

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, May 8, 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

Also Present:

Lillian O'Neil, Student Board of Education Representative

**I. Call to Order**

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

**II. Salute to the Flag**

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

**III. Audience of Citizens**

Nathan Hendrickson, a student, spoke in support of maintaining the Chinese program, which was removed for the upcoming year due to budget cuts.

Shawn Fillmore, Old Tolland Turnpike –expressed support for the Board regarding the budget. He highlighted that the district currently spends 25% less per student than the average. He encouraged residents to contact the Town Council to advocate for full support of the education budget and to prevent further cuts.

A student, who did not provide their name, [Maya Michel] spoke in support of maintaining the Chinese program. She suggested using the Virtual High School program as a potential solution to continue offering the course. She also requested that the course be extended for at least one more year to allow students to complete it as a college requirement.

Jill Tang, the Chinese program teacher, expressed her support for maintaining the Chinese program.

Dan Warren, Old Tavern Lane - thanked the Board for their hard work and urged them to remain strong and principled in their decisions.

#### **IV. Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Petrone provided several key updates for the month, including the outcome of the failed referendum. He held an open-door meeting to discuss the budget. He also highlighted the successful spring concerts and congratulated the 10 students at CHS who earned the Seal of Biliteracy. Additionally, Dr. Petrone addressed the shortage of volunteer firefighters in the community. In response, he plans to establish a First Responders Academy, which will not incur any costs for the district. The program is set to be implemented in the fall.

##### **IV.A. Information: Presentation of the CABE Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence by Sara Kelley, CABE's Area 3 Co-Director**

Dr. Petrone introduced Sara Kelley, who presented the Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence. She reviewed the award criteria, which places significant emphasis on communication and graphics. Coventry received the award for its "Why Do I Love Coventry Public Schools?" video.

##### **IV.B. Student Recognition: CABE Student Leadership Awards – for CNH Sciarra Hannon & Alexander Gawronski and for CHS – Mya Ransford & Evan Oulundsen**

The Board recognized the recipients of the CABE Leadership Award. Mr. Sward and Mr. Blake each offered words of praise and commendation for the honored students.

##### **IV.C. Recognition of Staff: Rookie of the Year – Outstanding First Year Teachers Madison Adams, GHR Teacher and Kristen Angiletta, CNH Teacher**

Ms. DeRagon presented the award to Madison Adams, Music Teacher, and Mr. Sward presented the award to Kristen Angiletta, World Language Teacher.

##### **IV.D. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report – Lillian O'Neil**

Miss O'Neil shared several updates, including an SAT update, completion of the biliteracy test, positive progress in athletics, the upcoming senior prom scheduled for this Saturday, and the National Honor Society induction ceremony set for May 22.

##### **IV.E. Information: Portrait of the Graduate (POG) Presentations – Grade 2 and Grade 4 (Authentic Work)**

Ms. McConnell and Ms. Jacobs, second-grade teachers, along with their students, presented their Passage Projects, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal.

Ms. LeBlanc and Ms. Timreck, fourth-grade teachers, and their students presented their Passage Projects, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal.

#### **V. VOTE: Consent Agenda**

Item V.A. removed from consent agenda

##### **V.A. Approve the CNH 2026 Field Experience to China**

Ms. Page shared the history of the field experience and outlined plans for 2026, noting that it will include students in grades 6, 7, and 8.

J. Beausoleil clarified that this field trip is not contingent upon the continuation of the Chinese program.

Board members asked questions and received answers regarding company reviews, insurance coverage, host family arrangements, liability, contingency planning, and communication with families. While several members expressed positive feedback about the trip, they also shared some concerns.

**MOTION: To approve the CNH 2026 Field Experience to China**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: J. Cleary**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

**VI. Report of the Chairman**

J. Beausoleil highlighted several recent and upcoming events. School orientations have been conducted, and the district art show is scheduled for May 14. A security forum for parents will be held on May 15, and Senior Awards Night is set for May 21. She also noted that the budget referendum failed, and provided the following key dates: Town Council meetings on May 12, 19, and 27, with a vote at the May 27 meeting. The town meeting is scheduled for June 4, and the next budget referendum will take place on June 17. The Board of Education plans to meet on May 29 to begin work on the approved appropriation number.

**VII. Communications**

There were none.

**VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes**

**VIII.A. Approve Minutes of April 24, 2025**

Edit: Agenda item IV.C, third paragraph, add after the evolution of the program “since its beginnings at Coventry High School

**MOTION: To approve the Minutes of April 24, 2025, as amended**

**By: C. Rossignol**

**Seconded: J. Cleary**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

**IX. Old Business**

**IX. A. Information and Possible VOTE: FY2026 Budget**

J. Beausoleil provided an overview of the budget process moving forward. C. Williams suggested that the Board send a letter to the Town Council outlining the impacts of any additional cuts. However, J. Beausoleil clarified that the Board members are not permitted to advocate once the referendum date has been set, so care must be taken in how the letter is worded to remain compliant. There was discussion about the value of sending a letter, the results of the referendum, and the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). J. Beausoleil emphasized the importance of constituents attending the upcoming Town Council meetings to voice their concerns, as that is where the most impact can be made. There was consensus to send a letter to the Town Council, and input was provided on what to include

in the letter. A special meeting may be scheduled to brainstorm potential budget cuts. C. Williams suggested several areas where costs could be reduced.

## **X. New Business**

### **X.A. Information and VOTE: Approve the 2025-26 Tuition Rate for Regular Education Non-Resident Students at \$17,447**

Dr. Petrone reviewed the process used to determine the tuition number. C. Rossignol asked why the cost per pupil, which is higher than the tuition amount, isn't used. Dr. Petrone explained the rationale behind the decision.

**MOTION: To approve the 2025-26 tuition rate for regular education non-resident students at \$17,447**

**By: C Williams**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

### **X.B. Information: Policy Review (To be warned for a vote at a future meeting)**

#### **1. Discussion: Review of NEW Policies**

##### **a. 5131.911 CT School Climate Policy**

This is a state-mandated policy that must be implemented by July 1 for the 25-26 school year. There was discussion about the current bullying policy (5131.7), which is more explicit. However, this policy can no longer be used, as it is superseded by the Climate Policy, a state-drafted, mandatory policy.

**Consensus to move forward to a vote**

##### **b. 5131.9 Restorative Practices**

This is a state-mandated policy that must be implemented by July 1.

**Consensus to move forward to a vote**

#### **2. Discussion: Review of Policy Revisions**

##### **a. 1350 School Security and Safety**

The policy incorporates Public Act 25-1, which addresses immigration.

**Consensus to move forward to a vote**

##### **b. 1250 Visitors and Observations in Schools**

The policy incorporates Public Act 25-1.

**Consensus to move forward to a vote**

#### **3. Discussion: Review of Policies for Deletion**

##### **a. 5131.7 Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy**

This policy is superseded by the state-mandated policy 5131.911.

**Consensus to move forward to a vote**

##### **b. 5131.71 Safe School Climate Plan**

This policy is superseded by state-mandated policy 5131.911.

**Consensus to move forward to a vote**

**X.C. Information and Possible VOTE: Consider Last Day of 2024-25 School Year for HEEC**

A survey was taken, and the results were submitted. The proposed last day for students is June 11, with teachers still working on June 12.

**MOTION: To approve waiving one day, 6/12/25, for HEEC Students**

Discussion: Dr. Petrone reviewed the list of pros and cons of waiving the day

**By: C. Rossignol**

**Seconded: J. Cleary**

**Result: Motion carries, with two oppositions by J. Beausoleil and G. Marchand**

**XI. Report of Board Members**

**XI.A. Information: Evaluation and Projection Committee Report**

E. Eaton reported that the committee has toured two facilities to gather ideas for a similar project within the district. The committee will reconvene to discuss how to build a plan moving forward. Key takeaways from the tours were shared.

**XI.B. Information: Wellness Liaison Report – C. Rossignol**

C. Rossignol stated that they are in the process of completing the self-grading of policies and reviewing the actions taken within the district.

**XI.C. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of May 8, 2025 – M. Kortmann and Ms. Bradshaw-Hill**

M. Kortmann stated that the budget continues to be in good shape, although food services have yet to be reconciled.

**XII. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees)**

**MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussion related to terms and conditions of employment for non-union employees, and invite Superintendent Dr. Petrone at 9:59 p.m.**

**By: J. Cleary**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

J. Cleary left Executive Session at 10:02 p.m.

**XIII. Open Session**

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 10:37 p.m.

**XIII.A. Possible VOTE on the Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees**

**MOTION: To approve the terms of conditions of employment for the following non-union positions:**

**Director of Finance and Operations**

**Executive Assistant to the Superintendent**

**Director of Education Technology**

**Food Service Director**

**Physical Plant and Facilities Director**

**Network Administrator/Systems Specialist**

**Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator**

**Athletic Director**

**District Security Specialist**

**Superintendent of Schools**

**The Non-Affiliated Employees Terms and Conditions of Employment Agreement**

**By: C. Williams**

**Seconded: E. Eaton**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:38 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: May 29, 2025