

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, February 12, 2026  
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson  
Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairperson  
Emma Eaton, Secretary  
Megan Boshuyzen  
Joshua Clark  
Mark Larson

Board Members Absent:

Courtney Rossignol

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools  
Charmaine Bradshaw-Hill, Director of Finance and Operations

**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**

J. Beausoleil announced that Board member Courtney Rossignol sends her regrets for not being able to attend today's meeting due to not feeling well.

Dr. Petrone reported on recent activities, including Career Day at the middle school and the professional development day on January 30. He attended the Hockanum Valley Superintendents' meeting and met with the Board Chair, Senator Gordon, and State Representative Tim Ackert to discuss special education costs, thanking them for their support. Additionally, he participated in the URSA/NASA meeting, the STEAM event at the GHR museum, and the CAPSS Legislative Committee meeting. Dr. Petrone also took part in the Executive Leadership Program at UConn, where he presented to an Early Career Superintendent group.

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

M. Coffey was not present at the meeting; therefore, no report was given.

E. Eaton shared that the Middle School girls' basketball team won their championship.

**IV.B. Information: Specialized Programming in Coventry – Ms. Zurell, PSSS Director and Special Education Teachers Courtney Barker, Karen Bohr, Michelle Zambrello**

Ms. Zurell and the Special Education teachers presented the Specialized Programming in Coventry, which is available on the district’s website via the BoardBook portal.

J. Beausoleil noted that the tours of the various programs were impressive and expressed appreciation for the care and thought put into these programs.

**IV.C. Information: Coventry Public Schools Athletics Overview – Mr. Cox, Athletic Director**

Mr. Cox presented the Coventry High School Athletics, which is available on the district’s website via the BoardBook portal.

Concussion training is completed through the Department of Education module. The athletic trainer is involved in strength training and, with the addition of the new fitness center, is becoming more engaged in that area, though the program is still in its early stages. Mr. Cox was not aware of any specific continuing education requirements for nutrition training. The number of hours per week dedicated to the training program varies depending on the season and scheduled events. J. Beausoleil noted that while the concussion protocol is a required component, the way it is managed at the high school is particularly impressive.

**V. VOTE: Consent Agenda**

**V.A. Accept the Retirement of Mary Church, GHR Food Service**

It was requested that this item be removed from the consent agenda.

**MOTION: To accept, with regret, the retirement of Mary Church, GHR Food Service**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: E. Eaton expressed her happiness for Ms. Church on her upcoming retirement, noting that the cafeteria staff are truly at the heart of the elementary school. She emphasized that Ms. Church is always friendly, cheerful, and eager to help the students.

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

**VI. Report of the Chairman**

J. Beausoleil expressed thanks to the GHR PTO for supporting the recent STEAM event. She reminded members of two key budget dates: the Town hearing on March 5 and the Board of Education presentation before the Town Council on March 9 regarding the appropriation number. She also thanked the Ct Association of School Principals and Ms. DeRagon for their recent advocacy for K-12 education in Washington, D.C. J. Beausoleil noted that the district is entering the negotiation season, which follows state-prescribed timelines beginning in early summer and continuing through the fall.

**VI.A. Information: Assign Negotiation Committee Members**

- 1. Cafeteria Workers (3)** - Courtney Rossignol, Emma Eaton, Mary Kortmann
- 2. Nurses (3)** – Jen Beausoleil, Mark Larson, Megan Boshuyzen
- 3. Teachers** – all Board members will serve

## VII. Communications

There was none.

## VIII. Report of Board Members

### VIII.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meetings – Joint Fiscal/Finance of February 10, 2026, and Regular Fiscal of February 12, 2026 – M. Kortmann and Ms. Bradshaw-Hill

M. Kortmann reported that the general budget is in good shape, with the exception of special education. She noted uncertainty regarding whether the 73% excess cost reimbursement will be sufficient this year, given rising costs and flat funding. She also attended a discussion on health insurance.

## IX. Old Business

J. Beausoleil requested that the agenda be reordered by moving the insurance item (IX.B) to IX.A and the budget vote (IX.A) to IX.B.

### IX.A. Information and Possible VOTE: Review Potential Insurance Plans

At the joint Town Council and Board of Education meeting, a presentation was given by USI regarding the ECHIP cooperative, in which the district participates, and the potential for the district to exit the program. In late January, ECHIP voted to dissolve. The dissolution will take effect at the start of the upcoming budget year, July 1. Documentation was also provided outlining options from different insurance providers.

M. Kortmann expressed a preference for Cigna Direct and provided her reasoning. While the state plan has some attractive benefits, the discussion highlighted concerns about rushing a transition, which could be unfair to employees. Employees would need to switch networks quickly, and next year the state will renegotiate the plan's terms, leaving the district unable to negotiate due to a three-year lock-in. After discussion, the Board agreed that Cigna Direct is the best option at this time.

J. Beausoleil noted that, being familiar with a self-insured model, the district would retain some flexibility compared to joining the state plan. It was emphasized that a committee should be established to manage the fund, create guidelines and policies, and develop an exit plan for the ECHIP reserve fund. Understanding the management of the new fund going forward was also deemed essential.

**Motion: To approve the migration from ECHIP to the Cigna Direct self-insured health insurance model for district employees and authorize the Superintendent to develop two draft MOUs for Board of Education approval: one regarding the exit from ECHIP and management of the reserve fund, and another regarding the management and guidelines for the new fund using Cigna Direct or any other carrier.**

**By: E Eaton**

**Seconded: M. Larson**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

### IX.B. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Approve FY2027 Budget

There was a question about whether the 73% excess cost reimbursement should be reduced. Dr. Petrone recommended waiting, and it was agreed not to make any changes at



**There was consensus to move forward with a vote at a future meeting**

### **3. Review Policy Revision**

Policies a.-i. involve changes related to students and staff. The state law was recently updated, and the attorneys have reviewed the revision.

**a. 1231 Non-Discrimination – Community**

**b.4116.1 Non-Discrimination – Personnel**

**c. 4116.2 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment – Workplace**

**d. 4116.35 Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault Reporting**

**e. 4151.2 Family and Medical Leave**

**f. 5122.2 Non-Discrimination – Students**

**g. 5125 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records (FERPA)**

**h. 5131 Title IX Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment**

**i. 5131.72 Child Sexual Abuse – Sexual Assault Response and Reporting Procedure**

M. Kortmann asked about the crossed-out paragraph regarding sexual identity and whether there was an explanation. M. Boshuyzen explained that the paragraph was removed from one section and incorporated into another, with some sections replaced under different titles. There was also discussion on how challenged books had been handled previously.

**There was consensus to move forward with a vote at a future meeting.**

**j. 3120-3160 Board Budget Procedures and Line-Item Transfers**

There have been minor legislative changes regarding the 2% reserve fund. Districts are now required to submit a report to the CSDE annually

**k. 3541 Transportation**

Based on advice from Shipman, individuals now have 10 calendar days to request a hearing related to a complaint about a bus stop or location. E. Eaton suggested a minor grammar tweak.

**There was consensus to move forward with a vote at a future meeting.**

**l. 4130 Social Media**

Shipman recommended clarifying the guidelines regarding the district's right to regulate forums.

**There was consensus to move forward with a vote at a future meeting.**

**m. 5144 Student Discipline**

The policy was updated to incorporate new legislation related to school climate, including modifications to the definitions of bullying and challenging behavior. It also addresses accommodations and related student services.

**There was consensus to move forward with a vote at a future meeting.**

**n. 6160.1 Parental Access to Instructional Materials**

This policy relates to establishing a district curriculum committee and ensuring that curriculum materials are made available to parents.

J. Beausoleil noted that Coventry already follows this practice.

**There was consensus to move forward with a vote at a future meeting.**

**o. 6164 Curricular Exemptions**

This policy relates to exemptions from instructions in accordance with state statute.

**There was consensus to move forward with a vote at a future meeting.**

**XII. Report of Board Members**

**XII.A. Information: District Wellness Committee Liaison, Meeting of February 2, 2026  
– M. Larson**

M. Larson reported that the committee met on February 2 and reviewed the wellness policy. He also noted the STEAM night is scheduled for May 5.

**XIII. Possible Vote: Executive Session (Superintendent's Evaluation)**

**MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to the Superintendent's Evaluation at 8:59 p.m.**

**By: E. Eaton**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**XIV. Open Session**

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:05 p.m.

**XV. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.**

**By: M. Boshuyzen**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion carries unanimously**

---

Respectfully Submitted:

---

Tricia Dean  
Board Clerk

Approved: February 26, 2026