

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Special Meeting
Approved Minutes of Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

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

Board Member Absent:

Peter DePaola

Administrators Present:

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

Audience Members: Two parents; a student; one observer; Nick Tedeschi, GHR Music Teacher; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Beth Giller, Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

Dave Pezzino, 49 Zeya Drive, was present to speak about the budget. He requested certain items not be cut such as middle school sports or Future Problem Solvers. He continued to talk about the progress that has been made in Coventry athletics.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reported on various activities taking place in-district, regionally, and state-wide.

IV.A. Recognition: Staff Presenters - Joseph Blake, November CIAC Legislative Symposium and Nicholas Tedeschi, March CMEA Conference

Dr. Petrone recognized Joseph Blake, who presented at the CIAC Legislative Symposium in November. Mr. Blake said a few words about the presentation.

Dr. Petrone recognized Nick Tedeschi, who presented at the CMEA Conference in March. Mr. Tedeschi said a few words about the presentation.

There was appreciation shared by the Board.

V. Old Business

V.A. Information and Possible VOTE: FY2024 Budget

J. Beausoleil noted that the Town Council reduced the Board FY24 budget by \$230,000. She added that a cut like this has not been seen before the first referendum in Coventry. She said there are difficult decisions to make.

J. Beausoleil said the administration worked hard to put together a list of items for the Board's consideration. The Board discussed the various items on the list.

The Board had consensus that items A (Technology - Contracted Services - Aerohive Renewal); B (Technology - Higher return on device buy-back); and C (Salaries - Salary Adjustments) are "givens," which leaves \$167,849 to be addressed. Other "one time" items where there was consensus were: D (Dues and Fees - AP Bio Training); E (Travel for Bio Training); G (Digital Piano at CGS); and H (Tech Ed - Cortex to V5 System Upgrade). The Board had consensus to reduce the remaining amount through recurring items. The complete list is as follows:

Funded through alternative source	Item	Site	Account Name	Department	Description	Agreed Upon Reduction	Notes
	A	DW	Contracted Serv	Technology	Aerohive AP Renewals - 3-year entitlement (SAVINGS)	\$ 16,542	One time / Realizing a savings
	B	Tech	Supplies	Tech	Higher return on device buy-back	\$ 17,487	One time / Realizing a savings
	C	DW	Salaries	Various	Salary Adjustments	\$ 28,122	One time / Realizing a savings
	D	CHS	Dues and Fees	Science	AP Bio Training	\$ 2,100	One time
	E	CHS	Travel	Science	Travel to AP training	\$ 500	One time
Yes/Tuition	G	CGS	Supplies	Music	Digital Piano	\$ 1,999	One time
Yes/Tuition	H	CNH	Supplies	Tech Ed	Cortex to V5 system upgrade kits	\$ 5,000	One time

	L	CNH	Contracted Serv	Music	Instrument Repair	\$ 331	
	O	CNH	Athletic Salaries	Intramurals		\$ 8,394	Make Programs Fee-Based
	W	CHS	Equipment	Admin/Misc	Office equipment	\$ 2,000	
	AA	PSSS	Salaries	PSSS	District-wide Social Worker (.5 year)	\$ 33,099	
Yes/Food Service Budget	EE	DW	Pension	HR	Pension Contr. for Food Service	\$ 32,577	
	GG	DW	Transportation/ Diesel Fuel	Bus Route (one bus)	\$393.40 x 182 days and Diesel Fuel	\$ 78,349	
	HH	MS/HS	Transportation	Athletics	Student Participation Fee \$60 to \$70	\$ 3,500	
						\$ 230,000	

MOTION: To approve the items just listed

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

J. Beausoleil said if the referendum fails, we will have harder decisions to make. E. Marchand asked for parent involvement and for folks to vote at referendum.

VI. Possible VOTE: Executive Session [Superintendent's Evaluation]

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to the Superintendent's Evaluation at 7:51 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII. Open Session

The Board left Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 8:50 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: April 27, 2023