

**Coventry Public Schools**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Approved Minutes of November 9, 2023  
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil  
Joseph Cleary  
Emma Eaton  
Mary Kortmann  
Eugene Marchand  
Courtney Rossignol  
Christina Williams

Also Present:

Mya Ransford, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators Present:

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

Audience: CNH band students and family members; several community members; Justice of the Peace, Dorothy Grady; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; Christian Marcinczyk, CNH Assistant Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Deborah Page, CNH Teacher; Kevin Mazzarella, CNH Band Director; and CNH Students Reese Coffey and Collin Harrington and CHS Students Hannah Simko and Jeff Dube (with their family members), being recognized for the CAPSS Superintendent Student Awards.

**I. Call to Order - Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Petrone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

Dr. Petrone led the salute to the flag.

**III. Swearing in of Board of Education Members**

Ms. Grady swore in all members of the Board of Education.

**IV. Election of Board Officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary**

Dr. Petrone explained the process for electing officers and began with the election of the Chairperson.

Dr. Petrone asked for nominations for Chairperson.

**MOTION: To nominate J. Beausoleil as Chairperson**

**By: E. Marchand and C. Williams      No Second needed**

There were no other nominations. Dr. Petrone asked for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

C. Williams voted for J. Beausoleil  
J. Cleary voted for J. Beausoleil  
C. Rossignol voted for J. Beausoleil  
J. Beausoleil voted for J. Beausoleil  
M. Kortmann voted for J. Beausoleil  
E. Eaton voted for J. Beausoleil  
E. Marchand voted for J. Beausoleil

**Result: The vote was 7-0. J. Beausoleil was appointed as the Chairperson.**

J. Beausoleil asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson

**MOTION: To nominate E. Marchand as Vice-Chairperson**

**By: M. Kortmann                              No second needed**

There were no other nominations. J. Beausoleil asked for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

C. Williams voted for E. Marchand  
J. Cleary voted for E. Marchand  
C. Rossignol voted for E. Marchand  
J. Beausoleil voted for E. Marchand  
M. Kortmann voted for E. Marchand  
E. Eaton voted for E. Marchand  
E. Marchand voted for E. Marchand

**Result: The vote was 7-0. E. Marchand was appointed as the Vice-Chairperson**

J. Beausoleil asked for nominations for Secretary.

**MOTION: To nominate M. Kortmann as Secretary**

**By: E. Eaton and C. Williams              No second needed**

There were no other nominations. J. Beausoleil asked for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

C. Williams voted for M. Kortmann  
J. Cleary voted for M. Kortmann  
C. Rossignol voted for M. Kortmann  
J. Beausoleil voted for M. Kortmann  
M. Kortmann voted for M. Kortmann  
E. Eaton voted for M. Kortmann  
E. Marchand voted for M. Kortmann

**Result: The vote was 7-0. M. Kortmann was appointed as Secretary.**

## **V. Audience of Citizens**

There were none.

## **VI. Report of the Superintendent**

### **VI.A. Information: CNH Musical Highlight (Goals 1.8 and 1.13)**

Mr. Mazzarella, CNH Band Director, was accompanied by select student members of the CNH Concert and Jazz Bands. They provided an overview of a number of activities they participated in over the past year. The students performed the National Anthem as well as spoke about a few unique learning experiences.

### **VI.B. Student Recognition: CAPSS Superintendent Student Awards - CNH Students Reese Coffey and Collin Harrington; CHS Students Hannah Simko and Jeff Dube (Goal 2.1)**

Dr. Petrone announced the two eighth grade students from the Capt. Nathan Hale School. Mr. Sward recognized Reese Coffey and Collin Harrington. Dr. Petrone presented both students with the award.

Dr. Petrone recognized Hannah Simko and Jeff Dube, CHS Seniors, and presented both with awards.

J. Beausoleil made a few comments about the importance of the award and thanked the students for their hard work.

Dr. Petrone continued his report and talked about various activities taking place in-district, regionally, and state-wide.

### **VI.C. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report**

Miss Ransford congratulated the members for being elected. She reported on various activities taking place at CHS including parent conferences, athletics, and that quarter one has wrapped up.

## **VII. VOTE: Consent Agenda**

### **VII.A. Approve CHS April 2024 Field Experience to New York, NY**

### **VII.B. Approve CNH June 2024 Field Experience to Puerto Rico**

C. Williams asked that the trip to Puerto Rico be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

### **MOTION: To approve the remaining item on the consent agenda**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

### **MOTION: To approve the CNH June 2024 Field Experience to Puerto Rico**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: By E. Marchand**

Discussion: C. Williams asked if this was in addition to the trip to Washington DC. Dr. Petrone said yes.

C. Williams noted it is a very expensive trip. Ms. Page talked about the World Language Department and the plan to have a three-year cycle so that parents can plan (one trip per year alternating to China, Puerto Rico, Canada). She said there is fundraising involved and she spoke about that.

C. Williams asked if there was a minimum number of students needed for the trip to take place. Ms. Page said at least six is important.

J. Cleary asked if it was open to all. Ms. Page said yes.

C. Williams asked about insurance. Ms. Page said this trip is through EF Tours, which is the company Coventry uses the majority of the time, and they have tiered insurance plans for parents.

The Board talked about students who may not be able to afford the cost and the programs that are available to assist.

E. Eaton said she is excited to see these trips come back.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **VIII. Report of the Chairman**

J. Beausoleil welcomed the Board. She talked about the positive experience of Board members participating in the Contemporary Issues class at CHS.

### **VIII.A. Committee and Liaison Assignments**

Ms. Beausoleil assigned board members to serve on the various committees and as liaisons. She noted the list would be updated and provided to all members. The appointments were as follows:

#### **BOE Subcommittee Assignments**

- Expulsion Committee: E. Marchand (Chair), J. Cleary, M. Kortmann, (C. Williams alternate)
- Fiscal Committee: M. Kortmann (Chair), E. Eaton, C. Rossignol
- Grievance Committee: M. Kortmann (Chair), E. Marchand, C. Williams
- Policy Committee: E. Eaton (Chair), E. Marchand, C. Rossignol
- Residency Committee: E. Eaton (Chair), M. Kortmann, C. Williams
- Transportation: E. Marchand (Chair), J. Cleary, E. Eaton
- Negotiations - Nurses: J. Beausoleil, E. Marchand, C. Williams

#### **Liaison/Representative Assignments**

- Pension Commission (Town): M. Kortmann
- District Curriculum Committee Liaison: E. Marchand
- E. O. Smith Representative: J. Beausoleil
- District Technology Committee Liaison: E. Eaton
- EASTCONN Representative: J. Beausoleil

- Athletic Advisory Representative: E. Marchand
- District Wellness Committee Liaison: C. Rossignol
- School Building and Energy Efficiency Committee (Town): M. Kortman

**X. VOTE: Approval of Minutes**

**X.A. Approve Minutes of October 26, 2023**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of October 26, 2023**

**By: C. Rossignol**

**Seconded: E. Eato**

**Result: Motion passes 6-0-1 (C. Williams abstained)**

**XI. Report of Board Members**

**XI.A. Information: Transportation Committee Report, Meeting of October 31, 2023**

E. Marchand reviewed the Transportation Committee meeting of October 31, 2023. He said the main focus of the meeting was the RFP for transportation services, as the M&J contract is up in June.

Dr. Petrone informed the Board that M&J is pushing back on the expenses the district incurred because of the strike. He said he would bring this forward to the Fiscal Committee in December.

C. Williams and C. Rossignol asked for more full Board involvement in the vendor selection process. J. Beausoleil said it would be taken under advisement.

The Board discussed the details of the RFP.

**XII. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.**

**By: C. Williams**

**Seconded: C. Rossignol**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

---

Respectfully submitted:

---

Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: December 14, 2023