

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Fiscal Committee Meeting**

Approved Minutes of Thursday, August 31, 2023  
Administration Building Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Mary Kortmann, Committee Chair  
Peter DePaola  
Emma Eaton

Also Present: Jennifer Beausoleil, Board Chair and Ex-Officio

Administrator Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools

Audience: Eugene Marchand, BOE Vice-Chairperson; Courtney Rossignol, Board member (arrived 6:17 p.m.); and Christina Williams, Board member (arrived 6:19 p.m.).

**I. Call to Order**

M. Kortmann called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**II. VOTE: Approve Fiscal Minutes of July 26, 2023**

**MOTION: To approve Fiscal Minutes of July 26, 2023**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: P. DePaola**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**III. Financial Reports for July 31, 2023**

**III.A. Management Report**

Dr. Petrone highlighted various lines in the report including insurance, certified salaries, and non-certified salaries.

Dr. Petrone referred to the excess cost and that the budget is set at 73% and, according to the state, we are in the 91% tier, so we could adjust the budget to 85%. He said he believes 85% is aggressive due to the fluid situation in special education. The Committee decided to hold.

**III.B. Encumbrance Reports**

Dr. Petrone reviewed the encumbrance reports.

**III.C. Special Education Tuition/Excess Cost**

Dr. Petrone said we are starting the year in a tough place with these costs.

### **III.D. Capital and Special Funds**

Dr. Petrone noted that some furniture has been ordered, nothing under the computer account has, and this report reflects the 10% that the Board put toward the cafeteria tables.

M. Kortmann said the Facilities account is up a bit and asked if there is anything that is needed more urgently. Dr. Petrone said there was nothing that he knew of specifically.

The Committee discussed Capital projects.

### **IV. VOTE: HEEC Budget Approval 2023-24**

Dr. Petrone noted that the sunset date for the Smart Start Competitive grant has been removed and we are waiting for further information from the State. Dr. Petrone said it will be good news if the funding continues.

He reviewed the adjustments made to the new HEEC budget. Dr. Petrone talked about the staffing challenges at HEEC.

#### **MOTION: To approve the HEEC 2023-24 Budget as presented**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: P. DePaola**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

### **V. Information: Transportation Contractual Costs**

Dr. Petrone reviewed the current situation regarding the possible bus driver strike and the associated costs. He said more would be discussed with the full Board.

### **VI. Information: DRAFT MOU Connecticut Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations Rebate Program**

Dr. Petrone noted the Town has moved forward with their charging stations. He said the MOU from Shipman and Goodwin took some time. He added that the new Town Manager will be putting it on the next Town Council agenda. Dr. Petrone reviewed the conditions of coverage and when the district would have to pay for network updates, etc. He confirmed we were told we would not have to put any money up front for the 2-year warranty (which is included), but would have to pay \$30,000 for the extended 5 year warranty. He added that the MOU is an agreement on how the money will be split between the Town and the Board and how the money will pass through to the Board.

P. DePaola said the location of the chargers at the schools matters to him.

The Committee discussed whether it should be forwarded to the full Board and then they agreed it could go forward.

### **VII. Information: State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE)**

Dr. Petrone reviewed the new program, which is basically that all students will get free breakfast and all students on reduced lunch will get free lunch.

**VIII. Information: Smart Start Competitive Grant Program**

This item was reviewed under the HEEC budget agenda item.

**IX. Information: ARPA - School Mental Health Specialist Grant**

Dr. Petrone reviewed the funding from this grant and the funding the Board would have to provide after year two.

**X. Information: Grant Awards**

Dr. Petrone noted the award letters were attached for the Committee's information.

**XI. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To Adjourn the Fiscal Meeting at 6:58 p.m.**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: P. DePaola**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted:

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: September 14, 2023