



Thursday, August 10, 2023
School Committee Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Coventry Town Hall 1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, Rhode Island 02816
Live Stream: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTcm2TB52qZajUDvyz-76vQ>

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Pierson 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:	James Pierson, Chairperson	<u>Aye</u>
	Ana Isabel dos Reis-Couto, Vice-Chairperson	<u>Aye</u>
	David Florio, Member	<u>Aye</u>
	John Cambio, Jr., Member	<u>Aye</u>
	Bradford Mayer, Member	<u>Aye</u>
	Don Cowart	<u>Aye</u>

Motion passed 5/0.

Vote to Go Into Executive Session

Motion No. 23-14-1 by Member dos Reis-Couto, seconded by Member Florio that the Committee recess into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. to consider matter(s) relating specifically to:

- Student Matters: R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(8) (Homeschool Requests)
- Approval of Executive Session Minutes 7/27/2023, the following items were discussed:
1.) Student Matters: R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(8) (Homeschool Requests), 2.) Approval of Executive Session Minutes 6/22/2023, Potential Litigation: R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)(Employee Matter)
- Discussion of SPR Contract: R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2)

Roll Call Vote:	James Pierson, Chairperson	<u>Aye</u>
	Ana Isabel dos Reis-Couto,	<u>Aye</u>

Vice-Chairperson	_____
David Florio, Member	<u>Aye</u>
John Cambio, Jr., Member	<u>Aye</u>
Bradford Mayer, Member	<u>Aye</u>

Motion passed 5/0.

Reconvene Open Session

The Open Meeting reconvened at 6:32 p.m. Chairperson Pierson announced that the business section of the agenda was listed in incorrect order and advised will be moving to the appropriate order.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence/Safety Notification/Reading of Mission Statement

Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Motion No. 23-14-2 Member dos Reis-Couto, seconded by Member Florio, that the records of the Executive Session be kept closed pursuant to Sections §42-46-4 and §42-46-5. Motion passed 5/0.

Executive Session Report

In executive session two votes were taken, the first to approve homeschool requests and the second to approve executive session minutes of 7/27/2023. Both motions passed. The SRP contract was discussed.

Approval of Minutes 7/27/2023

Motion No. 23-14-3 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis-Couto, to approve the minutes of 7/27/2023 as presented. Motion passed 5/0.

Public Agenda: This section of the agenda allows for public comment on topics on the agenda

Approval of SRP Contract: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart stated negotiations started in July into August. The TAs and fiscal impact statement were shared with the committee. Chairperson Pierson opened for comments. Ms. Anderson, the union president thanked the committee. Dan Proulx, the Town Manager, thanked the committee for having him on the negotiations committee and asked the committee to hold off on a vote so the town can analyze the fiscal note as it wasn't received until 3pm that day. Kim Sturdhal told the committee if they do not vote it will be prolonged just like the CTA and that they do not want to work to order. Mr. Cowart said that he has a good working relationship with the town manager and that the District did give the fiscal statement today. He said the SRP is a lot of work because there are many moving parts. The fiscal statement not being shared until today was not out of disrespect, it was just a lot of work.

Motion No. 23-14-4 Member dos Reis-Couto, seconded by Member Florio, to approve the SRP contract as presented. Motion passed 5/0

Layoff Recall: Discussion and Vote

Motion No. 23-14-5 Member Florio , seconded by Member Mayer, to approve the recall of Victoria Amberge as a 1.0, one year only, grade 1, at Washington Oak. Motion passed 5/0.

Approval Zoom Platform for School Committee Meetings: Discussion and Vote

There was a discussion on public comment. Chairperson Pierson said the public comment policy is in place. He also stated that some of the wording on the agenda may have to be changed in regards to public comment. Mr. Mayer hopes this will help to increase participation in meetings. Chairperson Pierson opened for comment. There were no comments. No public comment.

Motion No. 23-14-6 Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis-Couto, to approve the Zoom Platform to be used for School Committee Meetings starting on meeting date 8/24/2023. Motion passed 5/0.

Approval of School Calendar: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart explained to the committee RIDE requirements for the calendar and how it lead to him make changes to the calendar to meet RIDE's requirements. Chairperson Cowart opened for comments. Question and answer session followed. No public comment.

Motion No. 23-14-7 Member dos Reis-Couto, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve the School Calendar. Motion passed 5/0.

Scheduling of School Committee Meetings: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart reviewed the meeting locations and dates for school committee meetings. Chairperson Pierson opened for comments. Question and answer session followed. No public comment.

Motion No. 23-14-8 Member Florio, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve the schedule presented for school committee meeting locations. Motion passed 5/0.

Superintendent Goals: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart said he made no changes to the goals and submitted them at this meeting for approval.

Motion No. 23-14-9 Member dos Reis-Couto, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve the Superintendent Goals as presented. Motion passed 5/0.

Finance Transition Presentation: Discussion

Mr. DeVerna reviewed his transition plan. He said the annual audit for 2022 is completed on the school side. Mr. Cowart stated that the 2023 budget impacts the 2024 budget and that they are continuing to analyze the budget. After review, Mr. Cowart stated they will come forward with new budget documents. Chairperson Pierson opened for comments. Question and answer session followed. No public comment.

Approval of Stage II Application: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart stated that Mr. Conte was there if there were any questions. Chairperson Pierson opened for comments. There were no questions or comments. No public comment.

Motion No. 23-14-10 Member dos Reis-Couto, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve to submit the Stage II Application to RIDE. Motion passed 5/0.

Approval of Food Service Contract: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart stated a rubric was used to determine how people would do working in Coventry. Three vendors were considered. After using the rubric and looking at revenue costs, it was determined to recommend Sodexo for the food service contract. A document was shared with the committee to view. Chairperson Pierson opened for comments. There were no comments or questions. No public comment.

Motion No. 23-14-11 Member dos Reis-Couto, seconded by Member Cambio, to approve the Food Service Contract with Sodexo. Motion passed 5/0.

Superintendent Report: 1.) CTA Contract Vote, 2.) Teacher Orientation Day 8/28/2023 3.) Facilities Use Policy

1. CTA Contract Vote-The vote date changed from 8/15 to 8/22 and said it would be great if the committee could attend.
2. Teacher Orientation Day 8/28/2023-Mr. Cowart advised the committee of Teacher Orientation Day and invited them to attend.
3. Facilities Use Policy-Mr. Cowart reviewed the rental fees with the committee. He explained that the people are not paying and the fees are not being implemented. He stated that he would like to follow the policy but wanted the committee to be aware that there could be push back from the community. Chairperson Pierson opened for comments. Question and answer session followed. No public comment.

Citizens' Comments

An employee of Sodexo said thank you. Paula Patton, Director of Food Services said thank you.

Scheduling of the Next Meeting

Motion No. 23-14-12 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member Cambio, to schedule the next meeting for August 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed 5/0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 23-14-13 by Member dos Reis-Couto, and seconded by Member Florio, to adjourn at 7:37 pm. Motion passed 5/0.