

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, March 30, 2023
Administration Building Conference Room

Members Present:

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

Member Absent:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson

Also present: Maya Waterhouse, Student Board Representative

Administrators Present:

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

Audience members: John Elsesser, Town Manager; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Christian Marcinczyk, CNH Assistant Principal; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Kara Hennessey, K-12 ELA Specialist; Jennifer Trueman, CHS Assistant Principal; Beth Giller, Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; CHS students, Grace Zima, Emma Smith, Logan Howe, Adrian Mroczek, Eva Strycharz, and Lily Rand; family members of students; and one observer.

I. Call to Order

E. Marchand called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

E. Marchand led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

MOTION: To add an executive session to discuss school security to the agenda before adjournment.

By: C. Williams **Seconded: C. Rossignol**
Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV. Report of the Superintendent

IV.A. Recognition: March - Board of Education Appreciation Month

Dr. Petrone introduced the CHS art students who then presented gifts to the Board members in honor of Board appreciation month.

MOTION: To move Old Business/Microgrid to next on the agenda

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

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information and Possible VOTE: Microgrid Update

Dr. Petrone introduced Mr. Elsesser, the Town Manager, who updated the Board on the status of the Microgrid project.

C. Williams asked that it be stated that the Board would only be responsible for a portion of any additional costs that could happen as noted in the MOU. Dr. Petrone said the recommended motion is worded that way.

M. Kortmann talked about the solar portion and the worry if it does not go through. Mr. Elsesser spoke to that project and said the company knows how to work through that concern.

C. Rossignol expressed her concern over the additional costs that the Board may be responsible for and the strain that would put on the district's budget.

The Board continued to discuss the solar projects and how they relate to the Microgrid. Mr. Elsesser explained that the current panels are separate from the Microgrid at the moment, as they have their own contracts.

MOTION: To approve the MOU as presented, with the stipulation that if there is a fee related to a remaining balance of Project Acquirer's expenses plus the balance of non-refundable direct project costs paid to Eversource Energy as noted in the MOU, Coventry Public Schools would only pay 50% of the fee and the remaining 50% would be satisfied by the Town.

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

C. Williams moved to amend the motion that Coventry Public Schools would only pay 50% or a max of \$50,000 of the fee and the remaining amount would be satisfied by the Town. C. Rossignol seconded the amendment.

Discussion: E. Marchand said it is noted in the MOU and he believes the motion should stand as is. C. Williams believed this would be a safeguard for the Board.

Result of Amendment: Motion fails 3-3 (P. DePaola; C. Rossignol, C. Williams in favor of the amendment; E. Marchand, M. Kortmann, E. Eaton against)

Result of Original Motion: Motion fails 3-3 (E. Marchand, M. Kortmann, E. Eaton in favor of the original motion; P. DePaola, C. Rossignol, C. Williams against)

MOTION: To approve the MOU as presented, with the stipulation that if there is a fee related to a remaining balance of Project Acquirer's expenses plus the balance of non-refundable direct project costs paid to Eversource Energy as noted in the MOU, Coventry Public Schools would only pay 50% or a max of \$60,000 of the fee and the remaining amount would be satisfied by the Town.

By: C. Williams

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Discussion: E. Eaton asked Mr. Elsesser if the Town is comfortable with paying the extra fees, if necessary. Mr. Elsesser said he does not believe it is an issue to be concerned about.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone continued with his Superintendent's Report, noting various activities taking place around the district, region, and state.

IV.C. Recognition: Kara Hennessey, K-12 ELA Specialist - Connecticut Reading Association Literacy Leader Award 2023

Dr. Petrone recognized Kara Hennessey for receiving the CRA Literacy Leader Award 2023.

Ms. Mullaly said a few words about Ms. Hennessey and how deserving she is of the award.

Ms. Hennessey thanked the Board. There were congratulations from the Board.

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

Miss Waterhouse talked about various senior activities, such as senior portfolio night, the drama production, and the last pep rally that is scheduled for seniors.

IV.E. Information: Superintendent Goal Achievement Report 2022-2023

Dr. Petrone shared his Goal Achievement report presentation with the Board. The presentation and full report are available on the district's website.

At goal 1.1, Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Mullaly, Ms. Hennessey, and Ms. Trueman who shared a presentation on data analysis and instruction in Coventry, which is also available on the district's website, through the BoardBook portal.

The Board reviewed the data analysis process and how it compares to K-5 and then the middle school.

Dr. Petrone continued his goal achievement report presentation.

C. Williams reviewed the Looking Forward slide and asked for items to be added such as math achievement at the middle school and increasing the school day length. E. Marchand asked where manufacturing fits in for students. Dr. Petrone said we are still working with Goodwin and addressing some staffing and scheduling challenges. He added that it is an important program, and he wants to see it grow.

C. Williams talked about industry partnerships and building the manufacturing track that way. C. Williams also talked about culture and what that will look like in the future.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the Retirement of Duane Kingsley, GHR Custodian

V.B. Approve the GHR June Field Experience to Sturbridge, MA

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda as listed

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of the Chairman

E. Marchand mentioned the CHS drama production, STEM night, and senior portfolio night. He said it is so good to be back to pre-pandemic activities.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of March 9, 2023

MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 9, 2023

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Report of Board Members

IX.A. Information: Curriculum Liaison Report

E. Marchand reported that the Curriculum Cabinet met this week. The Board discussed the Portrait of the Graduate competencies and how they are integrated into the Curriculum.

X. Executive Session (School Security)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related school security with the Superintendent present at 9:42 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI. Open Session

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 10:16 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: April 27, 2023