

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, October 12, 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: Mya Ransford

Administrators present:

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

Audience: William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Jennifer Trueman, CHS Assistant Principal; Shirley Holloway, CHS Social Worker and CHS Alumni; and two observers.

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

Ryan Jones, 43 Twin Hills Drive, was present to speak about how pleased he and his family are with the Hale Early Education Center and how happy he is that they are in Coventry. He thanked the Board for their service.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

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

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

Ms. Ransford talked about wrapping up the first quarter and the PSATs.

IV.B. Information: Goal Highlight - CHS Dual Enrollment Program (Goals 1.8 and 1.14)

Dr. Petrone introduced Mr. Blake who shared a presentation on the Dual Enrollment Program, which is available on the district's website through the BoardBook portal. Ms. Holloway said a few words about her positive experience at CHS and the dual enrollment program.

The Board discussed how these opportunities become available to Coventry; transferring credits and the value of the syllabus; AP vs ECE courses; the value of the program to our students; and the hard work of the teachers.

IV.C. Information: Goal Highlight - Facilities Update (Goal 2.5)

Dr. Petrone introduced Mr. Trudelle, who shared a presentation which provided an update on facilities work done over the summer and the upcoming HVAC projects. [This presentation is available on the district's website, via the BoardBook portal.]

The Committee discussed the remaining HVAC work that needs to be done at CHS; the possibility of window air conditioning units; the new air quality testing requirements; and the importance of a new weight room and the related challenges.

MOTION: To add a discussion and possible VOTE to the Agenda regarding using the 2% non-lapsing account for the Town's required portion of the HVAC Project, should the district be awarded the grant.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

V. Discussion and possible VOTE Regarding using the 2% non-lapsing account for the Town's required portion of the HVAC Project, should the district be awarded the grant

M. Kortmann reviewed the needs associated with applying for the grant. She said the Board would need to agree to cover the full amount (\$150,000 for one rooftop unit) but would only be responsible for 40%.

P. DePaola said he would rather see using these funds for a different project, such as the window units. C. Rossignol said she would also like to see the funds used in a different way.

J. Beausoleil said that the discussion is about this grant and using these matching funds to replace something that we already have which is old and needs replacing.

E. Marchand said what is at stake is a 60% reimbursement. He added that keeping a surplus in the account is important.

C. Williams asked if it would make sense to wait and apply for round three and get more units replaced. M. Kortmann said she would like to see the Town pay their share. Dr. Petrone said there is a lot to prepare for and more time to do it if we wait and go for round 3. There was consensus to do that.

