

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, November 10, 2022  
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Gene Marchand, Vice-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 Members: CNH students Zoey Kelton and Ryan Davis; CHS students Charlotte Jordan, Gabe O'Neil, Lindsey Harrington, and Justin Foran; students' families; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; two observers; and a few citizens.

**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**

Ryan Boucher, a freshman at CHS, was present to talk about the issues in his freshman health class. He reviewed what took place during the class at which he was present.

Christina Williams, 436 Ripley Hill Road, expressed her concern for the high school health curriculum and specifically the Wesleyan program. The statement she provided is attached to these minutes.

**IV. Report of the Superintendent**

**IV.A. Recognition: CAPSS Superintendent Student Awards - Zoey Kelton and Ryan Davis from the Capt. Nathan Hale School and Charlotte Jordan and Gabe O'Neil from Coventry High School**

Dr. Petrone recognized the students present to receive this award. Mr. Sward and Mr. Blake said a few words about each student. Dr. Petrone presented the students with the awards.

There were congratulations from the Board.

**IV.B. Recognition: NSDC Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning Award - Lindsey Harrington and Justin Foran Coventry High School Seniors**

Dr. Petrone recognized the students present to receive this award. Mr. Blake said a few words about each student. Dr. Petrone presented the students with the awards.

There were congratulations from the Board.

Dr. Petrone continued with his report and highlighted various events taking place locally, regionally, and state-wide.

**IV.C. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report**

Miss Waterhouse shared a presentation on activities students have been involved in, including the Veterans Day Race, the courtyard work, and spirit week at CHS. P. DePaola said the National Honors Society students did a phenomenal job with the donations for the Veterans.

**V. Report of the Chairman**

J. Beausoleil reported on the CT-SEDS training for parents that was held earlier in the week. She noted Veterans Day and thanked our Veterans, including P. DePaola, for their service.

**VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes**

**VII.A. Approve Minutes of October 27, 2022**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of October 27, 2022**

**By: P. DePaola**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: C. Williams asked that the Board discussing resources being vetted be added to the minutes.

**Result: The motion to approve the minutes based on the direction of checking the tape passes unanimously**

**VIII. New Business**

**VIII.A. Information and VOTE: Approve the 2023 Regular Board Meeting Dates**

**MOTION: To approve the Board meeting dates for 2023 as presented**

**By: C. Williams                      Seconded: E. Eaton**  
**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## IX. Report of Board Members

## IX.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of November 10, 2022

M. Kortmann said the general fund is running close. She noted the areas of concern: fuel, electric, and health insurance. She said we are offset because of transportation and running one less bus.

**MOTION: To add a discussion and vote to access the 2% non-lapsing account for the repair of the HVAC at HEEC.**

**By: C. Williams                      Seconded: E. Eaton**  
**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 HVAC system at HEEC.**

**By: E. Eaton** **Seconded: C. Williams**

Discussion: Dr. Petrone explained that the unit in the foyer is no longer working and the replacement would fall under an emergency.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**IX.A.1. Possible VOTE: Approve the Capital Improvement Plan FY24 - FY28**

**MOTION: To approve the Capital Improvement Plan FY24 - FY28.**

**By: P. DePaola**                      **Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: C. Williams asked if there were new items added. M. Kortmann said yes, they are specified by a pink color; she reviewed those items. M. Kortmann explained how parking lots are funded by being included in the town's road bonds.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**X. Possible Executive Session** (discuss an attorney client communication related to the CGS 10-151 process)

**MOTION: Pursuant to CGS 10-151, the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss an attorney client communication with the Superintendent and Board attorney present at 7:44 p.m.**

**By: M. Kortmann                      Seconded: C. Williams**  
**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **XI. Open Session**

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 8:15 p.m.

## **XII. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.**

**By: C. Williams**

**Seconded: E. Eaton**

**Result: Motion passed unanimously**

---

Respectfully submitted:

---

Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: December 8, 2022

**From:** [Chrissy](#)  
**To:** [Kimberlee Delorme](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Audience of Citizens  
**Date:** Thursday, November 10, 2022 7:02:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [06A57276-14B1-42EC-A22A-C8852EDFC45B.png](#)

---

## Good evening

At the last meeting we discussed a controversial organization that is continuing to come into our school. The adolescent sexual health awareness group from Wesleyan University. We discussed how this organization initiated conversation on anal penetration and oral sex with 13 year olds. How that conversation was outside of the CT published framework for sexual education, and outside of our published 9th grade health curriculum.

We also learned that the provided references had not been vetted by this district and included broken links (websites not valid) and a pregnancy resource in north carolina. (Yes, I know we live in CT) There were also resources on abortion which violates ct general statutes. We also discussed the exclusion of local resources like Wic, no resources on adoption, and no resources on abstinence.

After this conversation - we took a vote on continuing to use the program for the sexual education of 13 year olds. Emma, Gene, Mary and Jen you all voted to keep the program, Wesleyan led inappropriate conversation outside of our and the state of CT curriculum, the violation of connecticut general statutes with regards to abortion, and the unvetted distant resources given to our students. With the understanding the teacher will quickly bring it back.

So why am I here now- vote done right? new information has been discovered since last meeting. A parent identified the ASHA wesleyan website (which is now in your inbox).

Id like to read their second paragraph and their mission statement - ASHA leads interactive workshops, taught by Wesleyan students, at local high schools and within Wesleyan's community that cover STI's, safer sex practices, sexual assault prevention, communication, consent, pleasure, and other sexual health issues. ASHA is committed to holding events, creating content, working with other Wesleyan organizations, and bringing speakers to campus that all deal with sexual health in creative and challenging ways.

Further done

Adolescent sexual health awareness was founded in 2000 and has been dedicated to providing young people with sexual health and pleasure resources ever since.

Yes you heard that - pleasure.... Now lets scroll down just a little bit - the second picture in their picture reel - is a woman proudly displaying - sex toys. So to recap per this organizations website - we teach high school students interactive workshops that covers sexual pleasure and we are proudly broadcasting our promotion of adult toys. And I ask is this appropriate mission statement for 13 year olds?

Just a review of the laws of CT - a 13 year old can NOT consent to sexual activity, nor can they buy adult pleasure toys. Why as a district do we intentionally bring in an organization that

1. Initiates conversation outside of curriculum framework
2. Provides unvetted resources which out of state
3. Excludes local family planning services and abstinence,
4. Blatantly violates ct general standards 10-16C with respect to abortion

5. and has a mission statement to teach high school children “sexual pleasure” while proudly displaying items the children can not legally buy.

Now I am going to assume- none of you knew this. I would ask with this new information you consider if you still find this organization the right guest speakers for our district or if we can find better use of our precious education time.

I stand by my vote - this organization belongs no where in coventry pubic schools - nor any school in this state. I will be reaching out to the towns listed in the board memo with a personal letter as a concerned citizen of our districts experience, a link to the ASHA website and copies of their handouts and resources.

I would ask that Ms. Delorme include the copies of all the handouts provided to our children, and the links identified below.

Links:

ASHA Wesleyan University

<https://ashawesleyan.wixsite.com/ashawesleyan>

Coventry Curriculum

<https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/teaching-learning/curriculum/9-12/health>


CT Framework for Sexual Health

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Sexual-Health-Education-Component-of-Comprehensive-Health-Education/Sexual-Health-Education-Curriculum-Framework>

CT General Statue

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_164.htm#sec\\_10-16c](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_164.htm#sec_10-16c)



Join us on the **Wix**app 

# Adolescent Sexual Health Awareness at a Glance

Adolescent Sexual Health Awareness was founded in 2000 and has been dedicated to providing young people with sexual health and pleasure resources ever since.

