

**COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION
APPROVED MINUTES
MEETING OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2010**

Members Present: Larry Pietrantonio, Chairman
 Cheryl Trudon, Vice Chairman
 Mary Ann Emanuele, Secretary
 John Barrett
 Jennifer Beausoleil
 Mary Kortmann
 Mark Malcolm

Administrators Present: Dr. Donna Bernard, Superintendent

Also present were Troy Hopkins, GHR Principal; Representatives from TLC and Sirens Media; and a few citizens. All motions are directed to the Coventry Board of Education.

I. CALL TO ORDER

By: Chairman, L. Pietrantonio at 7:35 p.m.
Place: Town Hall Annex

II. SALUTE THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by L. Pietrantonio.

III. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

There were none.

IV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Recognition: Staff Recognition – David Lamore

Dr. Bernard gave official commendations to Mr. Lamore for his service as the Board's videographer.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept Resignation of Katherine Baumgartner, Payroll Clerk
- B. Accept Resignation of Melissa Hillman, CHS English Teacher
- C. Accept Resignation of Georgianna Rivard-Bravo, CNH Foreign Language Teacher
- D. Accept Retirement of Barbara Timberman, Para-educator

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda

By: C. Trudon Seconded: M. Kortmann

J. Beausoleil thanked Katie Baumgartner for pitching in when staffing was short and for attending Board meetings. C. Trudon agreed. The Board as a whole agreed.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

VI. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

L. Pietrantonio said he recognized that Board members may have 2009-10 items as “carry-overs” that they would like to discuss in the 2010-11 school year. He asked that members email him with those items.

In addition, he noted that milling and paving will begin on Route 44 next week and continue through the first couple of weeks of school. He said that it will affect the bus routes and the timing of the bus routes in particular.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VOTE: Approve Minutes of July 8, 2010

MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of July 8, 2010

By: C. Trudon Seconded: M. Kortmann

M. Kortmann asked for the following changes:

Page 4, third paragraph up from the bottom, the word “knew” be changed to “new.”

Page 2, “News Business” should be “New Business.”

M. Emanuele asked on page 2, third paragraph that the word “objective” be changed to “subjective.”

M. Malcolm asked on page 5, last paragraph, that the number “five” be changed to “six.”

**Result: To approve the minutes with noted changes passes 6-0-1.
(L. Pietrantonio abstains)**

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. VOTE: Amend the Minutes of June 10, 2010 as Previously Adopted

MOTION: To amend the minutes of June 10, 2010 regarding the clarification of Al Jacunski

By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: C. Trudon

L. Pietrantonio said it should state on page one under, Also present, “Al Jacunski, roof study architect.”

Result: Motion passes 5-0-2. (J. Barrett and M. Emanuele abstain)

B. VOTE: Approve Board of Education District Wide Long Term Effectiveness Goals

MOTION: To approve the Board of Education District Wide Long Term Effectiveness Goals

By: C. Trudon Seconded: M. Emanuele

Dr. Bernard said she appreciated the conversation that was had with the Board and added that the preliminary work has begun and will continue with administrators next week.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and VOTE of Agreement Presented by Sirens Media LLC

Dr. Bernard introduced the representatives from Sirens Media and TLC and said the group is requesting access to evening and ancillary events in association with the PTO at the GHR school.

Brent Zacky introduced himself as the Vice President of Development for TLC. He briefed the Board on the network TLC. He continued reviewing the idea for the show surrounding moms of the GHR PTO and how it will effect and benefit Coventry and its schools. Rebecca Toth, an owner of Sirens Media, spoke about the project and Sirens Media's relationship with TLC.

Both Kerri Bennett and Crissy Stinson, GHR PTO parents, spoke in favor of the project.

MOTION: For the purpose of discussion; discuss and vote regarding the agreement presented by Sirens Media.

By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: M. Kortmann

J. Barrett asked if the attorney had reviewed the contract. Dr. Bernard said yes, and that opinion was forwarded to the Board via email. J. Barrett continued, should the discussion happen in Executive Session. Dr. Bernard said it would need to be added by vote to tonight's Executive Session.

J. Beausoleil asked if the unions had been notified of possible filming. Dr. Bernard said if the Board approves the contract, she would pursue all appropriate notification avenues.

C. Trudon noted that MTV came to CHS and asked why the Board is being asked about TLC, but was not about the MTV show. Dr. Bernard said the focus of MTV was three students and was filmed mostly off campus; it seems the TLC project is of a broader scope including more school-involved people. Ms. Toth said the focus is on the lives of the PTO moms and not the inner workings of the schools or the classrooms. C. Trudon said it sounds like the overwhelming majority of the filming will be off campus.

M. Emanuele said she read all of the material in the packet and did a lot of research on the internet regarding TLC and Sirens Media and she said she does not believe it is a simple item. She said the way the contract reads it may not be a positive experience. She said she would not vote positively to have this include school children or the school grounds.

J. Barrett asked if any "mapping out" had been done yet of what would be filmed. Mr. Zacky said not yet, as they were waiting for authorization and for the agenda to be set for the PTO for the year.

L. Pietrantonio wondered if TLC would be open to negotiating the contract. Mr. Sabin, TLC Executive Vice President, said they are accustomed to dealing with privacy issues and attorneys' questions.

J. Beausoleil said she wanted to withdraw the motion as she would not want to be approving the agreement "as is." M. Kortmann withdrew her second.

Result: Motion withdrawn

L. Pietrantonio said he would like to add to the executive session to discuss the legal opinion. He asked TLC what the timetable was for the project.

Mr. Zacky said one concern is, the school year is quickly approaching and he asked if the back and forth between the attorneys could happen before then.

J. Barrett said it would be important that the Board be able to discuss the attorney opinion in tonight's Executive Session so a vote could happen tonight.

MOTION: To add the attorney opinion to tonight's Executive Session.

By: J. Barrett Seconded: C. Trudon

J. Barrett said this is a wonderful opportunity that the two moms have and it is very exciting.

J. Beausoleil asked for a list of shows by Sirens Media. Ms. Toth noted there are several investigative shows and she noted, "I'm pregnant and ...", and some two hour documentaries. She added, they also did the "Real Housewives of New Jersey" for Bravo, a different network with different goals.

M. Malcolm asked if the Board decides not to go along with it, will TLC be able to do the show. Mr. Zacky said it would be difficult to tell the story without the endings to the various events; they are very important to telling the story.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

L. Pietrantonio thanked everyone for their time.

B. Discussion and VOTE of Request for No Trailer Parking Signs at GHR

MOTION: To install the No Parking signs at GHR

By: C. Trudon M. Kortmann

J. Barrett asked for the background of this item. L. Pietrantonio explained the request came from a Coventry citizen who said the parking is being abused at GHR by boat trailers. He added, he did some homework on the situation and phoned Chief Palmer, who agreed it was an issue. In addition he added that groups who have scheduled use of the schools have been left without parking, due to the boat trailers.

J. Beausoleil asked if it should relate to other types of inappropriate parking. L. Pietrantonio said the issue is really the boat trailers.

J. Barrett said he is uncomfortable with preventing people from parking on public property because it is public and school is not in session. M. Emanuele noted that the people [boat trailers] are not using the facilities and there are groups that are and are trying to park.

M. Kortmann said she believes that the public should be able to park if the schools are not in use. Her suggestion was to allow the trailers to park on the upper lot.

The group discussed the upper and lower lot and how trailers take up multiple spaces. In the end they agreed that the boat trailers would be restricted and not able to use the lower lot; the suggested sign would say no boat trailer parking in lower lot. The Superintendent's Office would notify the Chief of Police, who will work with the Traffic Authority.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

C. Review of noted Board of Education Policies – J. Beausoleil

J. Beausoleil noted that some items are new and some were started by the previous committee. She added that the Activity Fund and Use of Facilities items have been discussed, but are still “in progress.”

1. Discussion: Revision of Policy #3541 Transportation – Students (Warned for revision / VOTE on August 26, 2010)

MOTION: To warn for a vote on August 26 policy 3541 Transportation

By: M. Emanuele Seconded: M. Kortmann

J. Beausoleil said, related to Transportation the bulk of the policy is much like the previous, except the paragraph at the end was added regarding complaints.

J. Barrett asked if there is anything regarding saving the bus video in regard to a complaint. He asked that something be added to the complaint procedure portion of the policy. Dr. Bernard said it is more of a procedure than an issue for policy. She said there are processes and procedures already in place where it should be included.

The group discussed this item more and agreed to add as number 2) “the review and retention of all related investigated evidence.”

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

2. Discussion: Revision of Policy #5132 Student Dress (Warned for revision / VOTE on August 26, 2010)

MOTION: To warn for a vote on August 26 policy 5132 Student Dress

By: C. Trudon Seconded: M. Kortmann

J. Beausoleil said there were several adjustments made to this policy, which are noted in bold.

J. Barrett asked how the size of an oversized belt buckle can be determined. Dr. Bernard said it is up to discretion of the school administration and the general rule is it disruptive to the educational environment. J. Barrett noted that the statement was very ambiguous.

The group discussed various forms of clothing and what might or might not be disruptive. They specifically focused on outerwear and if it should be allowed if students are cold. M. Malcolm stated a student should be able to put on their coat if they are cold. J. Barrett agreed.

As different items were discussed, the group addressed the points where there were concerns and took a poll for each item.

Poll item a. to stay as worded in draft; 4-3 (in favor – L. Pietrantonio; C. Trudon; M. Emanuele; J. Beausoleil; against – J. Barrett; M. Kortmann; M. Malcolm)

Poll item f. to stay as worded in draft; 4-3 (in favor – L. Pietrantonio; C. Trudon; J. Beausoleil; M. Kortmann; against – J. Barrett; M. Emanuele; M. Malcolm)

M. Malcolm asked to allow hats and caps in school and remove them from item b. J. Barrett said hats, along the line of Stetsons, should probably not be allowed. The discussion turned to headbands and other head gear.

Poll item b. to stay as worded in draft; 5-2 (in favor – L. Pietrantonio; C. Trudon; M. Emanuele; J. Beausoleil; M. Kortmann; against – J. Barrett; M. Malcolm)

J. Barrett noted item “h” and asked for a description of “disruptive writing or pictures.” Dr. Bernard said it is a balance between first amendment rights and what is disruptive to the educational environment; it is handled case by case. J. Barrett asked about “harassing” clothing. J. Beausoleil said it is worded in a way to give administration and staff the ability to curtail harassing behavior.

The document stood as drafted.

3. Discussion: Revision of Policy #5144 Student Discipline (Warned for revision / VOTE on August 26, 2010)

MOTION: To warn for a vote on August 26 policy 5144 Student Discipline
By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: C. Trudon

J. Beausoleil said most of the changes came directly from Shipman and Goodwin.

J. Barrett noted page 3, item B, “Conduct off School Grounds.” He asked for an example. Dr. Bernard said if the results of the actions are seriously disruptive to the educational environment. J. Barrett said he has a serious issue with students being able to be expelled or suspended for conduct off of school grounds. The group discussed conduct off of school grounds and how it may effect the educational environment.

M. Kortmann asked about a box cutter and asked that it be added under the descriptions listed in O. Weapon for consistency. After discussion the group decided not to add box cutter as other items are not listed specifically.

Result: Motion passes 6-1. (J. Barrett against)

The document stood as drafted.

4. Discussion: Revision of Policy #5145.1 Search and Seizure (Warned for revision / VOTE on August 26, 2010)

MOTION: To warn for a vote on August 26 policy 5145.1 Search and Seizure
By: M. Emanuele Seconded: C. Trudon

J. Beausoleil noted the changes to the policy and reasoning behind the changes. She specifically noted the addition of the right to search personal technical devices and technology storage areas.

J. Barrett asked for examples related to why administration would want to search technology items. C. Trudon noting cheating on tests, such as taking pictures of tests and sending them to other students. M. Emanuele noted improper pictures being taking on personal mobile phones. J. Beausoleil noted viruses being carried into school with the intent to harm the district server.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

The document stood as drafted.

XI. REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

A. Information: School Building Committee Report – C. Trudon

C. Trudon said the committee has met twice. She said there was a presentation by Al Jacunski and many questions were answered. She noted the town meeting was held this evening and the referendum is scheduled for August 31. The referendum will have two questions, one regarding the Public Works project and one regarding the School Roof Project.

B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report – M. Kortmann

M. Kortmann started by noting that the figure returned to the Town was \$33,952. She said the books would be closed at the end of the month. She said the transfers would be on the agenda at the next meeting.

C. Information: Transportation Committee Report – C. Trudon

C. Trudon said the Transportation Committee met and approved the bus routes for publication. She said there was a change made for one family to accommodate a kindergartener. In addition, she noted there is a larger number than expected for the Windham Tech run and that issue is being addressed.

J. Barrett asked about the health curriculum. He said he would like a more detailed explanation of what the district's health curriculum is or will be. Dr. Bernard said she would know more when she met with the curriculum committee. J. Barrett asked if the Board could see it before it is implemented. Dr. Bernard said yes.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to Negotiations with Bargaining Units and Attorney Opinion

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to Negotiations with Bargaining Units and Attorney Opinion at 10:30 p.m. with the Superintendent.

By: M. Emanuele Seconded: C. Trudon
Result: Motion passes unanimously.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:55 p.m.

MOTION: To extend the meeting beyond 11:00 p.m.

By: M. Kortmann Seconded: C. Trudon
Result: Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will return to Executive Session at 10:56 p.m. with the Superintendent.

By: M. Malcolm Seconded: J. Barrett
Result: Motion passes unanimously.

XIII. OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:19 p.m.

MOTION: To enter into the agreement presented by Sirens Media

By: M. Emanuele Seconded: M. Malcolm

Result: Motion fails (0-7)

The Board directed the Superintendent to also inform Sirens Media that they were not authorized to film on campus or at school events.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 11:20 p.m.

By: J. Barrett Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Michaud
Board Clerk

August 26, 2010
Approved