

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

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

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson  
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairperson  
Mary Kortmann, Secretary  
Joseph Cleary (arrived 7:33 p.m.)  
Emma Eaton  
Courtney Rossignol

Board Member Absent:

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: Senator Jeff Gordon; Senator Timothy Ackert; Julie Klimkiewicz, HEEC Para-educator; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; CNH Girls Soccer Team and family members; Coach Kyle Bilyak; Dr. Beth Giller, PSSS Director; Karen Bohr, RISE Teacher; and Lisa Levesque, RISE staff.

**I. Call to Order**

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

**III. Report of the Superintendent**

**III.A. Recognition: CNH Girls Soccer Team - Northeast Middle School Athletic Conference Champions**

Dr. Petrone introduced Senator Gordon and Representative Ackert who were in attendance to present a Citation from the General Assembly. There were congratulations from the Board and audience.

**III.B. Recognition: CHS Girls Volleyball Team - CT Interscholastic Conference S State Champions**

This recognition is being rescheduled for January.

### **III.C. Recognition: HEEC Para-Educator Julie Klimkiewicz, Coventry's Para-Educator of the Year and State Semifinalist for the 2024 Anne Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award**

Dr. Petrone talked about the award which was presented at the State Board of Education meeting. He also shared a few words Dr. Hasty had written. Ms. Klimkiewicz received recognition from the Board.

E. Eaton said there are many thanks to give to Ms. Klimkiewicz. C. Rossignol also thanked her for her work with our students.

Dr. Petrone continued with his general report. He reviewed various events and meetings he has attended locally, regionally, and state-wide.

### **III.D. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report**

Ms. Ransford talked about winter athletics, the semester wrapping up, upcoming winter break, attending the CABE/CAPSS Convention; and PJ Day.

### **III.E. Information: Goal Highlight - R.I.S.E. Program (Reaching Independence through Support and Education) (Goals 1.13 and 2.1)**

Dr. Giller introduced Karen Bohr who shared a presentation about the RISE program, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal.

(J. Cleary arrived.)

E. Marchand asked how far out the group goes. Ms. Bohr said Middletown is the farthest they have gone on a field trip; for working they stay in this area.

M. Kortmann asked how many were in the group. Ms. Bohr said currently, 4. She said at one time there were 7, so it varies.

E. Eaton gave commendations to the program.

## **IV. Audience of Citizens**

There were none.

## **V. Report of the Chairman**

J. Beausoleil noted today was the anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy. She also reported on the CABE/CAPSS Convention, the EASTCONN Board of Directors meeting, and she wished everyone a good holiday break.

C. Rossignol spoke about the CABE/CAPSS Conference and the frustration of being a small district and was hoping we could make more of a difference in the state legislation. J. Beausoleil said advocacy is being covered in an upcoming CABE workshop, and she asked Board members to review that opportunity. She also mentioned the CABE Legislative Breakfast, which Coventry hosted last winter, and that is a way to connect with legislators.



