

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, October 9, 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 7:02 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

Nicole Dean, Flanders Road – expressed concern that children are spending too much time on the bus for their age. J. Beausoleil reviewed the bus appeal process.

Reorder of Agenda:

MOTION: Modify the agenda to move *Discussion and Possible VOTE: Increase Lunch Prices by .25 Cents at Each Site as of January 1, 2026*, after the Report of the Superintendent, and renumber remaining items.

By: E. Marchand Seconded: E. Eaton

Amendment to the motion:

MOTION: Modify the agenda to move *Discussion and Possible VOTE: Increase Lunch Prices by .25 Cents at Each Site as of January 1, 2026*, before the Report of the Superintendent, and renumber remaining items

By: E. Eaton Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion carries unanimously

IV. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Increase Lunch Prices by .25 Cents at Each Site as of January 1, 2026

The Food Service Director, B. Pratt, explained the rationale for the requested lunch price increase. There was discussion regarding prior year's excess funds in the school lunch account and the requirement to implement a spend-down plan once the account exceeded three months of operating funds. The current year end profit of \$37,000 does not exceed three months of operating funds. C. Bradshaw-Hill noted that overall food costs have increased, and the Food Service Fund covers all salary, fringe benefits, and pension payments for staff, unlike other school districts. Should there be a shortfall in the Food Service Fund, the General Fund would have to make up the difference. She added that, due to the use of waivers in recent years, the district must now demonstrate it is taking measures to address the depressed average lunch price. It was noted this increase would not affect breakfast prices. There was discussion about adjusting the price gradually to reduce the impact on families. It was agreed to implement a 10-cent increase starting in January 2026, followed by a 25-cent increase for the next school year.

MOTION: To approve the increase in lunch prices by .10 cents starting January 2026, at each site, then in the 2026-2027 school year, increase by an additional .25 cent at each site.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: J. Cleary

Result: Motion carries unanimously

V. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reported that the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Farm to School program took place. He also noted that the first K-5 early release professional development day was held, and that he attended the Superintendents' Association meeting. The last two open houses of the school year occurred last week. J. Beausoleil recognized the custodial staff for their management of parking during the open house. A PTO officers' meeting was held, and thanks were extended to State Representative Gordon and Ackert for supporting and attending a staff meeting to recognize a teacher. Additionally, the Fire Department visited Hale to conduct a demonstration for students.

V.A. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report – Maggie Coffey

Miss Coffey provided several updates, including sports, a pep rally on Halloween, and homecoming on November 1st. She also reported on class fundraisers and the upcoming Best Buddy Halloween event. Rehearsals for the play Clue are underway, and Spirit Week is scheduled for the end of the month. Additionally, the Spain and France trip is generating significant interest.

V.B. Information: Superintendent Annual Reports

Dr. Petrone presented his annual report, which included information on staff attrition and workforce development for 2024-25. The full report is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal.

V.C. Information: 2025 Assessment Results Summary (Driver: Deeper Thinking & Learning)

X. New Business

X.A. VOTE: Approve the BOE Meeting Dates for 2026

There was a discussion about the board meeting date preceding a school vacation.

MOTION: To approve the BOE meeting dates for 2026

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion carries unanimously

X.B. Discussion: Review of Policies – First Reading (to be warned for a vote at a future meeting)

X.B.1. Review NEW Draft Policy 5117 Residency

E. Eaton reported that this policy was developed in response to an increase in residency issues. There was discussion regarding the military exemption, which is mandated by state law and therefore not included in the policy. C. Williams expressed the view that the exemption should still be reflected in the policy.

Consensus to move forward for a vote at the next meeting.

X.B.2. Review Draft REVISION of Policy 5131.4 Use of Private Technological Devices by Students

E. Eaton reported that the Cell Phone Task Force recommended revisions to the current policy. Dr. Petrone reviewed the discipline process for second offenses involving unauthorized use of technology. There was discussion regarding certain exemptions, and it was decided that the administrative regulation will be edited to state that wired headphones are allowed. C. Williams inquired about K-2 1:1 devices, but it was determined that this topic falls under a different agenda item and would not be discussed.

Consensus to move forward for a vote at the next meeting.

XI. Report of Board Members

XI.A. Information: Transportation Committee Report, Meeting of October 9, 2025 – E. Marchand

The second appeal session was held today, during which three appeals were considered. All appeals were denied.

XI.B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of October 9, 2025 – M. Kortmann and Ms. Bradshaw-Hill

The accounts are currently in the black, although the excess cost fund is not. Snapshots of activity funds were reviewed at the August meeting.

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: October 30, 2025