

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Board of Education Special Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, March 3, 2025  
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  
Charmaine Bradshaw-Hill, Director of Finance and Operations

**I. Call to Order**

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Audience of Citizens**

There were none

**III. Old Business: Discussion and Possible VOTE FY2026 Budget**

J. Beausoleil explained that an error had been discovered in the budget. The appropriation number for the current year used for the percent difference was wrong. We need to vote on what will be submitted to the Town Council. The error appeared only in the first 32 pages and some budget overview documents. She reassured everyone that the operating budget we are currently using has the correct appropriation numbers for this fiscal year, and all reports have been accurate. Additionally, corrective actions and enhanced checks and balances have been put in place to prevent this from happening again.

J. Beausoleil recommended that the Board pass a motion to approve the same dollar amount as in the original motion, with the updated percent increase. The Town Hall team will be using this information in their presentation tomorrow.

It was confirmed that all numbers, including the bottom line and the dollar amount in the request, are accurate. The issue stemmed from comparing the appropriation data to the incorrect number, which resulted in the wrong percentage increase. However, all the

information used to derive the appropriation request is accurate, and there is no change to the substance of what we approved on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Petrone distributed the town format, location summary, and page 25 of the Funding Net Increases. The budget books will be reprinted for Tuesday; however, the Board agreed that reprinting the entire budget book was unnecessary and that only pages 1-28 needed to be reprinted.

**MOTION: Approve the FY2026 Budget at \$32,285,374, a 5.51% increase over the current year budget**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

There was a discussion regarding the change in the dollar amount for the Excess Cost Grant, which was adjusted to \$123,515.

**Result: Motion carries, with one opposition by C. Rossignol**

J. Beausoleil shared that the Governor has announced plans to line-item veto HB 7067, which targets \$40 million in proposed state funding for special education excess cost grants. She expressed hope that the Legislature will override the veto.

Dr. Petrone explained that if the Legislature overrides the Governor's veto, it would provide additional funds, bringing us slightly above the 73% mark, which would make us whole. However, next year remains uncertain.

There was a discussion about future trends, including the initial payment received so far and the potential entitlement if the bill passes. If the bill is not overridden, the discussion also addressed the funding loss we would need to cover.

There was a discussion on advocacy plans. J. Beausoleil shared that she attended the Town Legislative open door meeting and is aware that they support modifications to excess costs, as well as the override of the veto. She also mentioned that she has submitted an email to the Governor.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: C. Rossignol**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

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Respectfully Submitted:

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Tricia Dean  
Board Clerk

Approved: Approved March 13, 2025