

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting
Coventry Resource and Senior Center, 50 Wood Street, Coventry, RI 02816
Thursday, September 9, 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, 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>

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>

BUSINESS AGENDA

Reconvene Open Session at 6:11 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 4/0) and Home School Requests (Vote 4/0).

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 4/0

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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Approval of Minutes

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the minutes of 8/19/2021 and 8/26/2021 as presented/amended. Motion passes Vote 4/0

PUBLIC AGENDA

Student Dress Code Policy JICA: First Reading and Approval

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to table the Student Dress Code Policy JICA, First Reading. Motion passes Vote 4/0

Coventry High School Handbook: Discussion and Vote

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the Coventry High School Handbook as presented/amended. Motion passes Vote 4/0

No discussion from the Committee or the Public.

Coventry High School Student Discipline Code: Discussion and Vote:

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the Coventry High School Discipline Code as presented/amended. Motion passes Vote 4/0

No discussion from the Committee or the Public

Use of Feinstein Funds for Necessity of School Construction Communication Consultant: Discussion and Vote

Assistant Superintendent Cowart explains that Mr. Feinstein has generously donated funds to Coventry Public Schools, there is no real guidance on how it is to be used. Mr. Murray reached out to Mr. Feinstein with regards to using the funds for this purpose. Mr. Feinstein was in favor of using the funds to make the public aware of the Necessity of School Construction Communication Consultant. Chairperson Patenaude opens to the Committee for questions and comments. There were none. Chairperson opens it to the public.

Hilary Lima – 31 Edwards Street – Has questions with regards to the Feinstein Funds. Member Murray answers her questions.

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Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the use of the Feinstein Funds for Necessity of School Construction Communication Consultant. Motion passes 4/0

School Building Committee Update

Member Murray does a brief update. He thanks everyone that attended last week's meeting. Member Murray states he and Mr. Sands are working on the financial piece. Chairperson Patenaude opens to questions and comments from the Committee and the public. There are none.

Town of Coventry Performance Audit Discussion

Chairperson Patenaude explains why this is on the agenda again. Chairperson explains that the entire Committee should be part of the RFP. The Town Council has already come up with an RFP. In our last leadership meeting it was talked about the possibility of two separate RFP's or at least the School Committee would have input in the RFP. Chairperson talks about the RFP that the Town Council has done. Chairperson Patenaude opens it for questions from the Committee. Chairperson Patenaude opens it for comments from the public. There are no public comment.

RI Regulations Minimum Maintenance Requirement: Discussion:

Chairperson states that in the Superintendent's absence that they would be discussing this at another meeting.

Superintendent's Update:

Assistant Superintendent Cowart begins the update stating that the joint meeting with the Town Council is moved from September 13th to September 27th.

We had a positive opening to school. We have had an increase in Covid cases. This has increased contact tracing. We have not started testing yet. We are putting a plan together. Transportation has been impacted. The DOH guidelines are one symptom and there needs to be a test.

Mr. Cowart reports on the current enrollment. 4693 enrolled and 198 homeschool students.

Chairperson asks the Committee for questions and comments. Chairperson Patenaude thanks everyone for their hard work and Mr. Cowart thanks the nurses for all they do and all their hard work.

Citizens Comments

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There are no citizen's comments.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING:

Motion made by Member Florio supported by Member Kalunian to schedule the next meeting of School Committee for Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 6:00 at Coventry Resource and Senior Center, 50 Wood Street, Coventry, RI 02816.

VOTE: 4/0

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>

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Florio, supported by Member Murray, the meeting be adjourned at 7:08 p.m. Vote 4/0

/pam