SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
June 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Florio at 6: 05 p.m.

Members Present:

Chairperson Katherine Patenaude	_____
Vice Chairperson David Florio	AYE
Member Ana dos Reis-Couto	AYE
Member Donna Kalunian	AYE
Member James Pierson	AYE
Craig Levis, Superintendent	AYE
Don Cowart, Assistant Superintendent	AYE
Harold Sands, Director of Finance	AYE

Motion to Convene into Executive Session made by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson at 6:05 p.m.

Reconvene Open Session at 6:23 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence and Safety Notifications. Member dos Reis-Couto read the Mission Statement.

Vice Chairperson Florio reports that in Executive Session there were two votes taken to approve the Executive Minutes of 5/19/2022 and approval of homeschooling requests. Both motions pass 4/0. There was a discussion with regards to job performance, character or physical or mental health of an employee. No votes were taken.

Motion to seal the minutes of Executive Session was made by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson. Motion 4/0

Motion to approve the minutes of 5/19/2022 was made by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson. Motion 4/0

Celebrations:

Envirothon RI State Champions – Mr. Levis introduces Dr. Pothier who in turns introduces Mr. Dolan the Envirothon Coordinator. Mr. Dolan explains what Envirothon is. Coventry High School was the 2022 State Champions and received the David Wescott award. Mr. Stetson speaks to all the things that Coventry has done this year. They will be traveling to Ohio to compete at Nationals. Vice Chairperson Florio opens it for questions from the Committee. The Committee congratulates them and wishes them luck. Mr. Cowart says that he was the elementary principal when these students were in elementary school and he is very proud of them.

Celebration of the Unified team will be held a little later in the meeting.

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Introduction of ASFMS newly appointed resource officer. Mr. Levis introduces Officer Jadine Ferri. Officer Ferri introduces herself, gives everyone some background on herself and expresses why it has always been her passion to be a resource officer. The Committee welcomes her.

Donation to Coventry Public Schools from Burger King – Mr. Levis introduces Tracy Bergantini and Eric Ducette from Burger King. They tell the Committee the reason for this donation was a do something good for your neighbor campaign. They decided to raise the money for Coventry Public Schools. The Committee expresses their gratitude for choosing the school department and thanks them for their donation.

Appointment of Secretary to School Committee – Mr. Levis introduces Dawn Cabral. He goes on to tell the Committee about her extensive experience and that she is also a graduate from Coventry High School.

Motion to the appointment of Dawn Cabral as the Secretary to the School Committee is made by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson. Motion 4/0

Second Amendment to net metering/credit agreement with Kearsarge Smithfield LLC. – Mr. Levis asks Mr. Anderson to speak about this and he speaks to the minor changes in the contract.

Motion by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson to approve the Sublease Agreement with Kearsarge Smithfield LLC. Motion 4/0

Recall from Layoff – Mr. Florio reads the names of who is being recalled from layoff.

Motion to approve the recall of personnel as presented is made by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson. Motion 4/0

Funding for Envirothon and SkillsUSA Trips – Mr. Levis speaks to both of these trips. They will be representing Coventry and Rhode Island. There is supporting documentation for the cost in your packet. There are no questions from the Committee.

Motion by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson to approve the use of ESSER III to fund the Envirothon and SkillsUSA trips. Motion 4/0

Discussion of May 26th Budget Referendum results and FY'23 budget – Mr. Levis presents that we stay with the current budget that we presented. The Committee has a discussion about this. They state that they need to come together as a community and pass this budget.

Motion by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson to approve the FY'23 Budget as presented/amended. Motion 4/0

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Celebration of the Unified Division II State Champions – Mr. Levis introduces Coach Ruffalo. Coach Ruffalo introduces their team captain and the MVP. Superintendent Levis presents them with certificates. The Committee congratulates the team and tells them they are the shining stars of the community.

Approval of the Envirothon trip to National Championships in Ohio

Motion by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson to approve the Envirothon trip to Ohio. Motion 4/0

Coventry Public Schools Photographer Bid recommendation – Mr. Levis speaks to the bidding process. Mr. Sands says the Committee has the bids in their packets. There was a bid reviewing committee.

Motion made by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson to approve the recommendation of Lifetouch as the Coventry Public Schools photographer. Motion passes 4/0

Coventry High School Senior Event Photographer Recommendation –

Motion by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson to approve the recommendation of Gloria Greenfield Photographer for the Coventry High School Senior Event Photographer. Motion 4/0

Western Coventry Modular Discussion - Mr. Cowart states that they have come to realize that this is not a viable option. In terms of the students, we have decided that we will have to relocate some of our special education students to some of our other buildings. This will mean the ESSER funds that were dedicated to the modular building will be used for some other things.

The Committee will take a short break at 7:42 and returned at 7:46.

Mini Vans – Mr. Levis says that the Committee had approved the purchase of five mini vans. Mr. Sands has been working with the leasing company. We are coming before you tonight asking you to approve the purchase of four mini vans one of which will be a handicap van. If you approve, it will go before the Town Council. Mr. Levis goes over some of the history of the vehicles we currently have and Mr. Sands talks about the leases for these vans. This should eliminate some transportation problems. The Committee has questions and Mr. Levis and Mr. Sands answer them.

Motion by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson to approve the lease for the mini vans as presented/amended. Motion 4/0

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Superintendent's Report –

COVId – Mr. Levis says that there has been a decrease in numbers.

School Safety – Mr. Levis says that we have a lot of needs. We will be meeting with the police and the administrative team. We will bring it back to the next meeting to talk about in Executive Session.

Mr. Levis announces that Mr. Brad Wilson was named the Special Education Director of the Year. He goes on to recognize Patty Martin.

Citizens Comments - There are not comments.

Schedule Next School Committee Meeting –

Motion by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson to schedule the next School Committee meeting for June 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Motion 4/0

Adjournment

Motion by Member Kalunian and seconded by Member Pierson to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Motion 4/0