

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, September 14, 2023
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Secretary
Peter DePaola
Emma Eaton
Courtney Rossignol
Christina Williams

Board Member Absent:

Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson

Also present: Mya Ransford

Administrators present:

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

Audience: Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Beth Giller, PSSS Director; Heidi Davis, CGS Principal; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; Jennifer Trueman, CHS Assistant Principal; and one citizen.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reported on various items and meetings taking place in-district, regionally, and state-wide. Dr. Petrone thanked everyone for their patience and efforts during the bus drivers' strike.

IV.A. Information and Welcome: Board of Education Student Representative Report

Dr. Petrone introduced Mya Ransford, the new Student Board of Education Representative. J. Beausoleil welcomed Mya.

Ms. Ransford reported on various activities at CHS, including the Senior Sunrise, which is a new bonding activity.

IV.B. Information: Superintendent's Goal Presentation 2023-24

IV.B.1. Administrative Council Retreat and Agenda Item: District Visioning Work (Goal 1.2)

Dr. Petrone shared a presentation highlighting the 2023-2024 Goals, which are available on the district's website.

Dr. Petrone said there will be more staff and students involved in highlighting the goals for the Board throughout the year.

The Board discussed the K-3 Literacy Plan, the earlier kindergarten registration age, tracking HEEC students as they progress through the K-12 program, the way the goals are measured, the district visioning, what can be done now, and looking into adjusting the school calendar.

Dr. Petrone talked about the work the administrators do during the summer and what that looks like and the focus of school climate in each school, including the middle school.

V. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil reported on the bus strike and how well staff handled the situation, the open houses that have happened so far, the Community Facilities 2033 Visioning, and the work being done with EASTCONN.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of August 31, 2023

MOTION: To approve the minutes of August 31, 2023

By: P. DePaola

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Report of Board Members

VIII.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of September 14, 2023

MOTION: To add an agenda item to discuss and vote to use the 2% non-lapsing account to cover the cost of emergency repairs on the security door system at CNH

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortman

Result: Motion passes unanimously

J. Beausoleil said this discussion would take place at the end of the Fiscal report.

M. Kortmann reported on the Fiscal meeting and noted that it is still early in the year, but everything is tracking correctly. She said the special education outplacement costs are in the negative. She said the Committee is looking at a variety of options and will readdress the situation at the next meeting.

C. Rossignol asked if the summer schedule at HEEC could be adjusted differently to what parents might need. Dr. Petrone said he would look into that.

C. Williams talked about the grant report and the fluctuation in the Title I grant. Dr. Petrone and Mr. Carroll explained the percentages and how that is funded.

C. Williams talked about the weight room on the CIP. Dr. Petrone said it is on the CIP as a placeholder, but it will actually need to go out on a bond. J. Beausoleil reviewed the work that was done to evaluate the room and next steps. The Board discussed the history of the weight room and Dr. Petrone noted, with the studies that have been done, a stand-alone facility is the only option. The Board continued to discuss the issues surrounding the weight room space and if there were any other options.

MOTION: To authorize the superintendent to send a letter to the Town Council requesting use of the 2% non-lapsing account for the cost to repair the security door system at CNH

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: P. DePaola

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information and Possible VOTE: DRAFT MOU Connecticut Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations Rebate Program

J. Beausoleil reviewed the MOU and the conditions once again.

The Board discussed the benefits of having charging stations. C. Rossignol wanted to be sure she understood what costs there might be to the district. Dr. Petrone said there were no costs for the first two years and then the charge to users should cover costs going forward.

The Board discussed the details of the program.

MOTON: To authorize the Superintendent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding related to the Connecticut electric vehicle charging station rebate program and the money flow from the town

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion passes 4-2 (P. DePaola and C. Williams against)

IX.B. Information: Transportation Update

Dr. Petrone briefly recapped the bus drivers' strike.

X. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (discussion concerning an attorney-client privileged communication regarding transportation obligations)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussion concerning an attorney client privileged communication regarding transportation obligations with the Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations present at 8:37 p.m.

By: C. Williams

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion carries unanimously

XI. Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:03 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

By: P. DePaola

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: September 28, 2023