

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, September 26, 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

Also Present:

Lillian O'Neil, Student Board of Education Representative

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 8:11 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were no citizen comments.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reported that he held the Summer Book Talk today at the high school. Pat Cox was appointed to the CT Association of Athletic Director Board of Control for the 24-25 school year, serving as District 1 at large representative. This role places opinions on the administration of high school athletics. The last two open houses took place at GHR and CGS. He commended all the administrators for a job well done. He had the first meeting with PTO officers for the school year. They will be having a craft fair in December. Dr. Petrone appreciates all the PTO does for the schools.

IV.A. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report – Lillian O’Neil

Miss O’Neil reported the first football game kicked off with the pep band playing. The Band Dept. is hosting a movie night. Class elections are coming up. Student council organized spirit week. The PSATs will be on October 16th. Miss O’Neil explained the program Best Buddies. The leaders of the group from the high school interact with the middle school. This is an all-inclusive club that is conducted once a month.

IV.B. Information: District 2024-2025 Major Initiatives Presentation

Dr. Petrone presented the 2024-2025 Major Initiatives, which is available on the district’s website via the BoardBook portal.

He gave an overview of the mission statement, district goals, district beliefs, district drivers, and district major initiatives. There were seven major initiatives identified, two major initiatives for authentic work, and seven major initiatives for collective and individual identity.

Dr. Petrone presented the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan, which is available on the district’s website via the BoardBook portal.

C. Williams asked about the mastery percentages. Dr. Petrone stated the percentages are dependent on what the goal is, what is realistic, and what is reachable. He stated they looked at historical data and targeted slightly higher.

Dr. Petrone reviewed his plan to elevate the paper report to a virtual platform and host an interactive website for sharing successes and accomplishments.

C. Williams remarked that the proficiency levels continually go down and asked if that is the outcome we want to drive.

J. Beausoleil stated that we use that as a base for what our goals are. If we create too big of a goal, then we create frustration and people give up. The administration is using the data to make informed decisions. Dr. Petrone stated the goal is a reality of many challenges. He stated we have to service children's needs and meet them where they are by providing the right programming for them.

E. Marchand is worried about the fact that we are forced to make more and more cuts.

V. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil reported that the open house energy was amazing. She enjoyed the homecoming aspect of the open house that we lost during COVID. She spoke about the wobble chairs that help kids with not fidgeting. She thanked district staff for all their efforts over the past month. CABE has a legislative update webinar that members can sign up for. Shipman will also do an update for the Board soon.

VI. Communications

There were none.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of September 12, 2024

Edits: item IV.C, fourth paragraph, correct \$247,500

Item V, second paragraph, comma after PTO and music booster pluralized

Item VIII.A, change reviewed 13 denials to reviewed 13 appeals.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 12, 2024, as amended

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion carries with one abstention by J. Cleary

VIII. Old Business

VIII.A. Information: Naming Committee report, Meeting of September 19, 2024

J. Beausoleil stated that they had a request from the community related to Policy 7551 to name a field area after a former teacher Robert Plaster. Created a committee to review the request. The committee representatives were the BOE chair, a Fiscal committee representative, an administrative team member, a resident, two parents, and a teacher. The group met on September 19th. The requirements that need to be met are to garner a minimum of 100 signatures, 10 letters of recommendation, the individual selected must be a person in good standing, who performed outreach and service to the community. The committee determined that the application meets the criteria. Mr. Plaster was a former PE teacher, as well as a basketball, baseball, and soccer coach. The Committee discussed how to honor Mr. Plaster. The committee consensus was to name a field area. Consensus on the committee to move to the next steps to develop a presentation to send to the Board of Education. The Board will then vote on whether to accept and change the name.

Naming the weight room was discussed. It was decided that Mr. Plaster's dedication was mostly to baseball.

IX. New Business

IX.A. VOTE: Assign designated representatives authorized to sign claims for reimbursement for the Food Service Child Nutrition Program

MOTION: To approve Dr. Petrone to continue and as of 9/30/24 add Charmaine Bradshaw-Hill as the designated representative authorized to sign claims for reimbursement for the Food Service Child Nutrition Program

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Result: Motion carries unanimously

IX.B. Information and Possible VOTE: Approve the CAFE Board of Distinction Award Application 2024

J. Beausoleil stated that this is something that the Board has done for multiple years. Dr. Petrone stated that the Board has met all the criteria.

MOTION: To approve the CAFE Board of Distinction award application

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion carries unanimously

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Transportation Committee Report, Meeting of September 26, 2024 – E. Marchand

E. Marchand stated that DATTCO has not been able to meet some of the requirements for ride times on buses. They are looking at bus stops and reconfiguring routes to meet times. There have been multiple appeals. The team felt comfortable with the latest fix on a route. They have asked DATTCO to do a test run before putting out new route times. DATTCO stated that in a perfect world, they would have two more buses running.

E. Eaton stated that one particular route has been challenging, and the committee is taking it very seriously. Overall she noted that transportation has been more stable than in the past. DATTCO has been running all 17 routes every day. They are still working on consolidating bus stops, and have given all routes a very thorough look.

J. Cleary noted that he had a positive situation with his daughter's bus. He appreciated the communication about a possible delay.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean

Board Clerk

Approved: October 10, 2024