Capt. Nathan Hale School

C. Williams asked about the decrease in the guidance services salaries line. Dr. Petrone explained that is due to vacancy savings.

E. Marchand asked about the reduction in the 600 series supplies and the reduction in general music/chorus. Dr. Petrone said all of the lines were reviewed and adjustments were made to realize any savings, based on previous use.

C. Rossignol, page 49, the increase in FTE: Mr. Carroll said this was due to the reduction in the Title I grant.

C. Williams asked about Navigate 360. D. DeJulius said this is a pilot and they just had training. She said it is a suite of practices to support out tier II and tier III school culture and discipline. C. Williams asked to see the program at the Board level.

C. Williams, page 54, line 611 and the hands on materials reduction: Ms. DeJulius said these are not consumables, but items we use over and over again. C. Williams asked about world language on page 55, account 630 reduction. Ms. DeJulius noted they are all set with support; there is no reduction in what students are receiving. C. Williams noted she was pleased with the Future Problem Solvers line.

VIII.A. 4 Coventry High School

C. Williams, page 64 account 430, and the reduction: Mr. Carroll noted this is related to the copy machines and the change to procedures. Mr. Blake said all of the assignments are on Google Classroom which has decreased the need for printing.

E. Marchand, page 67, and the textbook line: Mr. Blake said most of the textbooks are online.

E. Eaton, page 66, general instruction supplies and the increase: Mr. Blake said this is what offset the decrease in textbooks and this increase will support the Coventry Academy students.

C. Williams, page 66 and line 611-1100: Mr. Blake said it supports the SAT prep work.

C. Williams, page 72 and the enrollment numbers for Cheney Tech and Windham Tech: Mr. Carroll said that page needs to be updated.

VIII.A.5 Pupil and Staff Support Services

C. Williams, page 76, contracted services: Dr. Petrone said it is based on actual student need, which can include equipment or support services.

C. Williams, page 77, she commented on the great job done on transportation.

E. Eaton, page 79, noted the decrease: Dr. Petrone said it is a mix of outplacements coming back in-district and possibly other students aging out.

VIII.A. 6 Warehouse/Facilities

C. Williams, page 88, asked about the safety and training support decrease: Mr. Trudelle said much of the training is now available online.

P. DePaola, page 89, asked about additional considerations and the contingency items: Mr. Trudelle said additional considerations are items that are not included in the CIP and contingency items are for unforeseen items that come up.

J. Beausoleil thanked Mr. Trudelle for his long-term planning, which is evident in his budget.

VIII.A.7 Central Office

C. Williams, page 98, contracted services decrease: Dr. Petrone noted it was due to an updated quote for the DUO software.

E. Eaton, page 99, the increase in transportation: Dr. Petrone said it is a contractual obligation.

VIII.A.8. General

C. Williams asked about the AP training. Mr. Blake noted we have no new AP teachers to train, the current teachers have all stayed.

The Board discussed the items of assumption, where the final figures are not known yet. Dr. Petrone said he does not believe these numbers will change the budget significantly in one direction or another.

C. Rossignol asked about the difference in the copier services at the sites. Dr. Petrone said it is based on use and the need at the grade level.

J. Beausoleil reminded the Board to email questions ahead of time, if possible. She said budget discussions would continue at the special February 3 meeting.

IX. New Business

IX.A. Information and Possible VOTE: Approve the Roof Replacement Plans and Specifications for the G. H. Robertson School and Coventry High School

Dr. Petrone, Mr. Carroll, and Mr. Trudelle updated the Board on the delay of the roof project.

X. Possible VOTE: Executive Session [Bargaining Unit Negotiations]

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to Bargaining Unit Negotiations with the Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations present at 9:12 p.m.

By: P. DePaola

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI. Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:43 p.m.

XI.A. Possible VOTE: Approve the Agreement between the Coventry Board of Education and the Para-educators Union, July 2021 - June 2024

MOTION: To approve the Agreement between the Coventry Board of Education and the Para-educators Union, July 2021 - June 2024.

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

By: C. Williams

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: February 3, 2022