

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

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

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

None

Administrators Present:

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

Also Present:

Mya Ransford, Student Board of Education Representative

Audience: Mr. Sward, CNH Principal; Mr. Blake, CHS Principal; Ms. DeRagon, Robertson School Principal; Ms. Davis, CGS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 that the Board members have an invitation to the district wide art show on 5/16/24. Autism awareness day kicked off last week by Senator Gordon. Director of Pupil Services interviews conducted by the administration. Student focus groups took place. High school sophomore project presentations took place last night. The solar eclipse

was a busy day. The middle school did a great job. Dr. Petrone wished staff and students a great spring break next week.

C. Williams commented on the Board secretary not being present in person, as well as not having a camera on via zoom during the meeting. She stated this was against board policy. J. Beausoleil stated that the policy was applicable to Board members only, but will take it under advisement and have the policy committee review the policy.

IV.A. Recognition: Kyle Ferreira van Leer, K-12 Math Specialist - Presenter at ATOMIC Conference

Dr. Petrone introduced Kyle Ferreira van Leer. He is impressed with Mr. Ferreira van Leer and the work he is doing. He is being honored for representing the district so well. Mr. Ferreira van Leer reviewed the workshop he presented to teachers, administrators and coaches. He addressed questions from the Board on the pros and cons of student learning through this type of work. He stated that this type of learning helps kids find connections with repeated messages.

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

Miss Ransford reported the trip to Spain is coming up for the Spanish and history students. The blood drive was successful. SAT's were conducted. Prom tickets are on sale until 4/26/24. The junior prom theme will be under the stars.

IV. C. Information: K-3 Literacy Plan Update (Goal 1.6)

Ms. Mullaly introduced Ms. Hennessey, K-12 literary specialist, Ms. Marques, reading teacher, and Ms. McNamar, reading consultant. They presented the CSE and K-3 Literacy plan, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal.

Questions from the Board on the staircase scale, foundation used at pre-school, data on preschool kids and reading, and long term success rates for skills. C. Williams asked about deficiencies. J. Cleary commended the reading program. Dr. Petrone spoke about grant funding and some ongoing expenses for the program.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Approve the retirement of Heidi Bosco, CGS Teacher

Item was removed from the consent agenda

MOTION: To approve the retirement of Heidi Bosco, CGS Teacher

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: E. Eaton wished Ms. Bosco the very best.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil reminded the Board about giving availability for meetings.

Discussion on the Board members feelings on each item up for consideration to include chrome books, sports, psychologist, health insurance rate, special education teacher and interventionist.

Consensus on the Board to delay the chrome book purchase.

C. Rossignol would like further clarification from the Town Council on the operating expenditure policy with regard to the 2% account.

Consensus on the Board to delay the wrestling mats purchase.

Consensus on the Board to cut the clarinet and video camera purchase.

Consensus to cut the purchase of a piano.

MOTION: To approve the cut of the middle school guidance counselor position

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: C. Rossignol noted that on 6/30/23 \$41k was moved into the 2% account. M. Kortmann noted that they spent it that year. C. Williams stated the middle school is the weakest point and not giving them the tools needed to turn the course is not good. She is against cutting this position.

Discussion on any other positions that they could cut instead. Special Education was a position some would support cutting.

Result: Motion failed 2-5 (E. Marchand, E. Eaton for and J. Beausoleil, M. Kortmann, C. Rossignol, C. Williams, J. Cleary against)

MOTION: To approve the cut of the special education position

By: J. Cleary

Seconded: C. Williams

Discussion on how cutting this position negatively impacts the students and will put additional caseloads on the existing special education teacher. E. Marchand noted that this is a mandated service. Currently this position is vacant.

Result: 4-3 Motion passes (C. Williams, J. Cleary, C. Rossignol, M. Kortmann for and J. Beausoleil, E. Marchand, E. Eaton against)

MOTION: To approve the cut of Padlet

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: C. Williams

Discussion on other options to cut

Result: C. Rossignol rescinded the motion

MOTION: To approve the cut of intramurals at the middle school and change to fee based

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: C. Williams doesn't think that this is the right way to go because of the large participation drop when it was moved to a fee based program.

Result: 4-3 Motion passes (J. Beausoleil, M. Kortmann, E. Eaton, E. Marchand for and C. Rossignol, J. Cleary, C. Williams against)

MOTION: To approve the cut of Padlet

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: 6-1 Motion passes (E. Eaton opposed)

Consensus to take the remaining \$3,342 out of tuition account

MOTION: To approve the modifications to the FY2025 budget as listed:

PSSS	560 & 561.1200 (Special Education Tuition, 5 new Students @ 73%)	\$ (37,253)
DW	Crowdstrike (add back expense)	\$ (62,540)
WH	Contracted Services	\$ 4,000
WH	Heating Oil	\$ 13,260
WH	Disposal Services	\$ 5,000
ADMIN	Pension	\$ 32,304
ADMIN	Diesel Fuel	\$ 9,100
DW	Salary Adjustments	\$ 115,803
CHS	580-1100 Travel	\$ 500
CHS	810-1100 Dues and Fees	\$ 2,100
CGS	CGS Piano	\$ 2,000
CHS	Wrestling Mats	\$ 11,000
DW	Special Education Teacher	\$ 61,862
TECH	K Chromebooks	\$ 16,400
TECH	Padlet	\$ 3,090
CNH	Intramurals	\$ 7,712
CHS	739-1100 Equipment	\$ 2,000
CHS	739-1100 Equipment	\$ 2,184
DW	Health Insurance reduce to 4% increase	\$ 8,136
DW	Dues & Fees	\$ 3,342
		\$ 200,000

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: 4-3 Motion passes (E. Marchand, E. Eaton, M. Kortmann, J. Beausoleil for and C. Rossignol, C. Williams, J. Cleary opposed)

Discussion on Board on budget process.

XI. New Business

XI.A. Information and VOTE: Participation in the Healthy Food Option

MOTION: To recommend to the full Board that the Coventry School District approve the following considerations as outlined in the SDE Operational Memorandum February 27, 2024 requiring each local board of education or governing authority for all Connecticut public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to take action

annually to certify whether all food items sold to students separately from reimbursable meals will or will not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS).

Consideration #1 Healthy Food Option: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Coventry Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups

By: J. Cleary

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI.B. Information and VOTE: Allow for Combined Food and Beverage Exemptions

MOTION: Consideration #2 Combined Food and Beverage Exemptions: The Coventry Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI.C. Information and Possible Sub-Committee Assignment: Request/Petition to Rename CHS Baseball Field after Retiree Robert Plaster

A petition and 10 letters have been submitted. Subcommittee assignments selected:

C. Rossignol as Fiscal representative

J. Cleary as Administrator

Dr. Petrone will select a teacher

Pat Cox is to identify a parent

Residents will also be needed: will select two names from the petition and letters.

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

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussion related to Superintendent's evaluation at 10:41 p.m.

By: J. Cleary

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion carries unanimously

XIII. Open Session

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 10:45 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:46 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: J. Cleary

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: April 25, 2024