

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, September 8, 2022
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Secretary
Peter DePaola
Emma Eaton
Christina Williams

Board Members Absent:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Courtney Rossignol

Also Present:

Maya Waterhouse, Student BOE Representative

Administrators Present:

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

Audience: Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; Jennifer Trueman, CHS Dean of Students; Beth Giller, PSSS Director; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Hannah Cole, CHS Band Director; observers; students and parents.

I. Call to Order

E. Marchand called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

E. Marchand led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reviewed events and meetings that have taken place in-district, regionally, and state-wide.

The Board commented positively about the CGS Open House. C. Williams talked about how pleased she was with the format.

E. Marchand made positive comments about Convocation.

IV.A. Welcome and Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report

Dr. Petrone welcomed Maya Waterhouse. The Board publicly welcomed Maya. Miss Waterhouse thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate. She reviewed athletics taking place at CHS, the renovation of the Courtyard, and the excitement with the start of the school year.

IV.B. Recognition: Coventry Students Placed in the eesmarks Annual Contest - Alina Casado, George Conklin, Taryn Weber, Evan Zajac, and Lillyanna Hand

Dr. Petrone talked about the eesmarks contest and Coventry's winners. He noted this was a program from the end of the 2021-22 school year.

Ms. Carrie recognized George Conklin, current first grader, for placing second in his category. Ms. DeRagon recognized Alina Casado, current third grader, who placed 3rd in her category. Mr. Sward recognized current 7th graders Taryn Weber who placed third, Evan Zajac who placed second, and Lillyanna Hand who placed first in the middle school category.

E. Eaton noted how impressed she was with how well Coventry did in a state-wide competition.

Dr. Petrone promised a very special gift would be sent on behalf of the Board to each student.

IV.C. Recognition: CHS Tri-M Music Honor Society Chapter of the Year - Hannah Cole, CHS Band Director

Dr. Petrone recognized Hannah Cole for her work with the CHS Band and, specifically, the CHS Tri-M Music Honor Society for being chosen as Connecticut's Chapter of the Year. Ms. Trueman said a few words about the CHS Band and Ms. Cole spoke about the Tri-M Music Honor Society and the students involved.

Dr. Petrone presented the group with a token of appreciation. There were congratulations from the Board.

IV.D. Information: Opening of the 2022-2023 School Year

Dr. Petrone talked about the opening day of school and shared a video with pictures of Convocation and the first day for students.

IV.E. Information: Superintendent's Goal Presentation 2022-2023

Dr. Petrone reviewed the district goals for the 2022-23 school year which are available on the district's website.

The Board discussed academic recovery, engaging home with school technology, the China program, setting district goals, social emotional learning work; Rachel's Challenge; the Spanish teaching position at the middle school; and professional development for administrators.

C. Williams asked if we are looking at best practices around the world. Dr. Petrone said we are always looking at best practices and what is working for others. He said there are a lot of factors in play when you look at other countries. He said we are always looking at research. M. Kortmann said there is a cultural difference in other countries, like Finland.

V. Report of the Chairman

E. Marchand noted this has been an exciting start to the year.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of August 25, 2022

MOTION: To approve the minutes of August 25, 2022

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Eaton

Discussion: E. Marchand asked that the attendance be adjusted - he was absent on August 25.

C. Williams asked on page 2, under the Bullying Prevention discussion, that it be noted she asked for a parent survey to be utilized to gain input for the Safety Committees. C. Williams asked on page 3, under the Transportation Committee discussion, that it be noted there has been a tactical pause in the use of the location app.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII.B. Approve Minutes of September 1, 2022

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of September 1, 2022

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Report of Board Members

VIII.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of September 8, 2022

M. Kortmann reported on the meeting and said there is not much to relay regarding the monthly reports because it is so early. She said the majority of the discussion was related to the Capital Improvement Projects. She asked the Board to review the information and provide input.

M. Kortmann noted the issue with the fire sprinkler system at the complex and that emergency repairs are needed and the 2% non-lapsing account can be accessed.

MOTION: To add an agenda item to discuss and vote on using the 2% non-lapsing account to cover the cost of emergency repairs on the fire sprinkler system

at the complex

By: C. Williams

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

MOTION: To authorize the superintendent to send a letter to the Town Council requesting use of the 2% non-lapsing account for the cost to repair the fire sprinkler system at the complex

By: C. Williams

Seconded: E. Eaton

Discussion: Dr. Petrone explained the age of the sprinkler system issue, noting it is considered an "emergency." C. Williams expressed her concern about this situation. Dr. Petrone explained that these are areas that were found during the inspection and that the system as a whole is in good working condition.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: September 29, 2022