

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Transportation Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, March 9, 2023
Administration Building Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Eugene Marchand, Chair
Peter DePaola
Emma Eaton

Also Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Ex-Officio

Administrators present:

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

Audience: One parent and one observer

I. Call to Order

E. Marchand called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

II. Audience of Citizens

Chrissy Williams, 436 Ripley Hill Road, was present to share her district-level concerns, which included managing ridership and rider-time, driver retention and any reasons for attrition, metrics of complaints, and M&Js opinion on the current situation and if the district is doing enough to manage their concerns.

P. DePaola arrived at 4:37 p.m.

III. VOTE: Approve minutes of September 21, 2022

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 21, 2022

By: P. DePaola

Seconded: E. Eaton

Discussion: E. Eaton asked that on page 2, the last sentence before item VI, "as needed" be added to the end of that sentence.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV. Information: Review Parent Complaint

Dr. Petrone reviewed the original complaint, the information related to the investigation that was provided to the parent, and follow-up information that was emailed to the parent.

E. Marchand noted that the ridership is within law and policy. Dr. Petrone further reviewed how ridership is tracked on a daily basis and how it differs before school and after school. He also reviewed a possible new procedure that may assist with these issues next year. E. Marchand said this would be a good item to review during the summer meet. Dr. Petrone talked about 6-12 discipline concerns and that they met as an administrative team, with M&J, to review procedures and if any improvements could be made. He added, there were no concerns expressed by M&J regarding K-5 discipline related to transportation.

E. Eaton asked if M&J could start looking at what 17 buses would look like. E. Marchand suggested we wait until a budget has passed. E. Eaton agreed and said she would like to give them as much time as possible.

E. Marchand said we can include a list of requests for M&J for the summer meeting. P. DePaola asked that a presentation be added to the list on how they are attracting drivers. E. Marchand asked that the items discussed tonight be added to the summer meeting and that Jon Hipsher be present.

J. Beausoleil clarified that this meeting was called due to a parent complaint, not a Board member request.

E. Eaton asked for a mid-year gentle reminder for K-5 students on the rules of riding the bus.

E. Marchand recognized Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams asked how afterschool changes are tracked, such as if a student is going to a friend's house. E. Marchand said this is an administrative issue. Dr. Petrone said there are procedures in place for when this happens.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

By: P. DePaola

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: July 12, 2023