

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Special Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 18, 2024
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Secretary
Joseph Cleary (arrived 7:15 p.m.)
Courtney Rossignol
Christina Williams

Board Members Absent:

Emma Eaton

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; 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

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Salute the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. VOTE: Approve Minutes of January 11, 2024

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 11, 2024

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: M. Kortmann asked that on page 3, in the first sentence in the first paragraph under the Transportation Committee report, the word "repressed" be adjusted to "impressed."

C. Rossignol asked that under New Business and the Budget discussion a mention of the discussion of the Age Requirement for Kindergarten be added. J. Beausoleil asked if the following would work, "The Board discussed the upcoming state age mandate and the Superintendent provided information about an upcoming February parent session." C. Rossignol accepted that suggestion.

Result: Motion to approve the minutes with noted modifications passes unanimously

V. Old Business

V.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY2025 Budget

J. Beausoleil reviewed the attachments available related to the budget.

V.A.1. Coventry Grammar School

The Board discussed various lines at CGS including, temporary salary increases at both CGS and GHR; MobiMax; PickUp Patrol Software; the new School Store; and software that is currently funded by ARP/ESSER and how it will have to be in the operating budget in FY26.

C. Williams asked about the addition of the piano at CGS. It was determined that the piano is still needed. M. Kortmann said that the piano should be on the "one time" purchase list, with the wrestling mats.

V.A.2. G. H. Robertson School

The Board discussed various line items, such as a STEM Space; (J. Cleary arrived); and software placement in the budget.

V.A.3. Capt. Nathan Hale School

The Board discussed various line items including the cost of the NELMS Conference; Game of the Week costs; the elimination of the Typing Club Software; the author visit; FPS funds; Consumer and Family Science needs; wrestling club needs; and an increase for math materials.

V.A.4. Coventry High School

The Board discussed various items at CHS such as, the uniform replacement cycle; fund surplus from the canceled freshman basketball season; purchasing software in multi-year contracts; finding another funding source for the cost of the wrestling mats and if that equipment line should be increased and/or kept from year to year; a holistic look at software; textbooks converting to online versions and that associated cost; student athletic trip expenses reflecting what is actually spent; workbooks (online and hard copies); ice hockey costs; and the increase to the cost of the athletic trainer.

V.A.5. Pupil and Staff Support Services

The Board discussed items such as instructional equipment for special education students; not needing to renew the IEP report portion of Frontline, because CT-SEDS is in use; and the change to the kindergarten age requirement.

V.A.6. Warehouse/Facilities

The Board discussed the facilities budget, including additional equipment; the carpet for the auditorium; possible new seating for the auditorium, which would actually be expensive enough to be on the CIP; the replacement of a fire door; and the increase in the custodial and maintenance supplies (HVAC equipment).

V.A.7. Central Office

The Board discussed items in the Central Office budget including the increase in contracted services (Crowdstrike software); the legal and audit line; by what amount the health insurance should increase; and liability coverage amounts.

V.A.8. General

The Board discussed various items such as an increase in the Title I amount (federal calculation) and keeping the Math Interventionists.

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: January 25, 2024