

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 11, 2024
Administration Building Conference

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Secretary
Joseph Cleary
Emma Eaton
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: Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Heidi Davis, CGS Principal; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Ross Sward, CNH Principal; Christian Marcinczyk, CNH Assistant Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Jennifer Trueman, CHS Assistant Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Dr. Beth Giller, PSSS Director; Philip Gatcomb, CHS Teacher; Ryan Giberson, CHS Girls Volleyball Coach and three members of the team - Caroline Wesoloskie, Anaka Eaton, Ally King; and Adrian Pizarro-Slevinsky, Legislative Aide for State Senator Jeff Gordon.

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. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

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

IV.A. Recognition: CHS Girls Volleyball Team - CT Interscholastic Conference S State Champions

Dr. Petrone introduced Adrian Pizarro-Slevinsky, Legislative Aide for State Senator Jeff Gordon, who was in attendance to present a CT General Assembly Citation on behalf of Senator Gordon and Representative Ackert. Mr. Blake and Coach Giberson said a few words about the season. There were congratulations from the Board.

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

Miss Ransford reported on high school items such as mid-terms.

IV.C. Information: Goal Highlight - CHS ECE Computer Engineering Course (Goals 1.8, 1.10, and 1.14)

Dr. Petrone introduced Mr. Blake and Mr. Gatcomb, who shared a presentation on the new course.

C. Williams shared her appreciation of this implementation. J. Beausoleil also expressed her appreciation.

There was consensus by the Board for the course to move forward.

V. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil noted that the budget books have been printed and delivered to Board members.

VI. Communications

J. Beausoleil noted attached was the letter from the Town Clerk stating that the EAC Agreement was received.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of December 14, 2023

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 14, 2023

By: M. Kortmann Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. New Business

VIII.A. Information: FY2025 Budget Presentation

J. Beausoleil reviewed the budget process.

Dr. Petrone shared the budget presentation, which is available on the district's website.

C. Williams asked about teacher positions that are less than 1.0 FTE and if we have looked at making those positions whole. Dr. Petrone said this is reviewed continually and there are many variables, such as teaching certification, building location, and timing of classes.

C. Williams asked if we have enough temporary staff. Dr. Petrone said the current proposal covers the needs we know of now.

C. Williams asked about the BST and where they would be used. Dr. Petrone said they will be assigned to targeted areas/specific students.

C. Williams asked about the Math Interventionist positions and was surprised that CNH wasn't included. Dr. Petrone said there are other implantations happening at CNH, such as the high dosage tutoring which started at CNH this week; there is a Math Interventionist at CNH already; and there is a K-12 Math Specialist working with students and teachers.

C. Rossignol asked about the Math Intervention positions and also wondered if the need is greater at CNH. Dr. Petrone said the data supports the need at CGS and GHR.

C. Williams asked about Reading Intervention and is worried about the current state mandates/curriculum, specifically how that is affecting students at CGS. Dr. Petrone spoke to that and reviewed the intervention work that is being done. The Board discussed the challenges the state mandate is causing.

The Board discussed the assumptions in the budget and when final numbers will be available; the increase in the equipment line for wrestling mats at CHS; and multi-year contracts for technology applications.

The Board discussed the upcoming state age mandate and the Superintendent provided information about an upcoming February parent session.

IX. Report of Board Members

IX.A. Information: Transportation Committee Report, Meeting of January 11, 2024

E. Marchand reviewed the meeting that was held earlier in the evening. He reviewed the areas DATTCO covered in which he was impressed. He said he believed there was consensus with Committee members regarding the approval to move forward with DATTCO.

J. Cleary reviewed the points he took away from the meeting, focusing on his appreciation of DATTCO's handling of the driver shortage.

E. Eaton said she was very happy to hear that they would start from scratch to build the routes and the software integration they have that works with PowerSchool. She continued and talked about other areas that were impressive.

The Board discussed that DATTCO is a large corporation and has resources that would benefit Coventry.

The Board discussed other options that may be available or requested, such as the number of cameras on a bus, distribution of ridership, and communication with parents.

There was consensus by the Board that Dr. Petrone and Mr. Carroll could move forward with negotiating the contract for the Transportation Committee to consider for approval.

IX.B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of January 11, 2024

