

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, June 8, 2023  
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson  
Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson  
Mary Kortmann, Secretary  
Peter DePaola  
Emma Eaton  
Courtney Rossignol  
Christina Williams

Also Present: Maya Waterhouse, BOE Student Representative

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools  
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

Audience: CHS Students Reagan Hawkins, Maddie Trudeau, and Lexi Magrey; Meredith Kirkpatrick, CHS Teacher; GHR Grade 5 Teacher Karen Nixon; Kamil Sutkowski, District IT Specialist, Cindy Wilbur, K-12 District STEM Specialist; family members of those being recognized; Jennifer Trueman, CHS Assistant Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Beth Giller, PSSS Director; and one observer.

**I. Call to Order**

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

**III. Audience of Citizens**

Christiana Williams of 436 Ripley Hill Road and Courtney Rossignol 73 Brenda Lane spoke about the replacement of the high school and grammar school signs. They said there is a community group that is prepared to fix the high school sign at no charge to the district, so that funds can be used in other areas.

**IV. Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Petrone reported on various activities taking place in-district, regionally, and state-wide.

#### **IV.A. Recognition: CHS Students Reagan Hawkins, Maddie Trudeau, and Lexi Magrey - Winners in the Institute of Living Brain Dance Writing Competition**

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Kirkpatrick, who spoke about students Reagan Hawkins, Maddie Trudeau, and Lexi Magrey who swept the academic category of the state-wide writing competition of the Institute of Living Brain Dance.

There were congratulations from everyone.

#### **IV.B. Recognition: GHR Grade 5 Teacher Karen Nixon - Excellence in Elementary School Teaching Award from the Connecticut Science Teachers Association**

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. DeRagon who spoke about Karen Nixon, a grade 5 teacher who won the Excellence in Elementary School Teaching Award from the Connecticut Science Teachers Association. Ms. Nixon thanked the administration and the Board.

There were congratulations from all.

#### **IV.C. Recognition of Staff Presenters: Kamil Sutkowski, District IT Specialist and Cindy Wilbur, K-12 District STEM Specialist**

Dr. Petrone recognized Kamil Sutkowski, District IT Specialist and Cindy Wilbur, K-12 District STEM Specialist who were presenters at conferences this year. Mr. Sutkowski thanked the Board and the Administration. Ms. Wilbur thanked the Board and the Administration and said a few words about her presentation.

There were congratulations from all.

#### **IV.D. Recognition and Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report (Last Meeting)**

Dr. Petrone talked about all of Maya's contributions while she has been the representative. There were well wishes given by all.

Ms. Waterhouse provided a brief report on senior activities at CHS.

#### **IV.E. Information: Administrative Goal Achievement Reports 2022-2023**

##### **IV.E.1. Coventry Grammar School**

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Carrie who shared the CGS Goal Achievement Report for 2022-23, which is available on the district's website.

J. Beausoleil noted the outstanding progress and wished Ms. Carrie well as she moves on from Coventry.

##### **IV.E.2. G. H. Robertson School**

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. DeRagon who shared the GHR Goal Achievement Report for 2022-23, which is available on the district's website.

C. Rossignol asked about the key learning changes, comparing now to pre-pandemic and how we are going to move forward. Ms. DeRagon said we have made significant gains in

our numbers, and in most cases, they are higher than they were pre-pandemic. Dr. Petrone talked about the strides made through the intervention programs.

### **IV.E.3. Pupil and Staff Support Services**

Dr. Petrone introduced Dr. Giller who shared the PSSS Goal Achievement Report for 2022-23, which is available on the district's website.

The Board discussed CT-SEDS and the IEP timelines; the Executive Functioning portion of the goal report; student's transition from technology use to other activities; how to measure success in the Pupil and Staff Support Services department; and the work that is being done at Coventry Academy. C. Williams asked for some measurable metric for future goal reports.

### **V. VOTE: Consent Agenda**

**V.A. Accept the Retirement of Judith Hamel, CHS Teacher**

**V.B. Accept the Retirement of Shari Piteo, GHR Teacher**

**MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as presented**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

### **VI. Report of the Chairman**

J. Beausoleil reported on various activities taking place in-district including the Coventry Academy tour provided for Board members; GHR Field Day; CHS band marching in the Washington DC Memorial Day Parade; the work done by the Dollars for Scholars; and the state summer meals programs.

### **VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes**

**VIII.A. Approve Minutes of May 25, 2023**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 25, 2023**

**By: C. Rossignol**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: C. Williams asked that the word "decreasing" be added to her comment on page 2, under the CNH Goal Report discussion when referencing 6th grade test scores.

**Result: Motion to approve the minutes with noted change passes unanimously**

### **IX. Report of Board Members**

**IX.A. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Interviews**

E. Marchand reported on the interviews that were held earlier in the day. He said this was such a strong group and he is always amazed at the caliber of students who come forward.

**IX.B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of June 8, 2023**

M. Kortmann reported on the Fiscal Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. She said we are trending better and will end the year in the positive. She added that a classroom is being added to HEEC. She also noted the generator bids came in lower than expected. However, there is a 45-week lead time. She said the Committee agreed on spending the FY23 unexpended funds on scoreboards, needed upgrades to HVAC wiring, and sign upgrades at CHS and CGS (as those funds allow).

**IX.B.1. VOTE: Approve Budget Transfer**

**MOTION: To approve a transfer of \$35,000 from 510 Reg Ed Transportation to 613 Maintenance Supplies**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

C. Rossignol asked about using unexpended funds to assist students with ECE and AP test fees. J. Beausoleil said we cannot use this year's funds for next year's fees. She said this could be addressed using next year's budget, during that year.

C. Rossignol asked for clarification on how the Board could use some of the unexpended funds for students to help offset the costs, like in a 2% account. J. Beausoleil said that would be a separate reoccurring fund that would have to be created through an agreement between the Town Council and the Board.

C. Williams said the unexpended funds being allocated for new signs is a lot when there is an offer on the table for the high school sign to be refurbished through different avenues. She talked about using the funds, instead, for upgrades to the athletic program, for example.

The Board continued to discuss a variety of items related to the budget.

**MOTION: To add an agenda item to discuss and vote on an alternate use of the unexpended funds**

**By: C. Williams**

**Seconded: C. Rossignol**

**Result: Motion fails 3-4 (Beausoleil, Marchand, Kortmann, Eaton against)**

**X. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m.**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted:

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: June 29, 2023