

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting  
Coventry Town Hall, 1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI 02816  
Thursday, August 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patenaude at 6:02 p.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Katherine Patenaude, Vice-Chairperson David Florio, Member Luke Murray, Member James Pierson, Assistant Superintendent Cowart, Director of Finance Harold Sands and Attorney Jon Anderson.

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

Recording Secretary: Patty Martin

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Murray that the Committee recess into executive session.

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

BUSINESS AGENDA

Reconvene Open Session at 7:01 p.m.

Chairperson Patenaude reports that in Executive Session the Committee discussed matters related to approval of Executive Session minutes of 6/7/2021 and 6/24/2021 the vote was 4/0; Home School requests the vote was 4/0 and the Superintendent's Contract.

Vote to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Murray that the records of the Executive Session be kept closed pursuant to Sections §42-46-4 and 42-46-5. Vote 4/0

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Murray to approve the minutes of 6/7/2021, 6/8/2021, 7/8/2021 and 7/22/2021 as presented/amended.

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ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

PUBLIC AGENDA

CELEBRATION OF COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONS

Mr. Levis asks the coaches to join him and they give the player's certificates of achievement. He also says that as we celebrate our young people, we also need to celebrate the coaching staff. Chairperson Patenaude opens it to the Committee for comments. There is no public comment.

INTRODUCTION OF WESTERN COVENTRY ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL DR. KRISTIN BAGLEY

Mr. Levis introduces Dr. Bagley as the new Principal at Western and states that she is also a Coventry resident. Dr. Bagley thanks everyone for welcoming her to Coventry and talks about her background. She is grateful for the opportunity to work in her own community. Chairperson Patenaude asks if there are any comments from the Committee. There is no public comment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT: This item was tabled

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Murray to table the Superintendent's Contract. 4/0

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

THE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVES BY THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ESTABLISH PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS DURING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR: DISCUSSION AND VOTE

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Motion made by Member Florio, seconded by member Murray, to approve the use of Administrative Directives by the Superintendent to Establish Protocols and Procedures to Address a Public Heal Crisis during 2021-2022 School Year.

Superintendent Levis states that this allows the Superintendent to put together some directives, for example, travel and quarantine. This allows us to make ongoing decision and they will then be posted on our website. This give us flexibility to deal with a public health crisis for the 2021-2022 school year. Chairperson Patenaude asks the Committee if they have any comments or questions. Chairperson opens for Public Comment.

Gail Simmons – 13 Lane 3 – Speaks to Masks

John Ryan – Capwell Avenue – Asks for clarification on this directive and reentry plan. Superintendent Levis and Mr. Cowart speak to the reentry plan.

Brad DeGraide – 238 Howard Avenue - Asks questions regard to COVID data, and the reentry plan.

L. Steffens – 126 Main Street – Talks about this being a Public Health Crisis.

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT DIRECTORY INFORMATION NOTIFICATION: DISCUSSION AND VOTE:

Mr. Levis states that he attended the professional development for Superintendents and it was recommended we look at our FERPA policy with regards to Directory Information. Mr. Levis and Mr. Pierson explain this policy. Chairperson Patenaude asks the Committee for questions or comments. No Public Comment.

Motion by Member Florio and second by Member Murray to approve the Family Education Rights Privacy Act Directory Information Notification as presents. 4/0

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

2021-2022 ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK: DISCUSSION AND VOTE:

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Mr. Levis states we had approved this in winter of 2021. The only changes were names, dates and links to policy. The only addition will have to be the FERPA directory information. Chairperson asks for comments or questions from the Committee. Chairperson asks if there are any Public Comments.

Gail Simmons – 12 Lane 3

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Murray to approve the 2021-2022 Elementary Handbook as presented/amended. 4/0

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

2021-2022 ELEMENTARY STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE:DISCUSSION AND VOTE:

Mr. Levis states it is part of the handbook. Mr. Anderson said the handbook needed to reviewed by the School Committee and that the School Committee needed to approve it by state law. Chairperson Patenaude asks the Committee for questions or comments. Chairperson Patenaude ask the public for comments. No Public Comment.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sands – Finance Director speaks to the finance report. Chairperson Patenaude asks the Committee for comments or questions. Chairperson Patenaude asks the public is there are comments. No Public Comment.

MOVING COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT FROM CENTREVILLE BANK TO TD BANK: DISCUSSION AND VOTE – This item was tabled.

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Murray to table this item. 4/0

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE UPATE

Mr. Murray does an update. He puts the call out to the community there will be a joint meeting on August 31, 2021. Please join us to get educated on what has been going on. It is a real opportunity for our town. Anyone that wants to be a part of this please reach out to me. Chairperson asks the Committee for questions. Chairperson asks the public and there are no comments.

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USE OF FEINSTEIN FUNDS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION EFFORTS: DISCUSSION AND VOTE:

Mr. Murray states what we are focused on now is to get the public engaged. We have funds from Mr. Feinstein that was donated. We would like to use these funds to engaged Studio Jaed to educate everyone about the value of this project.

I spoke with Mr. Feinstein myself and he was all for us using these funds. Chairperson opens it up to questions from the Committee.

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Murray to table this to the meeting of August 26, 2021. 4/0

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Levis speaks to Performance Audit. Chairperson Patenaude opens it up to comments from the School Committee. The School Committee has a discussion about the Performance Audit and a joint meeting.

Memo sent to Town Council and cc'd to the Town Solicitor Gorham with regards to State Housing Aid. When I received this memo I forwarded a copy to Mr. Sands, Mr. Anderson and Ms. Mangiarelli. Mr. Levis explains the Memorandum. Chairperson Patenaude opens this to the Committee for questions and comments. Mr. Murray asks Mr. Anderson some question about this Memorandum. The Committee, the Superintendent and Mr. Anderson have a discussion with regards to how they will proceed.

CITIZENS COMMENT: No Public Comment

SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING:

Motion by Member Florio supported by Member Murray to schedule the next meeting of the School Committee for Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 7:00 at a place to be determined. 4/0

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Florio, supported by Member Murray, the meeting be adjourned at 9:17 p.m. Vote 4/0

VOTE: 4/0

/pam