

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, February 26, 2026
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairperson (via Zoom)
Emma Eaton, Secretary
Megan Boshuyzen
Joshua Clark
Mark Larson
Courtney Rossignol

Board Members Absent:

None

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

Jonathan Birdsey, 21 Timber Trail, spoke in opposition to remote snow days.

Christina Williams, a Coventry resident, spoke in opposition to remote snow days.

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reported on recent activities, including an early-release professional development day for grades K-5 held on February 13. An open-door meeting was also held for the community. A full professional development day took place on February 17, and he met with PTO officers on February 19. A parent forum was held regarding the cell phone policy. Dr. Petrone also shared that he took a small team to Vernon to visit their special education program and explore potential partnerships. He noted that CAS will be visiting, as the Robertson School has been nominated for Elementary School of the Year. Intervention meetings were held for grades K-5 and 6-12. He thanked the facilities crew for their work during the recent challenging weather conditions. Dr. Petrone also provided an update regarding the recent decision to hold school during a snow event, noting that the snow arrived sooner than expected.

IV.A. Recognition: CNH Girls Basketball Team – Northeast Middle School Athletic Conference Champions

Dr. Petrone recognized the team for completing a perfect 12-0 season. Mr. Sward and basketball coach Ms. Rogers shared words of praise for the girls, commending their accomplishments both athletically and academically.

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

Miss Coffey reported that the state tournament for boys' and girls' basketball is approaching. She shared that the musical will be held next week and that the Valentine's concert was well received. March has been designated as Music in Our Schools Month, and spirit week is being planned. She also noted that a service project is being organized with the senior center for a Spring Fling event. The Future Business Leaders of America conference will be held on March 18, and the Best Buddies chapter recently hosted a Valentine's event.

IV.C. Information: Wit & Wisdom Implementation – Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning, with staff members Zac Camolli, Erin Hazzard, Jennifer Hammer, Stephanie McNamar, and Jennifer Slifer

Ms. Mullaly and staff presented an update on the Wit & Wisdom implementation, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal.

J. Beausoleil acknowledged that this represents an aggressive change and commended the staff for their phenomenal effort and the significant amount of work they have contributed.

IV.D. Information: Facilities Winter Update – Mr. Trudelle

Mr. Trudelle presented the 2026 facilities winter update, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal.

Dr. Petrone explained that the HVAC "drop-dead" date of June 30, 2026, means the project must be fully closed out by that time. All documentation must be submitted to the state, and the minutes must be approved and certified on or before that date.

Mr. Trudelle reviewed the district's equipment tracking software program, which provides information on equipment life cycle, life expectancy, and estimated replacement costs. Each piece of equipment is assigned a unique ID number for tracking purposes. PFAS testing has been conducted at all district schools that utilize well water, and the results will be available prior to the CT Water meeting. Septic replacement costs for CGS were discussed. Sprinkler requirements were also reviewed in the event the district were to connect to a public water supply. It was noted that a meeting in May would be required to meet the applicable deadline. There was a discussion regarding the delay factors. Dr. Petrone stated that he holds all companies currently working with the district in high regard.

The crushing of pipes at the grammar school was attributed to overtime factors, with tree roots also discussed as a contributing factor.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Approve the CHS April 2027 Field Experience to National Parks

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

MOTION: To approve the CHS April 2027 Field Experience to National Parks

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Discussion: The teachers reviewed the vision for the trip. They noted that keeping the trip within the U.S. helps reduce costs and travel distance, and that it connects to topics currently being taught in class. Fundraising options and a payment plan were also reviewed. The company organizing this trip was the same one used for the Washington D.C. trip. The refund policy was discussed, with a request that parents be made fully aware of all policies. J. Beausoleil stated that, while the trip is advertised as not being school-sponsored in terms of funding, it is endorsed by the Board, meaning the district is still liable. The teachers will revise the wording of the parent letter to reflect that it is a school-sponsored trip. Interest among students was discussed. Participation is not capped at 35 students, and there is no requirement for a science elective to participate; the trip is open to all juniors and seniors.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil noted that tomorrow is Rare Disease Awareness Day and that Monday is Read Across America. Board members were invited to the Senior Portfolio Night and asked to RSVP. She also mentioned that on Monday, the Town Manager will present to the Town Council, including his CIP recommendation. The town hearing is scheduled for March 5, at which the Town Manager and Superintendent will be presenting. On March 9, the Board of Education will appear before the Town Council to answer questions about the district's appropriation requests.

VII. Communications

There was none.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of Joint BOE/Town Council February 10, 2026 Meeting

MOTION: To approve the joint BOE/Town Council minutes of February 10, 2026

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII.B. Approve Minutes of February 12, 2026

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 12, 2026

By: J. Clark

Seconded: M. Larson

Result: Motion passed with six in favor and one abstention by C. Rossignol

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information: FY2027 Budget

The only change noted was the realization of the 4.9% change in insurance.

IX.B. Information: Health Insurance Update

Dr. Petrone stated they are working on collecting information related to reserves and contract language. All materials requested by the Town Council were provided to the Town

Manager. The Town Council voted to move to Cigna Direct, and the town will evaluate annually whether to remain in the self-insured pool. Dr. Petrone noted that he, the Town Manager, C. Bradshaw-Hill, and the Town Finance Director are meeting to begin drafting two MOU's. J. Beausoleil clarified the health insurance line item figure in the budget.

IX.C. Information and Possible VOTES: Policies

1. Review NEW DRAFT Policy – 6163.1 Library Collection, Display and Program, and Review and Reconsideration

MOTION: To approve new policy 6163.1 Library Collection, Display and Program, and Review and Reconsideration

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Discussion: J. Clark asked about page 5, item 8, regarding the three-year waiting period for review on the same matter. Dr. Petrone explained that this provision was added per state statute. J. Clark expressed concern that it might limit parents' ability to request a review. It was clarified that a request for the same material would require a three-year waiting period, and Dr. Petrone added that if a second request were submitted sooner, the district would explain that the book had already been reviewed and provide the prior decision.

M. Larson asked about section 4.D., and the selection process for the review committee. Dr. Petrone and J. Beausoleil explained that the regulation accompanying the policy serves as the implementing guidance. The discussion also addressed how age-appropriate materials are determined. It was noted that the district curriculum materials and school library books are available on the district website. E. Eaton further noted that under the Schools link on the website, the Library Media Center section contains a catalog of available books.

Result: Motion passed with six in favor and one objection by J. Clark

2. Review Policies to be Deleted

a. 6161.1a Selection of School Library Media Materials

b. 6161.1b Withdrawing Library Media Materials

MOTION: To approve the deletion of 6161.1a and 6161.1b

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

3. Review Policy 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

MOTION: To approve the revisions of 1231, 4116.1, 4116.2, 4116.35, 4151.2, 5122.2, 5125, 5131, and 5131.72

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Per state statute, the district is required to vote annually to opt in to the Healthy Food Program if it wishes to participate, which allows the district to receive associated grant funding.

M. Boshuyzen asked whether the district is affected by federal or state regulations. It was explained that this program pertains to the state, but the district is still required to follow federal guidelines.

MOTION: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Coventry Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X.B. VOTE: Food and Beverage Exemptions

MOTION: The Coventry Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X.C. Discussion and VOTE: Approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar

Dr. Petrone stated that the district aligns its calendar with EASTCONN. Based on feedback from parents, staff, and administrators, he reviewed proposed changes to the calendar. The full day off before Thanksgiving will remain as a half day.

C. Rossignol suggested moving the December 4 half day to February 12. Dr. Petrone explained the stages of professional development days. C. Rossignol then proposed changing November 25 from a half day to a full professional development day.

It was proposed to change the December 4 half day to a full school day and schedule a full day off on January 15. With these adjustments, the last day of school will be June 9, and the June exam schedule will be revised accordingly.

