

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, August 25, 2022  
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson  
Mary Kortmann, Secretary  
Peter DePaola  
Emma Eaton  
Christina Williams

Board Members Absent:

Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson  
Courtney Rossignol

Administrators Present:

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

Audience: Tim Sadler, Earthlight; Christian Marcinczyk, CNH Assistant Principal; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; and two observers.

**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 noted school begins on Wednesday, August 31. He talked about the professional development that has occurred this summer and will occur over the next week. He also reviewed other summer items.

**IV.A. Information: Launching into Healthy Learning - Fall 2022**

Dr. Petrone reviewed the updated plan for returning to learning, associated with COVID-19. He noted we are still continuing with the aggressive cleaning protocols. He talked about self-test kits being available to families and staff.

#### **IV.B. Information: Bullying Prevention Presentation**

Dr. Petrone introduced Christian Marcinczyk, who shared the Bullying Prevention Presentation with the Board, which is available through the district's website.

J. Beausoleil noted the slide that discussed "conflict vs bullying" and said it was helpful. Dr. Petrone said we do have cameras in the halls and those videos are reviewed as needed.

The Board discussed parent communication, patterns of behavior, remuneration for students involved, adjustments to student schedules, students' files, safe school committees, formal and informal reports, student behavior in general, broadening the awareness of the See Something - Say Something app - specifically that parents can use it.

C. Williams asked that a parent survey be utilized to gain input for the Safety Committees.

#### **V. Report of the Chairman**

J. Beausoleil reported that the bus schedules are on the website. She reviewed the new school year events at the buildings.

#### **VI. Communications**

J. Beausoleil noted the curriculum communication attached.

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

##### **VII.A. Approve Minutes of July 28, 2022**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 28, 2022**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: P. DePaola**

**Result: Motion passes 4-0-1 (M. Kortmann abstained)**

#### **VIII. Old Business**

##### **VIII.A. Information and Possible VOTE: Solar Project Update**

Mr. Sadler provided an update on the project. He noted the proposal is to reduce the size of the arrays by 30%. He said the cost would not increase and the PPA rate would be lower by 5/10 of a cent. He said there is a possibility that a third extension could be filed. He added that there is about a \$9,000 decrease in savings with the reduction in the project.

J. Beausoleil asked for a guarantee that the third extension would be attempted. Mr. Sadler agreed. C. Williams expressed a concern about not having panels available when the remaining 30% could be installed. Mr. Sadler said they would hold panels for the project.

The Board discussed the timeline and work being done when school is not in session.

**MOTION: To approve continuation in the solar project.**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: E. Eaton**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

#### **IX. New Business**

##### **IX.A. Information: Facilities Projects Update**

Mr. Trudelle shared a Summer 2022 Facilities Projects Update presentation, which is available via the district's website.

**IX.B. Possible VOTE: Use of Remote Learning on Two Inclement Weather Days**

Dr. Petrone talked about continuing the use of remote learning on two inclement weather days. He said feedback has been gleaned from parents and teachers and no concerns were reported.

**MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to allow for remote learning on up to two inclement weather days.**

**By: P. DePaola**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes 4-1 (C. Williams against)**

**X. Report of Board Members**

**X.A. Information: Transportation Committee Report, Meeting of August 3, 2022**

E. Eaton reported on the Transportation Committee meeting of August 3. She noted the Committee agreed to go to 17 buses instead of 18, because of the lack of drivers. P. DePaola noted the Committee will meet in September for an update.

The Board discussed route times, which would be recalculated as the drivers do test runs; how the runs are developed; the direction of the routes in the morning and afternoon, so that the same children do not have to ride the long ride both ways; the status of the location app, which has had a tactical pause; and consistent communication to parents.

**X.B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of August 25, 2022**

M. Kortmann reviewed the Fiscal Committee meeting. She noted the grant approvals are being received. She said there is not much else going on yet, as it is still early in the year.

**X.B.1. Possible VOTE: Approve the Preschool Proposed Operating Budget -- 2022-23**

**MOTION To approve the Preschool Operating Budget for the 2022-23 school year as presented.**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: P. DePaola**

Discussion: M. Kortmann said adjustments were made to align with the actual budget that was spent last year.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**XI. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: C. Williams**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted:

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: September 8, 2022