

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, April 25, 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 7:30 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 hoped everyone had a nice spring break. He participated in the police dept. accreditation. Staff meetings related to budget were held. Dr. Petrone held an open-door meeting, there were no attendees. Attended the HS Tri M honor society induction and concert. Attended the PTO officers meeting. Project Grad is doing some great fundraisers. The event will move from Mansfield to Nomads. The Annual meeting is 4/27/24. Dr.

Petrone shared the US World and News Report released the 2024 best high school rankings. Coventry came in 38 out of 204. They are also #1 in the DRG. He will send out a press release on this soon.

IV.A. Recognition: CABA Award Presentation – 2023 Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence from CABA – Karen Colt, Area 3 CABA Director

Dr. Petrone introduced Karen Colt, who presented the award for the 2023 Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence. She reviewed the criteria needed to attain the award, which has a heavy focus on communication and graphics. Coventry received the award for educational communication for special projects. The entry was submitted by Mr. Spivey, which was an audio visual of district highlights 2023. The video was shared at the annual town meeting, and also shared with families and the community. The video showcased the efforts of achievements of the district to bolster support of the upcoming budget.

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

Miss Ransford reported they had a guest speaker come and talk about drunk driving. Junior students took the biliteracy exam. Prom is coming up, tomorrow is the last day to buy tickets for juniors.

E. Marchand shared that the girls HS softball team ended up winning their last game, it was an amazing win. So far, the team is undefeated.

IV. C. Recognition: Christina Ziegler, CNH ELA Consultant – Presenter at the NELMS Conference

Dr. Petrone recognized Ms. Ziegler for her work as a presenter at the NELMS conference.

IV.D. Information: Capt. Nathan Hale School ELA Strategies (Goal 1.1 and 3.3)

Dr. Petrone introduced Christina Zeigler who shared a presentation on ELA strategies in the Middle School, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal. Along with Christina was Jordan Steeple and Kara Hennessey who presented the 8th grade curriculum.

8th grade students shared projects on a vocabulary game, a scaffolded writing project, and the benefits of this learning technique.

V. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil reported spring concerts, athletics, and celebrations are underway. June 11th is the last day of school. June 8th is graduation. Community blood drive being organized at the middle school. Saturday is the annual budget town meeting at 10am. Any town resident or tax payer can attend these meetings.

VI. Communications

Dr. Petrone sent a letter to Town Council regarding the 2% non-lapsing account.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of April 11, 2024

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 11, 2024, as amended

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: C. Williams asked to edit her remark in the discussion under MOTION: to approve the cuts of intramurals at the middle school and change to fee based. Adding that she didn't think it was the right way to go 'because of the large participation drop when it was moved to a fee based program.'

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Old Business

VIII.A. Information and Possible VOTE: FY25 Budget

J. Beausoleil stated they have the updates for the book handed out from the meeting on 4/11. This will be presented at the town meeting. Options spreadsheet is also available.

VIII.B. Information: HVAC Project Update

Mr. Trudelle, Director of Facilities, updated the Board on the HVAC project. The bid winner has been sending layouts and schematics. Conducted a walk through. They will have the staging in front of the LMC. Big issue is the time frame for switch gear. We will get a letter from the vendor so we can get an extension on the grant. Duct work will be sealed while they are waiting for the switch gear. Goal is to have no disruptions to classes.

VIII.C. Information: Review of Policies – First Reading (To be warned for a vote at a future meeting)

1. NEW 5112 Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five

E. Eaton: sent back to committee due to confusing wording. One major change was clarifying verbiage.

M. Kortmann asked why we specify school years, as she feel it is not needed. Second paragraph amended. Third paragraph is a qualifier.

MOTION: To approve that policy 5112, as amended, be warned for a vote at a future meeting.

By: C. Williams

Seconded: J. Cleary

Result: Motion passes unanimously

2. REVISION 5127 Graduation Requirements

E. Eaton: specified graduation requirements for middle school updated

M. Kortmann stated the credits do not add up to 25, but rather 25.5. Discussion.

Consensus to move forward to be warned for a vote at a future meeting.

3. REVISION 5146 Recess and Play-Based Learning – Formally titled Physical Activity, Undirected Play, and Student Discipline

E. Eaton: sending back to the Board without additional changes. Felt restricting use would limit opportunities.

C. Williams noted she is voting no because young kids don't need screens

Consensus to move forward to be warned for a vote at a future meeting, with C. Williams voting no

IX. New Business

IX.A. Information: Scholarship Committee Assignment (3 for May 23 Interviews @ 5pm)

J. Beausoleil gave description of responsibilities in joining this committee.

The committee members will be C. Rossignol, E. Marchand, and J. Cleary

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Wellness Committee Liaison Update – C. Rossignol

No report due to date change of meeting.

XI. 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 8:33 p.m.**

By: J. Cleary

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion carries unanimously

XII. Open Session

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 10:15 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

By: J. Cleary

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: May 9, 2024