

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, September 11, 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:

Maggie Coffey, Student Board of Education Representative

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 provided an update on the assistant principal hiring process, noting it is on schedule to bring two candidates to the board on September 25th. He reported that the high school open house was held. He also attended the URSA/NASA meeting and the Commissioner's back-to-school meeting. Additionally, Dr. Petrone announced that the football program received the 2024 Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors Sportsmanship Award.

IV.A. Information: Welcome and Board of Education Student Representative Report

Dr. Petrone introduced and welcomed student representative Maggie Coffey.

Miss Coffey provided updates, noting that auditions for the play Clue are underway and that the Best Buddies student outreach program event begins next week. She also shared that the greenhouse and fitness center are being built. The high school principal added that the district calendar is a helpful resource for all upcoming events.

IV.B. Information: UCONN Air Filter Partnership Update

Dr. Petrone presented the UCONN Air Filter Partnership Update, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal. Questions were raised regarding energy use; Dr. Petrone explained that it is comparable to a regular box fan and does not anticipate any spike in energy consumption from using the box fans.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

Item V.A. was removed from the consent agenda

V.A. Approve the CHS April 2026 Field Experience to France and Spain

MOTION: To approve the CHS April 2026 Field Experience to France and Spain

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: A question was raised regarding the absence of a provided itinerary. It was explained that the district is using a company previously contracted, which has been reliable with hotels and tours. The final itinerary has not yet been finalized. It was suggested that, at a minimum, an itinerary listing the cities to be visited would be helpful.

Result: Motion carries unanimously

VI. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil reported that today marks the 24th anniversary of 9/11 and emphasized the importance of acknowledging this significant day. She also reflected on the grief and impact of the recent shooting in Denver. She provided an update on the Joint Finance/Fiscal Committee meeting and reviewed the topics discussed. J. Beausoleil noted the town's interim finance director has been appointed and shared that PTO's have resumed activities. She explained how the Box Tops program works and provided updates on Open Houses, including CHS and the remaining schools.

VII. Communications

There was none.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of August 28, 2025

MOTION: To approve the minutes of August 28, 2025

By: J. Cleary

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion carries unanimously

IX. New Business

IX.A. Discussion and Possible Vote: Use of Remote Learning on Two Inclement Weather Days

Dr. Petrone stated that this provides the district with some flexibility. C. Williams noted that special calendar arrangements made this year, due to Wit and Wisdom, further reduce classroom time. C. Rossignol expressed that adding remote learning days would not align Hale with the K-12 schedule, as it would extend the preschool year while the K-12 schedule would remain unchanged.

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to use up to two days of remote learning during inclement weather days for the 2025-26 school year

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: E. Eaton

**Result: 4 in favor (E. Marchand, E. Eaton, M. Kortmann, J. Beausoleil),
2 opposed (C. Williams, C. Rossignol), and one abstention by J. Cleary**

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Evaluation and Projection Committee Report, Meeting of August 28, 2025 – E. Eaton

E. Eaton reported that a draft of the Vision presentation was reviewed. Once complete, the presentation will be submitted to the board and, if approved, forwarded to the town council. Dr. Petrone reviewed the contents of the presentation.

X.B. Information: Transportation Committee Report, Meeting of September 11, 2025 – E. Marchand

E. Marchand reported that their appeal meeting was held, with a total of 14 appeals. He noted that compromises were made where possible and that complaints are declining compared to last year. Two of the 14 appeals were denied.

X.C. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of September 11, 2025 – M. Kortmann and Ms. Bradshaw-Hill

M. Kortmann reported that, to date, there is minimal variance in the budget.

Other Comments: J. Cleary commented that the Cardboard Boat Race was well put together.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: September 25, 2025