

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting
Coventry High School, 40 Reservoir Road, Coventry, RI 02816
Thursday, August 26, 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 Donna Kalunian, Member Luke Murray, Member James Pierson, Assistant Superintendent Cowart, Director of Finance Harold Sands

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Donna Kalunian	<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 Kalunian that the Committee recess into Executive session.

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

Reconvene Open Session at 6:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence, Safety Notification, and Member Murray reads the Mission Statement.

Chairperson Patenaude reports that in Executive Session the Committee discussed matters related to approval of Executive Session Minutes (Vote 5/0) and Home School Requests (Vote 5/0).

Vote to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session

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

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

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Approval of Minutes from 8/12/2021. VOTE 5/0

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

PUBLIC AGENDA

FY 2020 Audit Review by Representatives of Clifton, Larson and Allen, LLP Presentation and Discussion

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to table the FY 2020 Audit Review.

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

School Building Committee Update:

Member Murray does a Building Committee update. He talks about the upcoming meeting and the presentation. Chairperson Patenaude opens it the Committee for question or comments. There are no public comments.

Reentry Plan 2021-2022: Presentation, Discussion and Vote:

Mr. Cowart does a presentation on the Reentry Plan. Chairperson Patenaude opens it up to questions and comments from the Committee.

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the Reentry Plan 2021-2022 as presented.

VOTE: 5/0

ROLL CALL:	Katherine M. Patenaude, Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Donna Kalunian	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>

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James P. Pierson, Member

AYE

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT:

Mr. Sands gives an update on the budget. Chairperson Patenaude opens it up for questions and comments from the Committee. Mr. Wilson answers questions with regards to Medicaid. Mr. Levis address some of the questions from the Committee. No Public Comment

SUBSTITUTES RATES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR:

Mr. Levis speaks to the substitute's rates and making sure that we have staff available. Chairperson Patenaude asks the Committee for their questions or comments. The reason this is brought forward is because it is due to sunset and we need to keep the rate from last year. Mr. Levis and Mr. Cowart address the questions from the Committee. No Public Comment

Motion by Member Florio, seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the Substitute Rates for 2021-2022 School Year as presented. VOTE: 5/0

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

AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN FUNDS:

Mr. Levis states that we are seeking approval of funds with regards to mini vans for out of district transportation, tents for students to eat outside when they can and picnic tables for students to use. The use of teacher assistants to help with absences and other things. Mr. Sands and Mr. Cowart explain the use of these funds. Chairperson Patenaude opens this to discussions from the Committee.

Motion by Member Florio, seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the TA (teacher assistant) funding from the American Recovery Plan Funds as presented. VOTE: 5/0

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	David Florio, Vice-Chairperson	<u>AYE</u>
	Donna Kalunian	<u>AYE</u>
	Luke Murray	<u>AYE</u>
	James P. Pierson, Member	<u>AYE</u>

Motion by Member Florio, seconded by Member Kalunian to table the vans for transportation, tents and picnic tables from the American Recovery Plan Funds. VOTE: 5/0

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

PROPOSAL FOR SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AUDIT:

Mr. Levis states that he is not going to ask anyone to vote on this. I am looking for guidance and feedback from the School Committee, to see if we can put something together prior to a joint meeting. Chairperson Patenaude asks the Committee for questions or comments. Mr. Levis says he is looking for guidance around writing the RFP. No Public Comment.

Motion by Member Florio, seconded by Member Kalunian to table the Proposal for School Performance Audit. VOTE: 5/0

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

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

Motion by Member Florio, seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the Superintendent's Contract as presented. VOTE: 5/0

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

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SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:

Mr. Levis starts with the Performance Audit Recommendation by the Town Manager and the Maintenance Requirement and the Town Reliance of Housing Aid. Mr. Levis states that we just got confirmation that the Tiogue Sewer Project is completed other than the cosmetics. Mr. Levis talks about the staff opening day and that we are looking forward to our students coming back to school. Chairperson Patenaude asks the Committee for comments or questions. No Public Comment.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mrs. Aldana- 521 Read School House Road - She thanks the Committee for all that they do. She has questions with regards to spacing and stable pods, and will the students in elementary change classrooms. Mr. Cowart and Mr. Levis speak to questions.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING:

Motion made by Member Florio supported by Member Kalunian to schedule the next meeting of School Committee for Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:00 at a meeting place to be determined. VOTE: 5/0

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Florio, supported by Member Murray, the meeting be adjourned at 8:46 p.m. Vote 5/0

VOTE: 5/0

/pam