

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, August 28, 2025
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Secretary
Joseph Cleary
Emma Eaton
Courtney Rossignol

Board Members Absent:

Christina Williams

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There was none.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone shared several key updates for the month. He reported that the school year is now underway, with projects continuing to move forward. Professional development sessions and convocation were held successfully, and schools officially opened yesterday. He also provided an update on Open Choice enrollment. In addition, Dr. Petrone highlighted that Coventry High School was recently ranked 27th in Connecticut by U.S. News & World Report, earning the distinction of being number one in our DRG.

IV.A. Information: Opening of the 2025-26 School Year

Dr. Petrone shared the opening day video. J. Beausoleil remarked that the energy at convocation was phenomenal and noted that the AI keynote speaker was especially powerful. E. Eaton added that it was a great, informal way to begin the year and shared that she had also received very positive feedback on the AI presentation.

IV.B. Recognition: Christina Ziegler, Coventry's 2026 Teacher of the Year

Dr. Petrone recognized Ms. Ziegler for receiving the 2026 Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Ziegler expressed that she was both thankful and honored to receive the recognition. J. Beausoleil added that the district is fortunate to have such amazing staff, making it a difficult decision to select just one winner, and noted Ms. Ziegler's accomplishments are extraordinary.

IV.C. Information: CHS Assistant Principal Search Update

Dr. Petrone shared that the district received 78 applications and plans to forward approximately 22-25 candidates to the paper screening committee. By the end of September, the Board will be presented with a selection of candidates.

IV.D. Information: Facilities Update – Summer Projects Review with Mr. Trudelle

Mr. Trudelle presented the Facilities Update: Summer Projects Review, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal.

Discussion included the new weight room, focusing on ventilation, soundproofing, and the badging security system. The old weight room will be converted into storage.

J. Beausoleil and Dr. Petrone thanked Mr. Trudelle for his hard work on the projects completed over the summer.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the Retirement of Tracy Bohr, CNH Guidance Secretary

MOTION: To accept the retirement of Tracy Bohr, CNH Guidance Secretary

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion carries unanimously

VI. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil reported that the first day of school passed smoothly, with no Facebook complaints regarding buses. She noted that convocation was outstanding and that new teacher orientation was successfully held. An open tour opportunity was offered for any students at the schools, and she thanked the staff for the extra time devoted to making this possible. She also expressed gratitude for having a budget in place to start the school year. Condolences were extended to the family of former Board member Linda Scussel, who recently passed away. She shared that the Joint Fiscal meeting will now take place every two months. Additionally, a STEM activity for families is scheduled for September 6th.

VII. Communications

A letter from the Superintendent to the Town Manager regarding the transfer into the 2% non-lapsing account has been submitted.

Responses to questions from Town Council members have also been submitted.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of June 24, 2025

Edits: Agenda Item 3 - Audience of Citizens, corrections the names to: Sara Reed and Kelly Ahern.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 24, 2025, as amended
By: C. Rossignol **Seconded: M. Kortmann**
Result: Motion carries unanimously

IX. Report of Board Members

IX.A. Information: Transportation Committee Report, Meeting of August 7, 2025

E. Marchand provided an update on the last meeting, noting that the discussion regarding eliminating a bus was deemed not feasible. Committee members expressed concerns about the readability of the routes and suggested making them easier to decipher. Dr. Petrone shared that the concerns raised by committee members and parents have been addressed. Special education transportation is currently working through some issues. A summary of updates for the committee will be sent out by the end of the day tomorrow. Dr. Petrone will also double-check on the My Ride information, as he had anticipated it would have been distributed with the original route information to families.

IX.B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report

M. Kortmann reported that the year-end numbers were positive. Dr. Petrone noted that the contributing factors included Open Choice, Medicaid, and the supplemental excess cost.

1. Joint BOE Fiscal/Town Finance Meeting of August 14, 2025

M. Kortmann gave an update on the August 14th meeting.

2. Regular Fiscal meeting of August 14, 2025

a. Possible VOTE: Approve FY25 Budget Transfer

MOTION: To approve the budget transfer as follows: \$75,000 from 100 Salaries and \$2,500 from 600 Supplies, resulting in \$67,500 going to 600 Supplies and \$10,000 going to 100 Benefits

By: C. Rossignol **Seconded: E. Marchand**

Result: Motion carries unanimously

b. Possible VOTE: Approve the HEEC 2025-26 Budget

J. Beausoleil explained that this budget pertains to the preschool program, not the Board of Education operating budget. She further reviewed the line items within the budget. Dr. Petrone added that significant savings were realized as a result of moving from the old facility.

MOTION: To approve the HEEC 2025-26 Budget

By: C. Rossignol **Seconded: J. Cleary**

Result: Motion carries 5-0

X. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

By: C. Rossignol **Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: September 11, 2025