

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 12, 2023
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Gene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Secretary
Peter DePaola
Emma Eaton
Courtney Rossignol

Board Members Absent:

Christina Williams

Also present: Maya Waterhouse, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators present:

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

Audience: two observers; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant Facilities; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Beth Giller, Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services, and Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning.

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

There were none.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reviewed various events taking place in-district, locally, and state-wide.

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

Maya said students are re-acclimating themselves after break; mid-terms are coming up; and college acceptance letters are starting to come in for seniors.

IV.B. Information: Facilities Projects Mid-Year Update

Dr. Petrone introduced Mr. Trudelle, who shared a mid-year facilities projects update presentation, which is available through the district's website.

The Board discussed the solar project timeline, using the high school as an emergency shelter once the walls project is done, and the roof project timeline.

IV.C. Information: FY24 Budget Presentation

Dr. Petrone shared his FY24 Budget Presentation, which is available on the district's website.

E. Eaton asked what site would receive the new Registered Behavior Technician (RBT). Dr. Petrone said most likely, this position will provide district-wide coverage as needed.

E. Eaton noted the increase in legal costs. Dr. Petrone said that is due to upcoming negotiations.

E. Eaton noted the increase in contracted services. Dr. Petrone said we are bringing back into the budget the services that were covered in the COVID-19 related grants.

E. Eaton noted the decrease in special education salaries at CGS. Dr. Petrone said the preschool staff were pulled from that location and made into their own section.

C. Rossignol asked about the proposed .1 FTE increase in Physical Education at CNH and if it would need to move on as students grow. Dr. Petrone said the same position would cover that need at CHS.

M. Kortmann noted the heat energy item and asked that the natural gas item be clarified.

J. Beausoleil asked Board members to email questions ahead of time, if possible. She added that it is a difficult budget year; inflation is playing a big part of this scenario. She asked the community for their input.

V. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil reported on the HVAC grant referendum and said it passed. She added that CAFE is sponsoring a Legislative Breakfast on January 20 and Coventry is hosting. She also noted that the timeline for Dr. Petrone's evaluation and contract review is attached and available to the Board. The Board briefly discussed the Science of Reading Curriculum issue and the burden it is placing on districts.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of December 8, 2022

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 8, 2022

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: J. Beausoleil noted that BoardBook had been incorrectly recording her as a voting member of subcommittees, but that has been cleaned up. She

MOTION: To approve modifications to 4116.35 Child Abuse Neglect and Sexual Assault Reporting

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: P. DePaola reviewed his concerns with the detailed language of the policy and the heavy responsibilities that lay on staff. He said some of this language is very scary for a parent.

Dr. Petrone explained the various scenarios that would apply to the health and safety of a child.

J. Beausoleil and E. Marchand stated this policy is the law.

J. Beausoleil noted that the concerns P. DePaola has are about the entire policy, not specific to the modifications. She recommended that he brings his concerns to the legislature, as this is beyond Coventry's control.

Result: Motion passes 5-1 (P. DePaola against)

VIII.B.3. 4118.5 Employee Use of the Districts Computer Systems

MOTION: To approve modifications to 4118.5 Employee Use of Districts Computer Systems

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII.B.4. 5118.2 Foreign Exchange Students

MOTION: To approve modifications to 5118.2 Foreign Exchange Students

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: P. DePaola

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII.B.5. 5131.2 Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety

MOTION: To approve modifications to 5131.2 Students Use of the District's Computer Systems Internet Safety

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: P. DePaola

Result: Motion carries unanimously

VIII.B.6. 5131.4 Use of Private Technological Devices by Students

MOTION: To approve modifications to 5131.4 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion carries unanimously

VIII.B.7. 5145 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

MOTION: To approve modifications to 5145 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

version. He said on item I-C-3 the Board had agreed to keep it at "three members" not "two-thirds." The Board agreed this change should be made.

Result: The motion to approve the modifications with the noted changes to #I-C-3 [three members, instead of two-thirds] passes unanimously

VIII.B.14. 9368 Meeting Conduct

MOTION: To approve modifications to 9368 Meeting Conduct

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: E. Eaton

Discussion: P. DePaola asked that the word boisterous be changed to disruptive. M. Kortmann said the word was picked by the lawyers and she would not support changing it. E. Marchand said this was discussed at the first reading and there was not consensus to change the word at that time.

Result: Motion passes 5-1 (P. DePaola against)

E. Marchand asked about the policies that are on hold. Dr. Petrone reviewed the three policies that are to go back to Committee:

- Revisions to 5141.21 Administration of Medications in Schools - we have received language clarification from the attorney and are ready to review with the Committee
- NEW DRAFT 5127.1 Improve Completion Rates of FAFSA - C. Williams is to provide input for the Committee to review
- Revisions to 9111.2 - Code of Conduct for Board Members - C. Rossignol is to provide input for the Committee to review

IX. Report of Board Members

IX.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of January 12, 2023

M. Kortmann said the budget is currently running very tight, but it is still positive. She said other areas that are monitored are in good shape. She reviewed other items associated with the Fiscal Committee meeting.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: January 26, 2023