

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Board of Education Special Meeting – 7:00 p.m.**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 19, 2023  
Administration Building Conference Room

Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson  
Gene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson  
Mary Kortmann, Secretary  
Courtney Rossignol  
Christina Williams

Members Absent:

Peter DePaola  
Emma Eaton

Administrators present:

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

Audience: 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 7:08 p.m.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

**III. Audience of Citizens**

There were none.

**IV. Old Business**

**IV.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY2024 Budget**

J. Beausoleil noted that attached to BoardBook were the questions that were asked and the related answers.

The Board discussed question 1 related to special education students' needs and what the cost is to keep students in-district rather than outpacing them. Dr. Petrone talked about

the strengths of the in-house programs in Coventry and the numerous reasons for keeping students in-district.

C. Williams asked for a comparison of growth between our in-house programs and an outplace program. Dr. Petrone said this is not possible because the programs are so specific to the needs of each student. The Board discussed the in-house audits that are in place to keep the programs current and productive for the students.

J. Beausoleil reviewed each question/answer briefly.

The Board discussed the increase in legal expenses as they relate to the upcoming bargaining unit discussions; the transportation budget and noted that the FY24 numbers include the 18 buses we are contracted for and need; magnet/vo-ag school tuition and enrollment; the use of the applications Study Island and Navigate360; increase expenses in MAPS due to the increase in students; the elimination of Family and Consumer Science at CHS and the request to provide alternatives to students; and being sensitive to higher class sizes.

#### **IV.A.1. Coventry Grammar School**

There were no questions at this time.

#### **IV.A.2. G. H. Robertson School**

There were no questions at this time.

#### **IV.A.3. Capt. Nathan Hale School**

M. Kortmann talked about the magnet school enrollment figures. Dr. Petrone said the numbers that we have this year are the ones in the proposed budget. He explained how difficult it is to project where students will be next year as far as magnet schools go.

#### **IV.A.4. Coventry High School**

M. Kortmann talked about the physical shot clock and if we could take it out of the proposed budget and purchase it through the use of facilities fund. Dr. Petrone said it is a one-time expense and it could be done. There was consensus from the Board to proceed with that purchase out of the use of facilities fund.

#### **IV.A.5. Pupil and Staff Support Services**

C. Rossignol asked how the district has been functioning during the first half of the year without the district-wide social worker. Dr. Petrone said we added some supplemental support. Dr. Giller said current staff has been providing support as well. Dr. Petrone reminded the Board that this position was to add services to students in need.

C. Rossignol talked about the Speech and Language needs due to the pandemic. Dr. Petrone said there is a need and an increase in services has been included in the proposal.

#### **IV.A.6. Warehouse/Facilities**

The Board discussed the facilities maintenance budget and that the amount included is supposed to be there for repairs of items that are not in the Capital budget.

**IV.A.7. Central Office**

There were no questions at this time.

**IV.A.8. General**

C. Williams said she thought the budget was thorough and well-balanced. She added that she was glad to see an increase in textbooks and paper media across all levels. She said she would like to have seen an increase in the Challenge and Enrichment programs, as there is a high demand.

J. Beausoleil noted there are two more meetings to ask questions, deliberate, and decide on a number the Board would like to send to the Town Council.

**V. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.**

**By: C. Rossignol**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted:

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: January 26, 2023