

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education SPECIAL Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, May 16, 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

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY2025 Budget

J. Beausoleil stated the Town Council met last Monday and the BOE received a cut. This meeting is to identify where to cut. \$77,000 removed from CIP in regard to ac units, and \$10,000 in network. We will discuss where the \$175K comes from out of the operating line.

C. Williams asked to discuss CIP and the weight room. Asked if alternative solutions have been identified, so that the ac can be added back. Dr. Petrone explained the weight room is in future years' budget and not next year. Discussion.

Updated budget spreadsheet with options was distributed.

- Realizing special education tuition saving. **Consensus**

Dr. Petrone spoke regarding Crowstrike. The new quote will save combined \$64,873.67 between town and BOE, of which the Board's share is \$32,436.83.

- Realizing Crowdstrike saving. **Consensus**
- Realizing Razkids saving. **Consensus**

C. Rossignol asked to move certified salary via administration line over to Hale account. Discussion on pre-school grant guarantee and program funding. Discussion on intention of funds and agreement with BOE and town. Discussion on legal responsibility. **No consensus.**

C. Williams asked to not implement CNH brain pop and ingenuity. CNH Principal felt this was an important product.

C. Williams asked if can hold the previous amount for CHS athletic trips student activities line. It was explained that this number now actually reflects the real cost that was actualized last year.

C. Williams suggested cutting a bus route due to average ridership. Discussion on contracting with the new company for next year, and they told us that the current bus routes were not enough. C. Williams wanted it noted for the record that she would be ok with the bus time being 10 minutes over to keep an interventionist, athletics, etc. She feels those are more of a priority.

Eliminate ELA position. Dr. Petrone addressed the climate and the impact of this position. Based on the number of students we have coverage, and do not need another ELA position.

- J. Beausoleil moved to eliminate the ELA position, seconded by M. Kortmann
VOTE Passes: 5 in favor with 1 opposed by C. Rossignol and 1 abstention by J. Cleary

E. Marchand suggested eliminating freshman volleyball. This would create consistency with other sports that do not have a freshman team. Contracted services clarified.

- E. Marchand moved reluctantly to eliminate freshman volleyball, seconded by M. Kortmann. Discussion.
VOTE Passes: 4 in favor with 3 opposed by C. Rossignol, J. Cleary, C. Williams

Discussion on CNH athletic trip student activities line. Some members did not think it was prudent to cut the number as historical data shows it runs at a deficit. **No consensus**

Technology budget discussion and using other ways to fund. Dr. Petrone pointed out some things not accounted for in the savings accounts.

- J. Cleary moved to pay for the Net Ally for 3 years \$6,500 out of tuition account to cover the remaining amount of \$56304, seconded by C. Rossignol.
Vote Fails: 3 in favor with 4 opposed by J. Beausoleil, M. Kortmann, E. Eaton, E. Marchand

C. Williams left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion on reducing middle school sports line item. Discussion on how this would impact the sport. Discussion on impact if we were to increase sport fees.

- E. Eaton moved to reduce middle school sports by \$5,304, seconded by M. Kortmann. Discussion
Vote Passes: 4 in favor with 2 opposed by J. Cleary, C. Rossignol

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: J. Cleary

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: May 30, 2024