

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, February 29, 2024
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Secretary
Emma Eaton
Courtney Rossignol
Christina Williams
Joseph Cleary

Board Members Absent:

None

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools

Also Present:

Mya Ransford, Student Board of Education Representative

Audience: Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Mr. Trudelle, Director of Facilities; Mr. Sward, CNH Principal; Mr. Spivey, Ed Tech Coach; Ms. Wilbur, K-12 Stem Specialist; Ms. Phillips, Library Media Specialist; Dr. Lois Hasty, Preschool & Early Childhood Education Coordinator; Ms. Slawinowski, Preschool Teacher; Ms. Rupert, Preschool Teacher; Students: Charlotte Cofiell, Mason Kolasinski, Austin Katan, Juliet Williams, Griffin Myshrall, Ronan Almeida, and Lilly Pascino.

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 a joint Fiscal Finance meeting was conducted. Attorney General Tong visited the high school. Portrait of a Graduate presentation work was well done at the Robertson school. He attended the CAPSS legislative meeting. The Pickup Patrol program is rolling out on March 18, 2024 through PowerSchool. This will alleviate some paperwork. The paper option will still be available. Over 100 parents at Robertson school participated in Physical Education day. Dr. Giller's retirement is approaching. On April 25, 2024 Board interviews will be conducted. Dr. Petrone reviewed the process of hiring Dr. Giller's replacement. E. Marchand stated the girls and boys basketball team progressed to the finals.

IV.A. Information: Student Recognition – CNH Student Lillian Pascino – 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest Winner

Dr. Petrone introduced Lillian Pascino, one of the 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest winners. Lillian read her essay. Dr. Petrone and the Board presented a plaque to Lillian.

IV.B. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report–Mya Ransford

Miss Ransford reported on exciting basketball games going on for the girls and boys. Dollars for Scholars program is underway, she noted to make sure all seniors get forms submitted. Drama production coming up. J. Beausoleil stated any senior who applies can be awarded, do not have to attend college to be awarded.

IV.C. Information: New Computer Science Programming Including an Extracurricular Learning Opportunity (Goal 1.10)

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Mullaly, who shared a presentation on the new computer science programming, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal. Highlights included assured CS aligned learning for all students and portrait of graduate competencies.

Ms. Slawinowski and Ms. Rupert, along with students, Charlotte and Macy, gave a presentation on science activities.

Ms. Wilbur and Ms. Phillips, along with students Juliette and Austin, presented Lead the Way that involves coding.

Mr. Spivey, Ed Tech Coach, presented 3D printing along with students Griffin, Lillian and Ronan.

J. Beausoleil stated that this program started out small and has evolved into an innovative and creative program. She stated that this is valuable because 3D is so prevalent in future careers.

IV.D. Information and VOTE: Approve the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan (Goal 3.2) – Ms. Mullaly

Dr. Petrone stated the State requires us to bring forward a diversity plan. Ms. Mullaly presented the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan. She informed the Board about background, process and statistics of the diversity workforce in the district.

Dr. Petrone spoke to the crafting of the language and focus on the work with staff and students.

J. Cleary asked if we are in line to where we should be. Ms. Mullaly stated there is not a target to follow, but that we are in a good position.

MOTION: To approve the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV.E. Information: Mid-Year Facility Update (Goal 2.5) – Mr. Trudelle

Dr. Petrone introduced Mr. Trudelle, who shared a presentation on mid-year facility updates, which is available on the district’s website via the BoardBook portal. Highlights include the GHR and CHS roof update, HVAC project update at the high school, the states new HVAC requirements, and indoor air quality assessment categories. Fall projects reviewed. Saved approximately \$21,000 by doing repairs in house vs hiring an outside contractor. Mr. Trudelle reviewed round 3 of the HVAC grant. He gave pricing on two different heating/cooling systems. Facilities focus for the spring reviewed.

Discussion on process of submitting grant, pricing options, and then referendum. Suggestion on holding a joint finance fiscal meeting to present information on the grant process and project.

V. Vote: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the Retirement of Beth Giller, PSSS Director

J. Beausoleil asked that the consent item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion

MOTION: To accept the Retirement of Beth Giller, PSSS Director

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: J. Beausoleil stated that Dr. Giller had some great successes and implementations during her tenure.

E. Eaton shared her sentiments of Dr. Giller running her position with a steady hand.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil reported the town hearings for budget proposals will be on 3/7/24. Upcoming events include the drama production, kindergarten information session, and steam night at the high school. Due to steam night starting at 7p on 3/28/24, the Board of Education meeting will be moved to 7:30pm. EastConn approved their diversity plan. J. Beausoleil continues to hear great things about Coventry at these meetings. Professional development training for the Board was held this evening. Included in this training was a legal representative update and overview on Board member responsibilities.

VII. Communications

There were none.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of February 8, 2024

C. Williams amended the minutes for February 8, 2024 item X.B motion to change from 'waiver for all families' to 'waiver for a child turning five by December 31, 2024'.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 8, 2024 as amended

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information: FY2024 Budget Unanticipated Expenses

Dr. Petrone reviewed the unanticipated expenses that included facilities, legal, and special education. He stated these are things you can't plan for. The transportation contract was another expense that was more than anticipated.

IX.B. Information: FY 2025 Budget

Dr. Petrone stated there is vacancy savings in retirements, however hiring the replacement applicants on the higher salary scale doesn't offer much cost savings. This is due to different factors to include the applicant's expertise and also the lack of options in the applicant pool. Dr. Petrone is tracking this.

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Transportation Committee Update – E. Marchand

E. Marchand reviewed the Transportation Committee meeting held on 2/29/24. The committee did a final review of DATTCO and voted unanimously to pass the contract on to the superintendent to finalize negotiations.

The Route plan should be submitted July 1, 2024. Notice will be sent out to parents notifying them of the new company. 17 buses anticipated based on the geography of the town, with Board purview to increase or decrease as necessary.

XI. Possible VOTE: Executive Session [Superintendent's Evaluation]

There was none.

XII. Open Session

There was none.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: March 14, 2024