

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting
Coventry Resource and Senior Center, 50 Wood Street, Coventry, RI 02816
Thursday, September 23, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patenaude at 6: 00p.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Katherine Patenaude, Vice-Chairperson David Florio, Member Donna Kalunian, Member Luke Murray, Member James Pierson, Superintendent Levis, Assistant Superintendent Cowart, and Director of Finance Harold Sands

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| 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 Pierson | <u>AYE</u> |

Recording Secretary: Patty Martin

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian that the Committee recess into executive session.
(Vote5/0)

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| 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 Pierson | <u>AYE</u> |

BUSINESS AGENDA

Reconvene Open Session at 6:26 p.m.

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

Chairperson Patenaude reports that in Executive Session the Committee discussed matters related to approval of Executive Session Minutes 9/9/21(Vote 4/1) and Home School Requests (Vote 5/0).

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| | Donna Kalunian | <u>AYE</u> |
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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

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|------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 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 Pierson | <u>AYE</u> |

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the minutes of 9/9/2021 as presented/amended. Motion passes Vote 5/0

PUBLIC AGENDA

Personnel Recall

Motion to recall Personnel as presented made by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian. Motion passes 5/0.

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

Mr. Sands introduces Stephen Gross and Ron Nossek from CLA, LLP. They do a presentation about the 2020 audit.

Chairperson Patenaude opens it for questions and comments from the Committee. Any questions or comments from the Public.

Cassandra Ducharme – 140 Pilgrim Avenue. Asks if we can get a copy of the audit.

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Transition Program Relocation: Discussion and Vote:

Mr. Brad Wilson – Director of Special Education for Coventry Public Schools. Mr. Wilson explains the Transitions Program and does a presentation on the Transition Program. Superintendent Levis speaks to this move. Chairperson Patenaude asks the Committee for questions or comments.

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the Transition Program Relocation as presented. Motion passes 5/0

Mrs. Macomber, Principal of Coventry High School – Speaks to the Transition Program and the students and the staff. Mr. Levis tells the students how proud he is of them coming tonight.

No other Public Comment.

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Handbook: Discussion and Vote:

Superintendent thanks the Policy Sub-Committee and Ms. Noorbaloochi, Mrs. Anzalone and Mr. Lucian. Mr. Pierson thanks the middle school administration. No Public Comment.

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the ASFMS Handbook as presented/amended. Motion passes 5/0

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Discipline Code: Discussion and Vote:

Superintendent Levis explains that this is part of the handbook.

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the ASFMS Discipline Code as presented/amended. Motion passes 5/0

Student Dress Code Policy JICA: First Reading and Approval

Chairperson Patenaude opens this to the Committee for discussion. Mrs. Macomber addresses the questions from the Committee. No Public Comment

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the first reading of the Student Dress Code Policy JICA. Motion passes Vote 5/0

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§16-7-23 (b)(1) (b)(2) Community Requirements-Adequate Minimum Budget Requirements: Discussion

Superintendent Levis explains why this is on the agenda. He does a presentation on this. He wanted to give an overview of where we are. Chairperson opens it to questions and comments from the Committee.

Committee takes a 10 minute recess.

ESSER II Funds: Discussion and Vote:

Mr. Levis speaks to the document that was in the packet but states that they made a few changes. He goes over budget. We will be coming back before the Committee with further information and updates during the first meeting in October. There is no vote to be taken on this. Chairperson opens this to the Committee for discussion.

Coventry Public Schools Performance Audit RFP: Discussion and Vote:

Superintendent Levis states that we had conversations about working collaboratively with the Town. Then we found that the Town went out to bid. Now we have put together something that we feel incorporates the basic education plan. We are to present at a Town Council meeting on Monday night. Chairperson Patenaude for questions and feedback. No Public Comment.

Motion by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian to approve the Coventry Public Schools Performance Audit RFP as presented/amended. Motion passes 5/0

Additional Space Requirement at Western Coventry Elementary School: Discussion

Assistant Superintendent Cowart speaks to the need of additional space at Western Coventry Elementary. Mr. Cowart opens this for questions and comments from the Committee.

Superintendent's Update:

Covid Update: Mr. Levis does an overview of this year and the challenges. We were not planning on wearing masks, quarantining and contact tracing. We have a dashboard on our website under the Covid link. Comments and questions from the Committee.

Public Comment – Cassandra Ducharme 140 Pilgrim Avenue - with regards to protocol and open house and lockers. Mr. Levis and Mr. Cowart addresses her concerns.

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Person in the audience (could not hear the person's name and address) with regards to positivity rate. Mr. Cowart and Mr. Levis address his concerns.

Motion to continue after 10:00 p.m. made by Member Florio and seconded by Member Kalunian. Motion passes 5/0.

Zoom Platform for School Committee Meetings: We had discussed this with legal counsel and he felt that continuing with Zoom could be problematic. The other problem is we have Public Comment after every item. Mr. Levis asks the

Committee where they wanted to go with this. Chairperson opens this up for comments, concerns and questions. Chairperson states that at the next meeting we could put this on the agenda again. No Public Comment

Citizens Comments

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, October 14, 2021 at 6:00 at Coventry Resource and Senior Center, 50 Wood Street, Coventry, RI 02816.
VOTE: 5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Florio, supported by Member Murray, the meeting be adjourned at 10:10 p.m. Vote 5/0

/pam