

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, October 30, 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 6:45 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

Special Board of Education Recognition

Dr. Petrone expressed his appreciation to all board members, thanking them for their support of the district, staff, and families in moving the district forward. He noted that this was Joe's and Eugene's last meeting, as they are not seeking re-election, and acknowledged their service, highlighting Eugene's 15 years on the board.

J. Beausoleil thanked all members for their dedication and the significant amount of time they have committed, also extending thanks to their family members. She specifically thanked Joe for stepping up to serve his community and noted his growth over his time on the board. She also expressed gratitude to Eugene for his long service and advocacy on behalf of the district.

Dr. Petrone presented service plaques to each board member. Eugene reflected on his experience, stating that it has been wonderful to be part of the board and to witness the evolution of the school over the years. He also thanked his wife for her support throughout his 15 years of service and shared his passion for youth empowerment.

III. Audience of Citizens

Dorothy Grady, Cornwall Dr. – expressed kind words for Eugene, recognizing him as a wonderful person and thanking him for his support of the schools.

Jonathan Birdsey, Coventry- thanked Joe and Eugene for their service on the board.

Jill Reviczky, Wall St. – thanked all board members for their work on the board and made special note of Eugene for his exceptional dedication and service to the students.

Craig Jordan, Athletic Advisory Committee member - encouraged future board members to follow Gene's example and be as proactive in supporting students and athletics as he was. He also requested that the board continue providing a liaison for the committee.

Mackenzie, 6th grader - stated that she does not believe there should be a phone ban at school; however, since a ban is in place, she feels that teachers should be required to follow the same policy that students must adhere to.

Jonathan Birdsey, Coventry – stated that he is not in favor of a blanket cell phone ban and suggested that a tiered policy would be more appropriate. He provided his reasoning to support this position.

Isaac Mann, a senior at CHS – spoke about the challenges he has experienced with the recently implemented blanket cell phone ban policy.

Isabella Isacc, a senior at CHS – shared her thoughts on the cell phone policy, stating that she believes it should be more of a student-led, collaborative initiative.

Lillian O'Neil, a senior at CHS - expressed her concern that the cell phone policy is detrimental to students.

Kate Clark, Leslie Lane – spoke in favor of the cell phone policy.

Jessica, a Coventry parent – spoke in favor of the cell phone policy.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone provided updates on recent activities and events, including the first Open Door meeting, a staff development day, and the dedication ceremony for the new HVAC system. He also reported on the CAPSS Legislative State Committee meeting, a visit to Camp Inspire, and the Pumpkin Patch event at Hale. The next round of student focus groups is scheduled to take place soon. Additionally, Dr. Petrone attended the Valley Regional School Board meeting and met with the new police department liaison, clarifying that this is not a new position, but a new representative in the role. He also noted a visit to CGS by a Channel 3 meteorologist. In athletics, the girls' cross-country team is the Class M champions and will be advancing to the state competition.

IV.A. Recognition: Sandie Greene, 40-Year Coventry Bus Driver

Dr. Petrone expressed his appreciation for Ms. Greene's 40 years of service in keeping the students safe, noting it is quite an accomplishment. Vanessa and Joel thanked her for her dedication and, on behalf of DATTCO, presented her with a plaque. Ms. Greene shared words of thanks and reflected on her enjoyment of her job over the years.

IV.B. Student Recognition: CAPSS Superintendent Student Awards – CNH Students Yuniel Pernaite and Bennett Dungee; CHS Students Summer LaPlante and Charlie Dunlap (Collective & Individual Identity)

Dr. Petrone recognized the CAPSS Superintendent Student Award winners and reviewed the award criteria, highlighting that it is given to the best all-around students. Mr. Sward presented awards to Bennett and Yuniel, while Mr. Blake presented awards to Summer and Charlie.

IV.C. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report – Maggie Coffey

Miss Coffey provided several updates, including information on sports, the upcoming Charter Oak Festival, and the ASBA Festival. She noted that the jazz band will be performing at the CABE Conference, which she will also be attending. Recent events included the Best Buddies Halloween event and Spirit Week, with Homecoming scheduled for this Saturday. A student focus group was held, and the new vice principal was welcomed. Miss Coffey also thanked the board members who are leaving.

IV.D. Information: NEASC Self-Study Overview (Collective and Individual Identity) – Joseph Blake

Mr. Blake presented the NEASC accreditation process, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal.

J. Beausoleil commented that it is encouraging to see the list of school improvements, highlighting the hands-on work that makes these programs successful. J. Cleary noted that, despite being the lowest 15% in funding, the district has implemented many programs that continue to be successful. Mr. Blake also reviewed some new programs that will be implemented in the near future.

V. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil provided updates on recent activities and accomplishments, including volleyball and the major achievement of the jazz band being invited to perform at the CABE conference. She noted that the HVAC ribbon-cutting ceremony was held and gave special acknowledgement to Dr. Petrone, Mr. Blake, and Mr. Trudell for their work on the project, which was completed without major disruptions to learning. Other highlights included the GHR Fun Run, the Contemporary Issues class – attended by some board members – which was praised as an example of thought-provoking questions, and generous community donations for PTO events. She also mentioned Coventry's success in the Hartford Marathon, noting that the track singlet received excellent press coverage. Additionally, US News & World Report recognized two schools, CNH and GHR, as exemplary.

VI. Communications

There was none.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of October 9, 2025

MOTION: To approve the minutes of October 9, 2025

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Edit: page 4, X.B.2, fourth line, correct the wording from: “that the policy will be revised to state that wired headphones are allowed” to: “that the administrative regulation will be edited to state that wired headphones are allowed.”

Result: Motion carries unanimously

VIII. Old Business – VOTE: Approve Policies

VIII.A. NEW Policy 5117 Residency

This allows the district to confirm residency and ensure that all students are residents of Coventry.

MOTION: To approve new policy 5117 Residency

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

C. Williams objected to not including the military clause in the policy or administrative regulation, stating a preference to add it, even if just to quote the statute. E. Eaton responded that the state statute supersedes the policy and noted that other policies do not explicitly reference state statutes. Dr. Petrone stated that he consulted with the attorney, who advised that the clause is covered in the administrative regulation and that no further addition is necessary. J. Cleary added that military personnel are coached on this process within their organization.

Result: Motion carries with 6 in favor and 1 opposed (C. Williams)

VIII.B. REVISION of Policy 5131.4 Use of Private Technological Devices by Students

MOTION: To approve revised policy 5131.4 Use of Private Technological Devices by Students

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

C. Rossignol expressed that watches should not be included in the cell phone ban. E. Marchand strongly stated that the policy should not move forward until additional student input could be heard, a point J. Cleary also supported. E. Eaton and J. Beausoleil noted that while feedback from the students and parents was appreciated, the policy should move forward as written, highlighting that the administrative regulations allow for exceptions and can be updated as needed. M. Coffey supported the policy but suggested it be less restrictive. When C. Williams asked that earbuds be allowed and included in the policy, E. Eaton confirmed that this allowance is noted in the administrative regulations. M. Kortmann, C. Rossignol, and C. Williams voiced overall support for the policy. E. Eaton noted that smart watches can be significantly disruptive, and C. Williams added that students without devices may feel isolated. Dr. Petrone stated that a parent forum will be held to gather feedback, and the policy is scheduled for implementation in January, with any modifications reflected in the administrative regulations. A future agenda item will provide an update on the status of the parent forums.

Result: Motion carries with 6 in favor and 1 opposed (G. Marchand)

IX. Report of Board Members

IX.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report of Joint Fiscal/Finance Meeting of October 30, 2025 – M. Kortmann

M. Kortmann highlighted that the two departments are working closely together and are nearly reconciled on all accounts. In the short term, their collaboration will focus on health insurance, and previously removed items will be reinstated on the capital plan list that

were not included in the bond. J. Beausoleil added that the town was consulted to assess the fields, which will inform the CIP process for long-term planning, noting that the town is responsible for field maintenance.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: J. Cleary

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: November 13, 2025