

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, June 16, 2022
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Secretary
Peter DePaola
Courtney Rossignol

Board Members Absent:

Emma Eaton
Christina Williams

Administrators Present:

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

Audience: Kevin Clancy, CHS Girls Basketball Team Coach; William Vanderrest, CHS Track and Field Coach; and Pat Cox, Athletic Director.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 provided a brief review of end of the year events. He thanked all Board members for attending graduation.

Board members commented positively on graduation, the HEEC picnic promotion, and the eighth grade promotion.

IV.A. Recognition: CHS Girls Basketball Team Recipients of the 2022 Sportsmanship Award

Dr. Petrone recognized Coach Clancy, who was present on behalf of the CHS Girls Basketball team, for the team winning the 2022 Sportsmanship Award. Coach Clancy talked about the outstanding character of the team. Mr. Cox also commented on how this positively reflects on the entire program. E. Marchand echoed those comments.

IV.B. Recognition: William Vanderrest, CHS Track and Field Coach

Dr. Petrone recognized Coach Vanderrest for his work with the Track and Field Team. Coach Vanderrest talked about the Records Board that has been established at the athletic field and the history behind it. The Board talked about the unveiling ceremony. The Board thanked Coach Vanderrest for his dedication.

V. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil talked about what an honor it is to participate in the graduation ceremony.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of June 9, 2022

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 9, 2022.

By: P. DePaola

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: E. Marchand asked that, right before the adjournment, the money that was noted as spent on legal fees be specified as \$5,764.50.

Result: Motion to approve the minutes as adjusted passes unanimously

VIII. Old Business

VIII.A. Information and Possible VOTE: FY23 Budget

J. Beausoleil said it is up to the Board to decide on how to handle the \$140,000 reduction to the operating budget made by the Town Council. She noted the CIP budget was not impacted this time around.

She reviewed the items that have already been adjusted since the last time the budget was discussed: vacancy savings for a late retirement (\$18,741); removal of the Athletic Insurance (\$11,000); and salary adjustments (\$13,623), which equal \$43,364. She continued and reviewed the remaining items that were up for discussion.

C. Rossignol asked about using the 2% non-lapsing account; the building use fund; and/or the tuition fund to subsidize the budget. The Board discussed this proposal. M. Kortmann noted that the non-lapsing account cannot be used for anything that is not on the approved CIP and that the building fund is to be used for building items.

The Board continued to review the list of possible reductions.

The Board focused on the Family and Consumer Science (FCS) position, which is currently vacant. Dr. Petrone explained how hard this position has been to fill.

E. Marchand said, because it has not been filled, he would be more in favor of cutting that for 22-23.

The Board turned the discussion to the unfilled district-wide Social Worker position salary. If we eliminate this salary, Dr. Petrone said contracted services funds have been shifted to accommodate these needed student services.

J. Beausoleil said taking \$10,000 out of academy supplies and using the tuition account is reasonable.

C. Rossignol agreed with not cutting the full Social Worker position, but maybe only half.

The Board discussed possibly cutting a bus. Dr. Petrone voiced his concern that student ridership could go up.

J. Beausoleil said she might be agreeable to a mid-year hire of the district-wide social worker, providing .5 in salary savings.

P. DePaola said he wanted to be sure all funds are being used - specifically, funds that are unexpended this year. He said he does not believe in putting funds in the 2% account, if we are cutting any of these items.

M. Kortmann said she disagrees with using the 2% account or tuition fund for ongoing expenses; those funds are for one time purchases only.

M. Kortmann said she was in favor of increasing the transportation fee for athletics. There was agreement on this.

There was consensus to reduce/adjust the following:

- CHS Salaries - Family and Consumer Science unfilled position: \$53,381
- CHS Transportation - Increase in athletic transportation fee from \$45 to \$60: \$5,200
- DW/PSSS Salaries - .5 FTE Social Worker (half year fill): \$28,702
- CNH Textbooks: social studies online resource (LLI) and discover tech: \$6,120
- CHS Academy Supplies: \$3,233

With these items, plus the lines that have already been adjusted (\$43,364) it brings the total reduction to \$140,000

MOTION: To eliminate the FCS teacher \$53,381; reduce the district-wide Social Worker 50% with a midyear start \$28,702; increase the transportation student fee from \$45 to \$60 - \$5,200; eliminate the discover tech resource for grade 6 and cut the LLI textbooks by \$6,120; reduce the academy supplies by \$3,233; account for the vacancy savings for a late retirement (\$18,741); removal of the Athletic Insurance (\$11,000); and salary adjustments (\$13,623), which equal \$43,364 for a total amount of \$140,000, the reduction provided by the Town Council

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. New Business

IX.A. Information and possible VOTE: Request to Transfer to the 2% Non-Lapsing Account

