



Thursday, September 28, 2023
School Committee Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Coventry Town Hall 1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI 02816

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Sep 28, 2023 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: 9/28/2023 School Committee Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairperson dos Reis-Couto 6:01p.m. (6:00 p.m.)

Roll Call Vote:	James Pierson, Chairperson	<u>absent</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>
	Christopher DeVerna	<u></u>

Vote to Go Into Executive Session

Motion No. 23-17-1 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Cambio that the Committee recess into Executive Session at 6:04 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 9/14/2023, 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 8/24/2023

Reconvene Open Session

The Open Meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

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

Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Motion No. 23-17-2 Member Florio, seconded by Member Mayer, that the records of the Executive Session be kept closed pursuant to Sections §42-46-4 and §42-46-5. Motion Passed 4/0.

Roll Call Vote:	James P. Pierson, Chairperson	_____
	Ana Isabel dos Reis-Couto,	Aye
	Vice-Chairperson	_____
	David Florio, Member	Aye
	John Cambio Jr., Member	Aye
	Bradford Mayer, Member	Aye

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 9/14/2023. Both motions passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes 9/14/2023

Motion No. 23-17-3 by Member Mayer seconded by Member Cambio, to approve the minutes of 9/14/2023 as presented. Motion passed 4/0

Citizens Comments on Topics Listed on the Agenda

There were no comments in person or via Zoom.

AP Update and Scores for Coventry High School: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart stated in the spring AP students take the exams, and the scores come in late summer. Mr. Cowart introduced Ms. Macomber to present on the AP scores and AP strategies moving forward. Ms. Macomber said she was proud of the scores. Ms. Macomber reviewed the results as well as where the school ranked in the state and the world. Ms. Macomber shared that the number of students taken AP tests have dropped and that they are looking for ways to improve on this. Ms. Macomber provided the

breakdown of scores with a 3 or higher considered passing but stated that most Universities accept a 4 or a 5. She provided breakdowns for each of the subject areas for the committee to review. Her focus for this year is to get more kids to take the tests and to have more tests administrated. The school department is training more teachers so that more AP courses can be added. Juniors can take the tests as well. She reviewed new courses being offered in the 2023-2024 school year. She also reviewed the benefits of AP courses and hopes to make the courses more inclusive to more kids with less focus on the scores and more on the number of students taking the exam. Ms. Macomber is excited to see how we make out with the 330 expected tests. Vice Chairperson dos Reis-Couto opened for questions and comments from the committee. Question and session followed. The committee thanked Ms. Macomber for her work.

I Ready Update: Discussion

Mr. Cowart said we have been using Star to do our assessments but have decided to move to a new product. He introduced Ms. Anzalone to present to the committee about the new product for reading and mathematics. She explained that a university screener is used 3 times a year to identify students' strengths and needs. The school department wanted a product that provided more actionable data so they started researching different products. They started with 6 and eventually piloted 2 of the products. After reviewing the pros and cons of each product they decided to use I Ready. Ms. Anzalone discussed the purpose of the screener, what it does and why it was picked. She reviewed the difference between a norm referenced and criterion reference. She reviewed how I Ready makes data actionable. She reviewed fall assessment reading including a breakdown of what students need to work on and areas where they are doing well. Ms. Anzalone stated that I Ready provides lesson plans and also explained how students can use individual student computerized pathways. In October, Ms. Anzalone will share the first I Ready data. Vice Chairperson dos Reis-Couto opened for questions and answers from the committee. Question and session followed. The Committee thanked Ms. Anzalone for her work.

Therapy Dog Policy, First Reading: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart explained that at the last meeting they had the first reading and at that same meeting, they also had had a presentation on therapy dogs. Mr. Cowart said he would be happy to answer any questions. Mr. Cambio asked if there were parameters or specified times when students can access the support animal; a discussion followed. Mr. Cowart said we can have regular check-backs by the counselors who have the therapy dogs. It was also stated that policies can always be revised and it was suggested that the policy be revisited in 6 months to see how it is going and to see if the policy needs to be readdressed.

Motion No. 23-17-4 Member Florio, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve the second reading of the Therapy Dog Policy. Motion passed 4/0

Motion No. 23-27-5 Member Mayer, seconded by Member Florio, to approve the Therapy Dog Policy. Motion passed 4/0

McKinney Vento Process: Discussion

Mr. Cowart introduced Ms. Anzalone to present. Ms. Anzalone explained that McKinney Vento is how we work with the homeless. She explained how she is new to working with McKinney Vento. She met with Ride and they sent her a ton of information and trained her on the area of her responsibilities. She reviewed what the McKinney Vento act is and then reviewed plans to support families. She stated that there is a need for transportation improvement. She explained that the school department uses Statewide Transportation and shares the cost with other school departments. The school department is working on using its own drivers and vans to help with the cost. The school department is in the process of interviewing additional van drivers to transport students. The school department is working with Enterprise to get 2- 7 passenger vans. She said when they had more information they will update the committee. Ms. Anzalone plans to improve transportation, educate staff, provide services, make connections, and make available resource services. Vice Chairperson dos Reis-Couto opened for comments and questions from the committee. Questions and sessions followed. The committee thanked Ms. Anzalone for her work.

Finance Report: Discussion

This item will be provided at the next meeting.

Superintendent Report: 1.) Reminder of School Committee Meeting Locations

Mr. Cowart said that at a previous meeting the committee discussed meetings being at the schools. He will announce additional meeting locations once the school committee calendar is created.

Citizens Comments

Brad Mayer wanted to remind citizens that the school bond vote is on Tuesday and early voting is available

Scheduling of the Next Meeting

Motion No. 23-17-6 by Member Florio, and seconded by Member Cambio, to schedule the next meeting for October 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed 4/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 23-17-7 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member Florio, to adjourn at 7:22pm. Motion passed 4/0.